

SLCC/NALC Meeting with officers prior to NALC County Committee

Cllrs Hood and Wallace, together with David Nicholson & Monica Anderton for SLCC, and myself met

- Rob Murfin – the new Director of Planning
- Paul Jones – Executive Directive
- Greg Gavin – Head of Neighbourhood Services
- Kris Westerby – Highways Deliver Manager.

This note will be expanded upon on Saturday but key points were

Planning

Rob Murfin has worked in an planning authority with local councils. He clearly understands and appreciates our sector.

His aims include

- Involving local councils in considering what types of affordable housing is needed by a community
- Involving local councils in s106 discussion so that there is a real possibility of some 106 funds going towards community projects identified by local councils
- The continuing need for briefing for local councillors on the continuing changes in planning
- The need to assist local councils and communities to make comments which are material planning considerations

The meeting commenced the discussion on electronic delivery and it was clear that we were talking to a planner who understands why local councils need paper plans for some applications.

Mr Murfin has been invited to a forth-coming meeting of the County Committee, potentially June 2019.

This is very much the start of a dialogue and there will be further meetings to look at these in more depth.

Events

Paul Jones and Kris Westerby presented this item. NCC are establishing a transition fund for recurring existing events in 2019/2020 to assist in covering the costs of traffic management and post-event litter collection. Details are expected to be circulated shortly to the organisers of events in 2018 and, at our request, will be copied to local councils, either direct or via the Enews.

The driver is not only cost recovery but a review of the appropriate legislation where road closures are needed. There are likely to be more formal orders which require newspaper notices.

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I anticipate the fund will award a percentage of costs but with a ceiling on the maximum grant.

Charges will not be levied for Remembrance Day and Armed Forces events. NALC raised Operation London bridge and VE/VJ Days in 2020, together with the way NCC learns of events. Member Councils may be asked to alert NCC to events as not all events are notified to the NCC's Public Protection Dept. as an additional way of trying to ensure that information is received.

Neighbourhood Services

This is led by Greg Gavin. Work will commence on providing local councils with details of the base-line for NCC work, thus enabling local councils to consider whether to do top-up NCC's work.

NCC accept that some local councils and their communities will be content with the base level of work. Most of the largest local councils have arrangements with NCC for extra work to be done, with the local councils making significant payments to NCC.

NCC would like the opportunity for such arrangements to be available to other councils or clusters of councils. They wish to work with NALC on how this might be achieved.

There was a brief mention of the NCC budget saving identified for public toilets in 2020/2021 and this is to be the subject of detailed examination at the next meeting.

Volunteers

Kris Westerby leads on this. NCC would like to work with local councils to encourage community volunteers to carry out some work, for example safe litter picking in some locations, accepting that many communities may already do this. NCC are looking to increase the availability of litter-pickers and other low-cost equipment. Training courses will also be offered, especially on safety.

Earlier in the week MHCLG offered £56k to NCC for working with communities on litter collection and tidying-up high streets and town centres. The money as to be spent by 31 March 2019 or it is lost! Those local councils who have high streets and town centres have already been approached and offered either £4500 or £2500. NCC are using the balance to acquire the low-cost equipment from groups.

Conclusion

A very positive meeting with officers who clearly understand our sector.