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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CUMBRIA AGREES NLA PARTNERSHIP ON NEW ACCREDITATION SCHEME**

A new landlord accreditation scheme in Cumbria, the Cumbria Landlord Accreditation Scheme (CLAS), is being launched by five district councils in the region and [The National Landlords Association](#) (NLA).

The five participating district councils\* have agreed to work in partnership with the NLA to encourage local landlords to sign up. The scheme will officially be launched on Tuesday 20 May at the NLA's Cumbria branch meeting. This will be the start of a joint relationship which aims to bring professional practice to the private rented sector and help to tackle rogue landlords; part of the NLA's new [Professional Practice for Profit campaign](#).

Accreditation equips landlords with the knowledge needed for professional practice, according to the ever-changing regulations governing the private-rented sector, and is a more productive alternative to suggested landlord registers or further regulation of the sector.

Renee Young, Landlord Development and Accreditation Officer at the NLA, said:

“We believe that education and accreditation is the best way to enable landlords to maintain a profitable and successful letting business and vital to improving standards in property management across the sector.

“After a collaborative effort we’re delighted that landlords in Cumbria are now able to access the whole raft of educational and developmental resources that will set them apart from other landlords, and provide assurance to tenants that they’re dealing with a professional that understands their responsibilities and obligations.”

Ruth Rowntree, NLA local representative, said:

“The NLA is delighted that Cumbria and its six authorities have agreed to use our accreditation scheme. Purely based on landlord development and good management practice, NLA Accreditation is a national scheme which offers greater consistency for all landlords, tenants and councils to recognise.”

Ursula Seddon, District Environmental Health Officer, Eden Council, said:

“There are many benefits to landlords such as the ability to advertise accommodation through the University of Cumbria as well as local incentives for landlords determined by individual local authorities.”

At the launch of CLAS, Renee Young, Landlord Development and Accreditation Officer, NLA will explain in depth what the course covers, from material which will enable a landlord to operate professionally, which is a means to a long-term profitable lettings business, to what a landlord needs to know to manage a portfolio.

Ruth Rowntree, NLA Representative will outline the NLA Online Library which is a vital reference source for private residential landlords that is completely free to full NLA members. The library is regularly updated and covers over 40 subjects of essential information about being a landlord.

The meeting will end with a questions and answers session. The meeting takes place at Carlisle, Cumbria University Room LG101 Fusehill Street, CA1 2HH at 6.30pm.

*For more information about the Cumbria Landlord Accreditation, Scheme including details of the launch event on 20 May visit [www.eden.gov.uk/clas](http://www.eden.gov.uk/clas) or email: [housing@eden.gov.uk](mailto:housing@eden.gov.uk) or telephone: 01768 817817.*

The meeting is free and open to all landlords.

To join the NLA and take advantage of their support and up-to-date information for landlords, visit [www.landlords.org.uk/membership](http://www.landlords.org.uk/membership)

-ENDS-

\*Five participating district councils:

Eden District Council

Carlisle City Council

South Lakeland District Council

Barrow Borough Council

Allerdale Borough Council

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

For more information contact the Communication Officer at Eden District Council tel: 01768 212137.

The Cumbria Landlord Accreditation Scheme is being supported by Allerdale Borough Council, Barrow Borough Council, Carlisle City Council, Eden District Council and South Lakeland District Council in partnership with the National Landlords Association.

Copeland Borough Council run their own Landlords Forum currently and there will be opportunities for other District Council to join the scheme in the future.

The National Landlords Association (NLA) is the UK's leading organisation for private-residential landlords. It works with 47,000 landlords, of which 23,600 are paying members, ranging from full-time landlords with large property portfolios to those with just a single letting. NLA membership helps landlords make a success of their lettings business by providing a wide range of information, advice and services. The NLA campaigns for the legitimate interests of landlords by seeking to influence decision-makers at all levels of government and by making landlords' collective voice heard in the media. It seeks to raise standards in the private-rented sector while aiming to ensure that landlords are aware of their statutory rights and responsibilities. Based at its head office in Central London, the NLA currently employs over 40 full-time staff and has a network of more than 50 regional representatives and branches throughout the UK.