

RSN CONFERENCE
18 SEPTEMBER 2024
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NALC CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DELIVERING FOR RURAL – UNLOCKING RURAL PROSPERITY

“At the RSN we want to ensure that rural areas achieve their full potential and are not left behind”

It is my contention today that developing and investing in community infrastructure is vital to achieving this.

And will pay dividends.

Local (parish and town) councils can deliver national growth and community pride

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS AND LOCAL COUNCILS

- NALC is the sector body for local (parish and town) councils and councillors – run by councillors, for councillors and councils
- 10,000 councils, covering 92% of country, 35 million people including 16 million electors
- 100,000 councillors, spending 14 million hours supporting councils and improving their communities
- Raising £783 million through precepts, plus significant other income, investing around £2 billion in communities
- 5000 councils under £25,000, 120 councils over £1 million

LOCAL COUNCILS ARE ALREADY DELIVERING GROWTH AND COMMUNITY PRIDE

- Doing more – health and well-being, climate emergency, youth services and more!
 - Local councils are a force for good – voice for local communities, influencing other organisations, providing services and shaping local places
 - Working in partnerships for the benefit of their communities
-
- According to research by ONWARD areas with full town and parish coverage score more highly for key measures of community strength including community assets (500% more); volunteering (38%+) and charitable giving (34%+)

PARISHES AND PARTNERSHIPS: TESTIMONIALS

“The potential of parish and town councils to contribute to vibrant and successful local and community governance has grown noticeably in the last decade.”

- Local Government Association (LGA) report 2021



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Local service delivery and place-shaping: A framework to support parish and town councils



This document presents a framework for principal councils looking to support parish and town (local) councils to play an increased role in local service delivery and place-shaping. While it is aimed at principal councils, the research has also been steered by interviews and discussion with representatives of the local council sector.

[Devolution](#) | 11 Aug 2021 | LGA | 27.5

Executive summary

[Introduction](#)
[Why the focus on town and parish councils?](#)
[The role of town and parish councils today](#)

Executive summary

Town and parish (local) councils can be an integral part of vibrant communities, along with voluntary and other community sector organisations. However, harnessing this potential is difficult. Town and parish councils have a wide range of powers, but limited duties. They also vary greatly. Size, capacity and appetite are different from local council to local council. Many parishes are small, with a part-time clerk and have little in common with the largest and most active town councils. It is that the roles they undertake reflect their local appetite and

[Privacy settings](#)

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

- Working with other tiers of local government to support current funding crisis – NALC published a [call for action](#) with some ideas
- Declare a climate emergency and work with other agencies locally, see our [website](#)
- Provision of affordable housing especially in rural areas through neighbourhood planning and exception sites - [English Rural toolkit](#) Between 2012 and 2020 in selected areas neighbourhood plans delivered 46000 additional homes (above plan allocation of 37000).
- Work in partnership with other parishes to deliver services for residents where a critical mass is needed – e.g. community transport or road safety
- Pro-actively promoting [good health](#) – dementia friendly communities, mental health awareness, tackling loneliness, green spaces and play areas etc.....taking pressure off statutory services such as NHS, social care, youth services

SUPPORTING LOCAL HOUSING AND BUSINESS



2020

THE GOOD COUNCILLOR'S GUIDE TO COMMUNITY BUSINESS

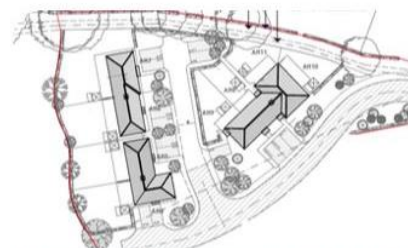


🔄 You reposted



English Rural 
@EnglishRural

 Exciting progress at our Rural Exception Site in Bough Beech, Sevenoaks! First of 8 affordable homes for local residents taking shape. A milestone project - the district's first RES in 12+ years, set for Summer 2025 completion. Grateful to our partners: Chiddingstone Parish Council, [@SDC_newsdesk](#), RACE ([@KentHsgGroup](#)), [@Martellobc](#), Arazu Construction, and more!



Post your reply

SOME ASKS FOR COUNCILS AND ANY LOCAL COUNCILLORS HERE

- Demonstrate good governance
- Recognise the scale of the financial crisis and discuss with residents what their ambitions are
- Use neighbourhood plans and other policies to promote housing and local growth
- Pro-actively reach out to other tiers and partner organisations
- Look at how you can work with or support other local councils
- Get to know your new MP, invite them to events and tell them what you're up to
- Encourage more people from all backgrounds to get involved in your council

SOME ASKS OF YOU

If you're an upper tier councillor or officer consider how you can work more effectively with your local councils

Look again at what your local council can do for you, your local group or community

Encourage them to be more ambitious and help improve communities and promote growth

Consider getting involved and make a change – stand for election!

If you haven't got a local council, campaign for one!

SOME ASKS FOR GOVERNMENT

- Recognise the role local rural communities and local councils can play in delivering your Missions: economic growth, clean energy superpower, take back our streets, break down barriers to opportunity, build an NHS fit for the future
- Angela Rayner “Our English Devolution Bill will be a touch paper for growth handing local leaders the powers to get growth going I want to position you (speech to LGA) at the very heart of our five missions.”
- Devolution must not stop at metro mayors or urban regions but benefit rural areas and our most local communities too
- It's time to think big locally!

FT BIG READ. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Whitehall believes that boosting England's 10,000 parish councils could help revitalise democracy and level up the country. Critics say there is no panacea for the harms done by austerity.

By Peter Foster and Sebastian Payne



The government wants to give parish councils like Shrewsbury, above, a 'turbo boost'. Council chiefs Helen Ball, top, and Tony Hunt, below, approve

Chris Webb/FT

The potential of parochial politics

In the cramped offices of Shrewsbury town council, the wheels of local government are turning. The Midlands market town, which sits in a bend of the river Severn near



that's incredibly important to the future of this country has died a quick death because of [chancellor] Rishi Sunak."

But if the right formula of investment and autonomy can be achieved, then

Plymouth, Blackpool or Leicester. There is also a democratic deficit, with more than two-thirds of local councillors elected unopposed, according to a 2018 poll by the National Council for

says, "but we're waiting to see evidence that it is going to be meaningful. And it's not just about money, it's about handing down the powers to shape existing fund-

Hunt says the council also coordinates with the local chamber of commerce and local churches and is building a "Team Arundel" network of volu-