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We've been working on a **project to visualise the regional variations in local councils'** IT setup, their qualifications, their neighbourhood and climate plan status, among others. Our hope is that these maps will be useful for:   * CALCs, SLCC and NALC looking at hotspots and not-spots for various factors, e.g. distribution of town, parish council and parish meetings, or which councils have neighbourhood plans * Parishes themselves seeing how they compare to local councils around them. Clerks can use this information as ammunition to present how they compare to other councils.   **We'd like you to have a first peek at the maps before we roll it out to all parishes**. So if you've got an XMAP account (the big sister version of Parish Online) then you can log in and take a look. If you don't have an account, reply to this email and we'll get you set up.  To whet your appetite, we've got:   * Local Council Types * Domain Name usage (a gov.uk map!) * Councillor vacancies * Precept by Band D   Many of the maps will be patchy and sometimes incorrect. That's where you come in. **We'd be really grateful if you could share any spreadsheets you've got on some of the topics we're capturing**. And then when the time is right, helping us share it with parishes for them to fill in the information themselves (we've got an online form where they can do this).  This has been an expensive thing for us to do, but we believe it'll realise many benefits for the sector, so we'd love to get your feedback on it. We also hope to find some funding for it to make it bigger and better (but that's for another time).  **GOV.UK price changes** As you may have heard, the price of GOV.UK domain names are coming down substantially. They'll now be £5 a year so hopefully this saving trickles down through the suppliers to the local councils and makes switching more compelling. **We're still fully underwriting the cost of GOV.UK domains**, and as our costs will now be lower we're looking at ways of adding value to our website proposition.  **Upgrading our email offering** With our ongoing costs being reduced for our website service, we're taking the opportunity to invest that saving into a new email service. **We're going to be upgrading to a new platform** that has better security, larger attachment capability, a dedicated mail app (for Windows, Mac and Mobile), and two-factor authentication. This will also make it easier for the non-technical folk within councils to get the email on their devices they're used to. All part of greasing the wheels to help the sector switch to gov.uk and be more resilient and professional.  We'll be migrating all existing customers over to this new platform over the next few months.  **Adding a full "productivity suite" option** We've been hearing that many smaller councils are essentially priced-out of using systems like Microsoft 365 due to the monthly costs of the licences. We'll soon be **launching an alternative suite designed for smaller councils** to get control of their file storage, messaging, video conferencing and document creation. Internally we've been calling this the "ALDI version of MS365". But that's not to downplay it. We think it'll really help empower councils with the tools they need to operate just like any other business or organisation does, but without the huge financial overhead.  Our draft pricing looks like it'll be essentially half the price of Microsoft 365. That's with us setting up as a reseller, and subsidising some of the cost ourselves using our CIC.  **Planning events for Autumn/Winter** If you've got an Annual Conference and/or AGM that **you'd like us to exhibit at and sponsor**, please let us know asap so we can get it booked in and plan our logistics.    Chris and the Parish Online team (Chris M, Tom, Tristram, Chris W, Jack, Simon, Wendy and Andy) |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | | |  | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | [website social link](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feot.parish-online.co.uk%2Ff%2Fa%2FyzqojoJuKQsyDO567E131g~~%2FAAAHUQA~%2FRgRoYTsDP0UgMzNhNzE4YzRmMjVlNmNkOGVjMjBkOGEwN2Y1MjA5MmREH2h0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnBhcmlzaC1vbmxpbmUuY28udWtXBXNwY2V1QgpmdAO2fmZ1XiplUiBkaWFubmUuZG9ycmVsbEBzaHJvcHNoaXJlLmdvdi51a1gEAAA_oQ~~&data=05%7C02%7Cdianne.dorrell%40shropshire.gov.uk%7C03a4b271d05041b5332d08dc97738872%7Cb6c13011372d438bbc8267e4c7966e89%7C0%7C0%7C638551769682734941%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fvVsl9WYl65KEZi1ra7Agiu2qzKc%2BBa1CFDK2woLMAg%3D&reserved=0) | [x social link](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feot.parish-online.co.uk%2Ff%2Fa%2Fio2KQPl1Km-u7R0lzk1gkg~~%2FAAAHUQA~%2FRgRoYTsDP0UgOGI4OGFlYTE0YmYwOTY1ZTdhMDliNjZmNWRiY2MwYjhEIGh0dHBzOi8vdHdpdHRlci5jb20vUGFyaXNoT25saW5lVwVzcGNldUIKZnQDtn5mdV4qZVIgZGlhbm5lLmRvcnJlbGxAc2hyb3BzaGlyZS5nb3YudWtYBAAAP6E~&data=05%7C02%7Cdianne.dorrell%40shropshire.gov.uk%7C03a4b271d05041b5332d08dc97738872%7Cb6c13011372d438bbc8267e4c7966e89%7C0%7C0%7C638551769682746689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2DuQvWtTRkiD3MpRrUpBBSPUYwe3jUBI0eF%2BPGEobXo%3D&reserved=0) | [youtube social link](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feot.parish-online.co.uk%2Ff%2Fa%2FmBkddk0RKdMlyjGlqunBWw~~%2FAAAHUQA~%2FRgRoYTsDP0UgZGVkNTI0YmU2YmExMzMyZDIyNWJjOGQwYTEzNzA2NzBEJWh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnlvdXR1YmUuY29tL0BQYXJpc2hPbmxpbmVXBXNwY2V1QgpmdAO2fmZ1XiplUiBkaWFubmUuZG9ycmVsbEBzaHJvcHNoaXJlLmdvdi51a1gEAAA_oQ~~&data=05%7C02%7Cdianne.dorrell%40shropshire.gov.uk%7C03a4b271d05041b5332d08dc97738872%7Cb6c13011372d438bbc8267e4c7966e89%7C0%7C0%7C638551769682756164%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8m9h%2BTs9WT9Nh3yprHwfE8lOasaGpiLKeg0YQc4LhiE%3D&reserved=0) | [website social link](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feot.parish-online.co.uk%2Ff%2Fa%2FWncjv_1woGTyaq94QEF2Qw~~%2FAAAHUQA~%2FRgRoYTsDP0UgNGE5ZjM3ZjdjZTVkZjljYTlmMGM1OGYxYmM3YzE0NWVEH2h0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmxvY2FsYXV0aG9yaXR5LnRlY2hXBXNwY2V1QgpmdAO2fmZ1XiplUiBkaWFubmUuZG9ycmVsbEBzaHJvcHNoaXJlLmdvdi51a1gEAAA_oQ~~&data=05%7C02%7Cdianne.dorrell%40shropshire.gov.uk%7C03a4b271d05041b5332d08dc97738872%7Cb6c13011372d438bbc8267e4c7966e89%7C0%7C0%7C638551769682764638%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=djIEpVzLV87yJaFhlTfNGaebg%2Bg01kOtAwOrMG7NMfk%3D&reserved=0) | |  |  | | --- | | [Local Authority Technology CIC logo](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Feot.parish-online.co.uk%2Ff%2Fa%2FWncjv_1woGTyaq94QEF2Qw~~%2FAAAHUQA~%2FRgRoYTsDP0UgNGE5ZjM3ZjdjZTVkZjljYTlmMGM1OGYxYmM3YzE0NWVEH2h0dHBzOi8vd3d3LmxvY2FsYXV0aG9yaXR5LnRlY2hXBXNwY2V1QgpmdAO2fmZ1XiplUiBkaWFubmUuZG9ycmVsbEBzaHJvcHNoaXJlLmdvdi51a1gEAAA_oQ~~&data=05%7C02%7Cdianne.dorrell%40shropshire.gov.uk%7C03a4b271d05041b5332d08dc97738872%7Cb6c13011372d438bbc8267e4c7966e89%7C0%7C0%7C638551769682772584%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DdYH4sErdo0%2FBgb%2Fp5r0IzDgN%2BHD%2BJTVW%2BrxJNhjwxI%3D&reserved=0) |  |  | | --- | | Parish Online is a Geoxphere Ltd service, provided through our not-for-profit organisation, Local Authority Technology CIC.   You received this email because you subscribed to our list. 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