

- BERKSHIRE AGM
- NOVEMBER 2018
- Jonathan Owen, Chief Executive
- National Association of Local Councils

• NALC AT A GLANCE

- Partners with 43 county associations
- 10000 councils across England – very diverse
- 85% in membership NALC
- 100,000 Councillors, £500m precept, £2bn contribution to local communities
- Work with LGA, DCLG, Locality, CPRE, SLCC etc.
- £1m budget – employ around 15 people
- 6.73p per elector affiliation fee
- 109 Great Russell Street
- 7 committees (including AGM) - councillors and county associations in control

• SERVICES TO YOU!

- £5m transparency fund distributed
- 100 legal topic notes, briefings and financial briefings including standing orders, financial regulations and practitioners advice
- 900 legal and financial queries dealt with last
- Resources, toolkits (including GDPR), advice - 325,000 web page views, 6.5m twitter reach
- Good councillors guides – employment, planning, social media, finance.
- Working with SLCC on sector improvement : CILCA, Local Council Award Scheme (600 and growing)

- SERVICES TO YOU – LOBBYING GOVERNMENT
- Persuaded Government to allow us, with SLCC support, to set up independent company to procure your external audit services : Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments (SAAA) <http://www.localaudits.co.uk/>
- Successfully lobbied Government not to impose referendum principles or capping for 3 years, subject to sector behaving itself!
- Persuaded Government to exempt sector from the requirement in the Data Protection

- COUNCILS OF THE YEAR
- Watchet Town Council – partnerships with other councils, community groups and businesses to provide vital services
- Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council – a small council that has set up a replacement not for profit bus service as a lifeline for communities
- Northwich – regeneration and events: local economy booming

- SECTOR IS DOING MORE AND MORE AND REPUTATION GROWING

- Increasing recognition by political parties that parishes have a key role to play
- Taking on new and wider responsibilities
- Seizing the opportunity provided by devolution and austerity
- Read Rishi Sunak speech to NALC:


<https://www.gov.uk/>

Sajid Javid's speech to the National Association of Local Councils conference 2017

The Secretary of State's speech to the National Association of Local Councils annual conference 2017.

Published 31 October 2017
From: [Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government](#) and [The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP](#)


Delivered on: 31 October 2017 (Transcript of the speech, exactly as it was delivered)



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Rishi Sunak's speech to the National Association of Local Councils conference 2018

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Introduction – importance of parish councils

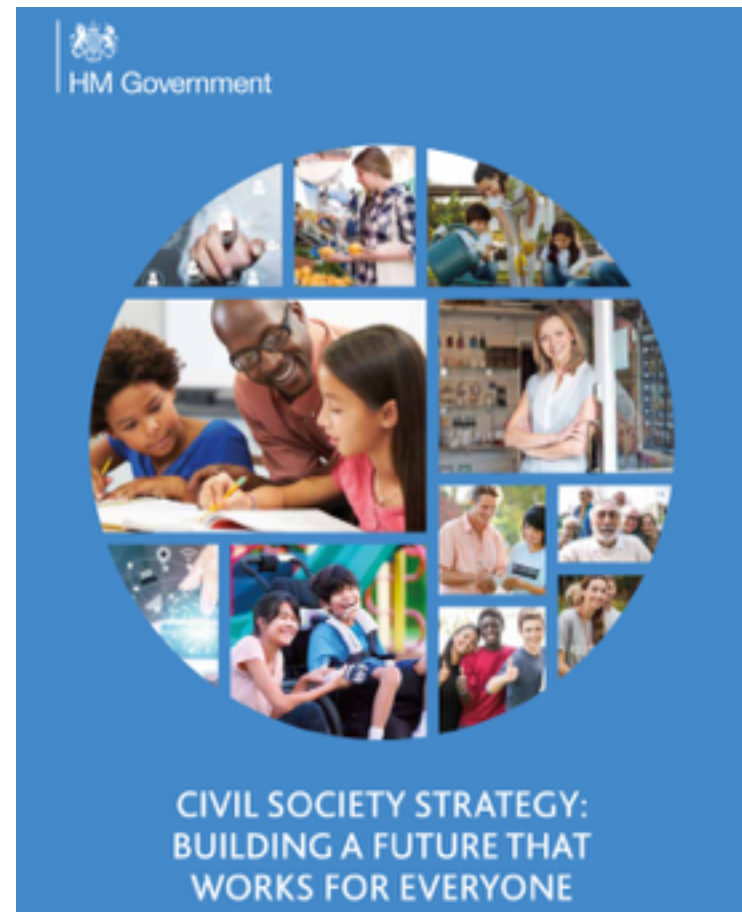
Thank you Sue for that kind introduction, and thank you for all of the vital work you do, strengthening local government.

Firstly, I'd just like to say how fantastic it is to see so many of you here. I just spent some time outside speaking to people and there's a real sense of excitement and energy. This is 'parish power' in action.

The subject of today's conversations – 'shaping the future' – is one that is close to my heart.

Since taking up my role in January, I've been inspired by NALC's ability to

- CIVIL SOCIETY STRATEGY
- The government wishes to go further and devolve more power to community groups and parishes
- There are opportunities for ‘onward’ devolution of service delivery and decision-making beyond the large regions to smaller
- Explore the option for local ‘charters’ between a principal council, local councils, and community groups setting out respective responsibilities.



The role of local government

Local authorities are uniquely placed to bring together all partners, including the voluntary community and social enterprise organisations, to take a wider view in addressing some of the key challenges faced by communities and to ensure the most vulnerable people are not left behind. As the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government said recently at the Local Government Association conference – “the power of local government is an incredible force for good – not as a distant, faceless bureaucracy, but, from the biggest unitary to the smallest parish council, as the heartbeat of the communities it serves”.

- NALC's DEVELOPING SECTOR VISION - WHAT DO YOU THINK?
- Parishes will be the focus of community effort, the natural locus of a range of public activity and service delivery; giving a democratic voice to those communities in the deliberations of other agencies
- Vibrant, dynamic, and effective local councils will help communities to help themselves building strength and resilience and improving the quality of life of residents.
- NALC will be a modern, in-touch organisation that delivers high quality

- LOCAL COUNCILS CAN DO MORE AND HELP PUT COMMUNITIES BACK IN CONTROL
- It is NALCs contention that local councils can do even more and do more consistently
- It is vital that they do so to help the country emerge from the Brexit changes and build a new democracy putting communities in control.
- In order for Councils to realise this potential we believe the sector needs to work with principal councils (districts, counties and unitaries); government and others; on the following 4 themes identified in NALC's Prospectus:
 - 1.Flexible and diverse funding
 - 2.More devolution and engagement
 - 3.Build their capacity and support councillors
 4. Empower communities

- **BUILD CAPACITY AND SUPPORT COUNCILLORS**

If local councils are to fulfil this potential:

- We need to up our game too!
- We must all work to promote diversity in the sector encouraging people to get involved
- There must be national and local support for training and development for councils and councillors to ensure good governance
- Councils must behave as the first tier of local government and there must be effective sanctions where there are breaches of the code of conduct

- HOW DIVERSE ARE WE?

What % of councillors are:

Women?

Under 45?

White?

Christian?

Heterosexual?

Disabled?

How can we encourage others to get involved?

2019 elections?

- Imagine what a difference this could make to post Brexit Britain!
- Every community to have an elected body of 12 local residents of all ages and from all backgrounds: their community council
- With a paid official – or community facilitator – supporting them to:
 - Provide a safe community space for groups to meet and for citizens to find out what's going on
 - Engage residents in creating a vision for the future of their community
 - Give that community a voice in deliberations of others to deliver that vision – business groups, councils, police, health, government

- Imagine what a difference this could make to post Brexit Britain! (2)
 - Deliver that vision by shaping housing, roads, public amenities and other development in an effective neighbourhood plan
 - Bring volunteers and voluntary groups together to support lonely people, older and vulnerable people and the young
 - Providing local services that people want – from events and parks to theatres and play provision
- Raising around £100 per year from each household to support this work and able to raise revenue from other sources and borrow to support local activity.

THANK YOU

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