

THE IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL OF TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS TO SUPPORT THE SHROPSHIRE LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

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SUMMARY

- Will highlight NALC's main role and how/who it represents.
- Will talk about benefits of NALC to its members – through NALC / county association lobbying.
- Will define what Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) were intended to be / are.
- Will highlight what each LNRS is expected to contain.
- Will walk through who produces LNRSs and their role in planning and parish-level project delivery.
- When LNRSs will likely be adopted across England, and parish engagement with LNRS preparation.
- Importance and potential of parish engagement with Shropshire LNRS.
- Will highlight other actions local councils (nationally) can take to promote green recovery in their areas.
- Main legislative/policy changes expected to land in 2025.
- Any questions, please ask.

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.
- Partners with network of 43 county associations (including Surrey).
- 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.
- 3,500 local clerks represented by Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC).

LOBBYING & WIDER BENEFITS OF NALC/SALC MEMBERSHIP

- As the national representative body for 10,000 local councils in England and circa 100,000 local councillors, NALC, working with 43 county associations, can voice the main lobbying concerns and issues on behalf of the sector to government and the other local government stakeholders such as the LGA, DCN and CCN.
- Member councils are members of NALC and their local county association and are not in membership of one and not the other, nor can they be, according to the NALC constitution.
- The NALC Member Services team at NALC is responsible for ensuring that all of NALC's services are tailored as far as possible to the needs of its member councils and all 43 county associations – wider benefits of membership are many and varied only NALC / SALC can provide tailored sector services for cllrs and local councils (see <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/join-us>).
- Member councils can ask county associations to adopt motions they submit at their AGMs (or at their executive committee meetings and county associations can then submit those motions for adoption by the NALC Policy Committee at <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=XI10-kGBhESEUZ2oBPD-MWaF9eGE4vdlok3wjETt7gtUNEFSTUFYSDJKSjQxOE5PV1RSVITNDRDQSQIQCN0PWcu>).

WHAT LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGIES (LNRS) WERE INTENDED TO BE / ARE

- A Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is/will be a spatial strategy for nature and environmental improvement. They are required by law under the Environment Act 2021 and 48 LNRSs are now in preparation, to cover the whole of England.
- LNRS will be a key part of delivering the targets in the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan for England, by mapping where important habitats can be conserved, restored and connected in order to reverse habitat loss and declines in species. They will also seek to widen environmental benefits, such as flood mitigation and carbon sequestration, and increase access to nature.

WHAT EACH LNRS IS EXPECTED TO CONTAIN

- A Statement of Biodiversity Priorities with agreed local priorities for nature's recovery.
 - A Local Habitat Map showing the most valuable existing areas for nature and areas that could become of particular importance.
 - Specific proposals or actions ('measures') to deliver the agreed local priorities.
- NB: NALC supports the exclusion of areas (potentially identifiable as spaces of Green Belt which can be enhanced) as identified in draft or published Local Nature Recovery Strategies, as these will be important contributors to biodiversity.

WHO PRODUCES LNRSs AND THEIR ROLE IN PLANNING / PARISH LEVEL PROJECTS

- Usually county/unitary principal authorities are the Responsible Authority under the Act responsible for preparing county wide LNRSs. Supporting Authorities are often Natural England, and borough/district councils in non-unitary areas.
- The preparation and delivery of LNRSs are locally led with support from Government. The Responsible Authority must work in collaboration with the Supporting Authorities, public, private and voluntary sectors to agree a single vision for nature recovery.
- The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 directs that plan making, including neighbourhood development plans, local plans, minerals and waste plans and supplementary plans, must ‘take account of’ any LNRS that relates to the area. Government will provide separate guidance on how local authorities will be expected to comply with their duty to take account of LNRS through their planning functions.

WHEN LNRSs WILL LIKELY BE ADOPTED ACROSS ENGLAND, AND PARISH ENGAGEMENT WITH LNRS PREPARATION

- There is no statutory deadline for the publication of the LNRS, however Government hopes that they will be adopted by March 2025. The LNRS is then to be reviewed and republished every 3-10 years, as decided by the Secretary of State. The review and republication will be the same collaborative process with all key partners and stakeholders as was undertaken during its inception.
- Parish Councils, local communities, landowners, managers, countryside users and local interest groups are all key stakeholders in LNRS preparation. Parish Councils can support the LNRS preparation process by communicating LNRS key information out to residents and highlighting relevant consultation windows.

IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL OF PARISH ENGAGEMENT WITH SHROPSHIRE LNRS

- A local nature recovery strategy (LNRS) is being developed by a partnership of local organisations who want to work with you to make it a success.
- Local (parish and town) councils are crucial to the Shropshire LNRS (a plan to make our natural environment healthier and more beautiful for people and wildlife).
- Local councils have huge potential to help tackle climate and biodiversity crises, and to improve health, wellbeing and economy.
- Local councils should promote and complete key LNRS surveys like the one which ended on 16 October 2024 [here](#).
- Local councils in Shropshire should also communicate out to residents all key outcomes and milestones from preparation of the Shropshire LNRS.

OTHER ACTIONS LOCAL COUNCILS CAN TAKE TO PROMOTE GREEN RECOVERY IN THEIR AREAS

- Declare a climate emergency.
- Create a task force to establish a green agenda that includes developing a resilience policy and engaging in flood defence measures.
- Develop and promote green transport plans, including safe routes to school.
- Ensure that all council buildings are as energy-efficient as possible, and that energy is not wasted through unnecessary heating and lighting.
- Use green energy sources and environmentally friendly products.
- Plan for a green community in a neighbourhood plan.
- Limit the use of plastics, especially single-use plastics, in your council.
- Reduce waste and recycle as much as possible.
- Protect important open spaces and carbon sinks and consider creating a community orchard and/or wildflower meadow and/or allotments.
- Look at the existing powers of councils regarding climate change — [find out more](#) .

MAIN LEGISLATIVE CHANGES EXPECTED TO LAND IN 2025

- The new government published its [King's Speech](#) on 17 July 2024.
- The incoming government's stated priorities will need to focus on public service priorities *"My Government's legislative programme will be mission led and based upon the principles of security, fairness and opportunity for all."*
- Labour won the General Election on 4 July, and included the below in its King's Speech on 17 July 2024 - wealth creation for all communities; delivery of high quality infrastructure and housing [Planning and Infrastructure Bill]; [English Devolution Bill] legislation will be introduced to give new powers to metro mayors and combined authorities; set up Great British Energy, which will help accelerate investment in renewable energy such as offshore wind [Great British Energy Bill]; measures will be introduced to improve the safety and security of public venues and help keep the British public safe from terrorism [Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill – now at Committee Stage in the House of Commons].

LINKS AND CONTACT DATA

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