

Good afternoon.

I am speaking as Chair of the B&NES ALCA group.

Today you are considering the revised parish charter. At the first meeting of the working group we had some aspirations about what we wanted to do, one aspiration was to produce a Charter that would be a model for other authorities, and we have produced a very good document. We did that by working together well, and that is why I am here today because I would like to thank not only the working group but also the officers and cabinet members, past & present, who come to the various sessions and made valuable suggestions and contributions.

As you may be aware ALCA is not just B&NES but also includes North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, and my colleagues on the regional committee have been most impressed, and I think a little jealous, of how good a partnership has been forged by this piece of work.