

DEVELOPING MODERN LOCAL COUNCILS

NALC and LGRC form a partnership to stage the next Local Council EXPO in 2019

NALC has formed an innovative partnership with Local Government Resource Centre Associates (LGRC) to stage the second Local Council EXPO at Chateau Impney in Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire on 21 June 2019.

Working together, NALC and LGRC are planning to pool their experience to create by far the largest, most vibrant and affordable event taking place for local councils anywhere in the country in 2019. It will be a must-attend event for clerks, councillors and anyone else with an interest in running a modern local council, and will also allow those attending to network with others facing similar challenges.

Themes

The EXPO will have exhibitors, demonstrations and presentations across a number of themes, including:

- council management and administration;
- environment and street scene;
- outdoor services;
- events, promotion, economic regeneration and markets;
- professional services;
- finance services.

With a packed programme, participants will be able to plan a varied day which will include a tour of the exhibition, attendance at keynote presentations on a range of topics, viewing product and service demonstrations, networking with like-minded councils, and speaking to experts about how the best use can be made of available technology. There will be access to meals and refreshments throughout the day.

This year LGRC, NALC, the county associations and a wide range of suppliers of products and services to the local

council sector will work together to build on the experience of the 2016 EXPO. They will create an event which is accessible to all and is a relevant worthwhile investment of a day out for everyone who attends.

LGRC was formed in 2014 to provide flexible skills and resources to create increased capacity within local councils at times of change. It provides consultancy, training, outsourcing and locums but it also sees the appropriate use of available products and services as key elements in the building of a council's capacity.

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In 2016, it successfully staged the first Local Council EXPO, bringing together a wide range of suppliers to the local council sector showing the best of what is on offer. Particularly popular was the 21st Century Council demonstration which was visited by most participants throughout the day. The Worcestershire Association of Local Councils, along with other county associations and NALC, participated in that event, but this year all three have opted to become more directly involved to help the EXPO realise its full potential.

Nick Randle, managing director of LGRC, says: “We hope the EXPO will become a regular and popular event in the

local council calendar. Council members and officers can attend an affordable but thoroughly engaging event that is focused on their current concerns. They can see technology in action and gain an understanding of what is available and how best practice is evolving. They will become aware of what is possible and where they might start if they are contemplating using new tools or implementing a development project.

“The Chateau Impney venue in Droitwich is in the centre of the country and is accessible to everyone. The low cost of entry makes this a day that council members and their clerk can visit together to build a shared understanding of the possibilities, or even make progress on a council project.”

Jonathan Owen, chief executive of NALC, said: “NALC’s mission is to work with county associations to support, promote and improve local councils. We see the EXPO as an innovative way of supporting councils to make informed choices. It provides us with an opportunity to foster innovation in modern councils and help them in making cost-effective decisions. NALC and county association members also have the opportunity to gain access to the EXPO with significant savings on the normal entry cost.”

More details about the EXPO are available at: www.lgrcexpo.com. This will be updated with programme news as this becomes available. It is anticipated that there will be an EXPO app available in due course which participants can use to get the most out of their EXPO experience. Tickets to the EXPO will be available through county associations online. ■