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National Association
of Local Councils

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

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National Association of Local Councils
(NALC)

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ABOUT

NALC was created in 1947 to represent the interests of local councils across England. With around 10,000 local councils and 85% of the country being parished, NALC seven decades on is the only national body catering for the needs of local councils.

Our strength is our size, which is why your membership through your county association is important to us. NALC campaign and lobby for changes to legislation identified by you, which help you serve your communities. NALC are democratically run with each county area in England providing one councillor to sit on National Assembly, which is responsible for the management, conduct and appointment of committees at NALC.

By joining your county association,

your council also becomes a member of NALC. NALC works in partnership with each county association in the country, providing complementary national and local services to best represent and serve you.

Some tangible benefits of membership are set out here. But membership of this unique network provides other benefits too – like networking with like-minded individuals and learning from others about how to solve problems. Above all, being part of a historic and yet modern grassroots movement to change the way England is governed locally for the better.

Working together, NALC, county associations and local councils can ensure there is a strong voice for local communities.

“As town clerk of one of the largest local councils in the country, NALC is invaluable in ensuring both myself, my staff and our councillors remain up-to-date on initiatives, regulations, legislations and possible grants”

**Helen Ball,
Shrewsbury Town Council,
Shropshire**

JOIN US

NALC represents its members' interests on a national level, provides legal and financial advice and practical guidance in partnership with county associations. NALC campaign to vocalise and progress its members' interests.

This joint national and local offer means that NALC can tailor its services to your councils needs. Your county association is your first point of contact for day-to-day enquiries, but they will refer you to NALC or contact NALC on your behalf.

NALC helps you to best represent and deliver for the communities you serve through a package of support, with a wide range of benefits.



“We would have struggled to get our campaign started without NALC. Its support and guidance helped keep morale in the campaign high and ideas focused”

**Cllr Susanna Rustin,
Queens' Park Community Council,
London**

WHAT WE DO

Campaigning

NALC raise the profile of the issues that are important to you and communicate your views to government and a range of influential organisations, in the private, charity and public sector.

Legal, accounts and audit advice

Members councils may obtain written legal advice from NALC's highly experienced solicitors. NALC's expertly trained team provides comprehensive written legal guidance on the areas of law that relate to you. There are currently over 80 legal topic notes. The team also produces legal briefings to inform you about topical or new legal issues.

Publications

NALC's website is a hub of information with member-only access areas and documents. NALC also have a quarterly magazine, *LCR*, fortnightly *DIS* and weekly e-newsletters to keep members up-to-date with all NALC and local government news.

Conferences, events and training

Nothing compares to a good event, the atmosphere of being together with people who share the same passion as you, the lessons you learn and advice you take in, and the opportunity to connect with new and old colleagues.

NALC's national events and training sessions are opportunities to bring our diverse membership together to learn about new or important initiatives,

and share ideas. They are designed to leave you feeling re-energised — full of zeal for your job and bursting with fresh ideas. NALC events are topical, relevant and specific and allow plenty of time for sharing ideas and networking.

“The lobbying carried out by NALC on behalf of all parish and town councils across England ensures that the sector as a whole is seen and heard nationally”

**Louise Dowe,
St Ives Town
Council,
Cornwall**

Publicity

NALC provide a platform to highlight your causes and to showcase your good work on a national level.

Standards, awards and recognition

Opportunities year-round for your council to improve and develop to meet your own objectives and to best serve your local community. You will have access to publications and tools such as The Good Councillor's guide, The Good Councillor's guide to neighbourhood planning, The Good Councillor's guide to finance and transparency and The Good Employers guide.

NALC works with key organisations including the government, the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and the Local Government Association (LGA) to deliver the National Improvement Strategy. This includes a full range of face-to-face and online training as well as qualifications designed specifically for those in local councils.

And after all the hard work of improving your council and delivering valued services to your community you can take up the chance to celebrate and be recognised for achievements via the Local Council Award Scheme, Council Spotlight and Star Councils awards.



BENEFITS

Some of the direct benefits of membership for local councils are set out below:

Access to, and direct influence over, a national family of county associations and national body working together to help them provide services to their communities, understand the legal and financial framework in which they work, and provide a strong national voice in the media, the government, private, public and charity sectors.

Recent achievements include:

- Successfully lobbying against the extension of referenda principles to local councils
- Setting up an independent company – Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments (SAAA) – to procure external audit services for our councils to save them time and money
- Successfully slowing the withdrawal of council tax support funding, ensuring £120m has been passed on to local councils since 2013
- Securing £4.7m for a Transparency Fund to help smaller councils comply with new openness rules
- Persuading the Treasury to consider giving the sector a share of business rates and exempting public conveniences from business rates
- New work to promote and support the role of local councils in devolution
- Grant support for councils to develop a neighbourhood plan (£22.5m)
- Securing measures in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and Neighbourhood Planning Bill 2017 to support and strengthen neighbourhood planning
- A package of work to better support and engage with larger councils, including a new fees cap at £1,750, extending the Direct Access Scheme (DAS) to 500 local councils, establishing a new national Super Councils Network including LGA associate membership
- Up-to-date advice and guidance through member only areas of the NALC website, publications such as NALC's *LCR* magazine, chief executive's bulletin, *DIS*, and e-newsletter; toolkits and conferences
- Up-to-date information on the legal and financial framework in which councils work including access to model standing orders and over 200 legal topic notes and briefings
- Written and telephone advice from NALC's highly experienced team of solicitors and an external expert on finance and audit, dealing with around 900 queries last year
- Communications advice and guidance including media relations, marketing and help with crisis communications
- Advice and guidance on your role as employers

HOW TO JOIN

Membership of NALC offers excellent value for money. You cannot be a member of NALC without being a member of your county association. To become a member or to renew your membership, you simply need to:

1. Join your county association. County association details can be accessed from the NALC website or by calling on: 020 7637 1865
2. NALC will charge you 6.73p* per elector in a parish area for your NALC membership (*From 1 April 2018 this figure will change to 6.85p per elector).
3. NALC membership fees will be capped at £1,750 per council per financial year.
4. This cost will be added to your annual county association membership fee.



“A county association’s value comes from providing day-to-day advice when issues present themselves. NALC’s ability to influence policy and lead strategically makes them vital in realising an effective tier of local government”

**Jennie
Thomas, Stone
Parish Council,
Kent**

“Only NALC and county associations can properly support local democracy in action. Ensuring nationally that the government and other policy makers understand the worth and needs of local councils and through our county associations with practical support and procedural advice”

**Jackie Weaver,
Cheshire Association of
Local Councils**

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