

From: Julie Calleya <Julie.Calleya@cornwall.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 January 2026 09:57
To: CornwallALC Enquiries; Training Cornwall ALC
Subject: CALC NEWS BULLETIN 12/01/2026
Attachments: Procurement Thresholds FSCS and Tax January 2026.pdf

Information Classification: CONTROLLED

To All Members –

We would like to draw your attention to a number of news items that may be of interest for members and some important dates for your diaries:

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 28 January 2026 – NALC *Mastering asset management: Navigating new responsibilities*

Monday 2 February 2026 at 1pm online – Assertion 10 training

Tuesday 10 February 2026 at 10am in-person – CiLCA 2026 Introductory session – expression of interest invited for this session/venue TBC

Tuesday 10 February 2026 at 6.30pm online – Code of Conduct training

Wednesday 11 February 2026 – NALC Beyond the Precept: Funding solutions for smaller parish and town councils

Wednesday 25 February 2026 – Future Leaders: attracting young talent to parish and town councils

Tuesday 24 February 2026 at 6.30pm online – Introduction to Planning with Andrew Towleron

Wednesday 4 March 2026 at 6.30pm online – Enforcement & Appeals with Andrew Towleron

Monday 9 March 2026 at 6.30pm online – National Planning Policy Framework: proposed reforms and other changes with Andrew Towleron

Tuesday 17 March 2026 at 6.30pm in-person – Civility & Respect training - expression of interest invited for this session/venue TBC

Wednesday 25 March 2026 – NALC The Housing Puzzle: putting parish and town councils at the heart of the solution

News Items

1. A reminder for **NALC and the British Toilets Association** (BTA) have launched a national survey for parish and town councils to provide views and updates on public conveniences they currently manage or are likely to manage in future, to coincide with World Toilet Day 2025.

They would like to get a snapshot on general trends on public conveniences (financial/operational/asset and liability transfer) currently managed by parish and town councils, and, separately, likely to be transferred to parish and town councils as a consequence of local government re-organisation – in the context of there being no single database where this data currently resides.

Please use the following survey link here (one response each per council, please) by **latest 23:45 on 14 January 2026** (the survey will take around 5 minutes to complete).

2. **Section 137 expenditure limit for parish and town councils announced for 2026/27** – NALC released the following information on Friday which will be of interest to all members.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has informed us of an increase in the Section 137 expenditure limit for parish and town councils in England for the 2026/27 financial year. The new limit is £11.60 per elector, up from £11.10 in 2025/26.

Please use the following link to the NALC website and you will require a NALC login to access this information <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/resource/section-137-expenditure-limit-for-parish-and-town-councils-announced-for-2026-27.html>

3. **Steve Parkinson** has issued the following Advice Guide: **Procurement Thresholds FSCS and Tax January 2026** – please see attached and this can also be found on the CALC website [here](#)

4. NALC have requested help from the parish and town councils across Cornwall, to celebrate the fantastic work which people are doing across the region. Please send in details of news stories, local projects and future plans and any good news stories to help NALC highlight the work of Cornish parish and town councils on the NALC website for St Piran's Day.
Ines Mitchell-Rodriguez, Communications Officer
T: 020 7290 0744
E: ines.mitchell-rodriguez@nalc.gov.uk

5. A reminder from the Department for Transport - Cornwall Council has been invited to take part in a national pilot, offering a rural perspective on how bus networks are delivered.

With new legislation set to give local authorities greater control over bus services, Cornwall Council wants to hear views from town and parish councils on the current bus network and what's important to people in your area:

- What works?
- What could be improved?
- What would make buses a better choice for your community?

Your thoughts will help with Cornwall Council's contribution to the national pilot.

Complete the survey on [Let's Talk Cornwall](#).

The deadline for responses is Sunday 18 January 2026.

6. Stop Loan Sharks is running a new campaign across West Cornwall from January to March 2026 and the schedule is attached for the Eventbrite free awareness talks.

The campaign is to encourage any borrowers in the area to come forward and to speak to them for guidance about the loan shark or to ask for help and support in dealing with their debt.

From this talk you will gain a basic & working knowledge surrounding illegal money lenders (loan sharks) i.e. what makes them illegal, how they operate and find new borrowers, the effects that they have on borrowers, who we the Stop Loan Shark team are, how we operate plus how to link this knowledge into a conversation with a service user, family member or friend to find out if they could potentially be in debt to an illegal money lender and just as importantly, how to make a report and what happens next. It is estimated that 1.2 million people in England alone are currently in debt to loan sharks and this figure is estimated to rise to 3 million within the next 3 years!!

We have been asked to circulate this information so that the message is shared as far and as wide as possible.

Job Adverts – for further information please click [here](#)

7. Locum Finance Officer - St Agnes Parish Council – Immediate Start to allow for handover with outgoing post holder
8. Programme Delivery & Regenerations Projects Manager – Bodmin Town Council – Deadline Monday 19 January 2026
9. Head of Operations – Bodmin Town Council - Deadline Friday 30 January 2026 midday
10. Part time Clerk/RFO/Burial Officer – St Mawgan-in-Pydar – Deadline Friday 30 January 2026 midday

Should you have any questions in relation to any item within this Bulletin, please get in touch by email at enquiries@cornwallalc.org.uk

Kind regards,

Julie Calleya
Administration Officer
Cornwall Association of Local Councils
Unit 2, 1 Riverside House
Heron Way
Newham
TRURO
Cornwall TR1 2XN

Tel : 01872 326969
Email : training@cornwallalc.org.uk or enquiries@cornwallalc.org.uk
URL: www.cornwallalc.org.uk

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8 January 2026

Procurement Thresholds from 1 January 2026

Councils must comply with the full rules of the Procurement Act 2023 where potential contracts have an estimated value (including VAT) of over:

£207,720 (previously £214,904) for goods or services, or

£5,193,000 (previously £5,372,609) for public works (construction).

Where a contract will run for several years, it is the total (not annual) value that matters.

[PPN 023: 2026 Threshold Amounts \(HTML\) - GOV.UK](#)

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

The protection offered by the FSCS increased to £120,000 from December 2025. Not all councils are covered by the scheme, only “a small local authority with an annual budget of up to EUR 500,000” (about £430,589, using the required 3 July 2025 exchange rate).

Not all deposits are covered. For example, Gilts are backed by the UK Government, money market funds spread their risk by placing deposits with many different banks and non-UK bank deposits are generally covered under a reciprocal agreement.

Home Working Tax Change

Where a council does not pay staff a home working allowance, employees can currently claim tax relief (worth up to £62 a year for basic rate taxpayers) on their extra household costs. This tax relief will cease to be available for the 2026/27 tax year onwards.

[Income Tax: removal of the tax relief for additional homeworking expenses - GOV.UK](#)

There are no tax changes where councils pay staff a tax-free home working allowance of up to £26 a month.

Disclaimer

This bulletin is only intended as a brief guide and councils should ensure they follow the Regulations and guidance on www.gov.uk, seeking professional advice if they are in any doubt. The Parkinson Partnership LLP accepts no liability for any loss arising from situations where councils have not followed the law and guidance.