

Mini *eUpdate* from Northants CALC

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please read and circulate to all councillors]

Clerks' Mental Health & Wellbeing

As Local Council Clerk Week (LCCW) draws to a close, I wanted to highlight one last time the research piece that was in the May/June *eUpdate*. Katherine Doughty, Clerk to Faringdon Town Council, is conducting a survey on **An Assessment of Mental Health & Wellbeing of Local Council Clerks in England** for her research project as part of her BA Degree in Community Governance. The survey is at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2JK653Y> and I would encourage all clerks in Northamptonshire to complete it if you haven't already done so. Responses are required by **1700 on Monday (16 June 2025)**.

Apply Now: Tesco Stronger Starts Community Funding

The next round in the Tesco Stronger Starts community funding programme has opened for applications to be considered in the October - December voting round. Parish and town councils can apply for the Tesco Store region closest. In Northamptonshire this includes: Brackley, Corby, Daventry, Kettering, Northampton East (Weston Favell), Northampton West (Mereway/Hunsbury), Towcester, and Wellingborough. Each store needs to have 1x School project 1x Children & Young People project, and 1x Any Other community project. **Win 1st £1,500, 2nd £1,000, 3rd £500** (Best to always apply for the maximum amount £1,500). Application and guidance notes here <https://tescostrongerstarts.org.uk/>. Help and assistance available from Sean Silver sean.silver@groundwork.org.uk 07912 480537 (This funding programme is administered for Tesco by Groundwork UK). The closing date for the next round is **15 August 2025**.

Simply Incorrect

Several member councils have been in touch this week about an email received from Simply IT, a Northampton-based IT support, services, and solutions business. The email says that “*From April 2026, all councillor communications must be sent from a .gov.uk email address*”, which is simply incorrect. In fact, the requirement, which applies from 1 April 2025, is for councils to have a “*generic email account hosted on an authority owned domain, for example clerk@abcparishcouncil.gov.uk or clerk@abcparishcouncil.org.uk rather than abcparishclerk@gmail.com or abcparishclerk@outlook.com for example.*” Using the .gov.uk domain suffix is highly recommended best practice but is **not** yet a legal requirement.

Local Councils Explained

Many clerks and councillors will have a hard copy of Local Councils Explained, which was written in 2013 by Meera Tharmarajah, the then Head of Legal Services at the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). It sold for £49.99 in 2013 and was a comprehensive 207-page guide to parish and town council law and procedures but was far more user-friendly than the unwieldy Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration. Now Local Councils Explained has been **re-written and updated** by Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) and it will be published next week by NALC in an online format available **free of charge** to member councils. Details of how to access it will be included in next week’s Friday mini eUpdate. Meanwhile, Arnold-Baker is being reprinted by Lexis Nexis in the 14th Edition and will be available in October 2025 with list price £225.

Local Council Vacancies

Daventry Town Council has a vacancy for a Finance Officer working 20 – 25 hours per week. With over 20,000 electors, this a great opportunity to join one of the largest town councils in West Northamptonshire. The Finance Officer will assist the Chief Officer/Responsible Finance Officer in the management of the Council's financial operations, ensuring accurate financial record keeping, preparing reports for Council and Committees, supporting the preparation of budgets and statutory financial returns, and

maintaining HR-related administrative records. The deadline for applications is **26 June 2025**.

Little Addington is a small village between Irthlingborough and Thrapston. There are 267 electors and 7 councillors. The precept for 2025/26 is £16,600. **Little Addington Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk working 25 hours per month. The deadline for applications is **30 June 2025**.

Collyweston Parish Council has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 10 hours per week. Collyweston is a small village with 450 electors and is the second most northerly parish in Northamptonshire. The council has 7 seats and the precept for 2025/26 is £31,000. The deadline for applications is **18 July 2025**.

Details of all vacancies are at <https://northantscalc.gov.uk/council-vacancies>.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best regards,

Danny.

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******Have you tried the Member Enquiry Service (MES) yet? If your enquiry is not complex or specific to your council e-mail it**

to mes@northantscalc.gov.uk and get an answer from an experienced, qualified and Northants-based local council clerk.****

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