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National Association of Local Councils

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough ALC Annual Conference

Legal Update/ Q&A

17 September 2021

Jane Moore, Senior Solicitor and head of member services

Council meetings post remote meetings

- No power to hold remote meetings post expiry of Regulations in May 2021.
- High Court case brought by local government bodies in April (with NALC as an interested party) for a declaration that the Local Government Act 1972 allow a meeting to take place remotely was unsuccessful.
- MHCLG's call for evidence?

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Council meetings post remote meetings

- What has been happening in practice? What are your experiences? What's next?
- In Wales remote and hybrid meetings are permitted as of 1 May 2021.

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Civility and respect agenda

- Joint NALC/ CALC and SLCC project group.
- What has been happening - group “mission statement”, project officer hired.
- Larger context – new Code of Conduct, sanctions?
- Review of Local Government Ethical Standards by Committee for Standards in Public Life was published January 2019. Government response expected “soon” – this was confirmed by letter to NALC’s chair Sue Baxter in March 2021.

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Procurement post Brexit

In summary post 31 December 2020:

- Find a Tender is live at https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Search
- Procurements on OJEU/TED that were started before the end of the transition period must be concluded on OJEU/TED.
- New procurements started from 1 January 2021 must be advertised on Find a Tender.
- The requirement to advertise on Contracts Finder remains.
- Government guidance, which also includes procurement policy notes, FAQs and a flow chart, sums up the main points https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-sector-procurement-from-1-january-2021

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Procurement post Brexit

- The procurement thresholds are still in place and it is anticipated that they will maintain parity with the EU limits.

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THANK YOU

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