

Report to:	Northants CALC AGM
Tabled on:	5 October 2024
Agenda Ref:	7. To agree subscription levels for the year ending 31 March 2026
Originated by:	Danny Moody, Chief Executive

The board of directors recommends that the **per council** element of the Northants CALC membership fee for the year starting 1 April 2025 and ending 31 March 2026 be increased by inflation (CPIH July 2024 – 3.1%) from £193.05 to £199.03.

The board of directors recommends that the per elector element of the Northants CALC membership fee for the year starting 1 April 2025 and ending 31 March 2026 be increased by inflation (CPIH July 2024 – 3.1%) from 28.97 pence to 29.87 pence.

The effect of the recommendations is:

Fee Element	YE 31 March 2025		YE 31 March 2026	Real terms increase
Per council - NCALC	£193.05		£199.03	£5.98
Per elector - NCALC	£0.2897		£0.2987	£0.0090
Per elector - NALC	£0.0794*		£0.0834*	£0.0040

*To be decided by the AGM of the National Association of Local Councils to be held on 7 November 2024

Indicative effect of recommendation at various sizes of council, inclusive of NALC fee:

Electorate	YE 31 March 2025		YE 31 March 2026	Real terms increase
250	£285.32		£294.54	£9.22
500	£377.59		£390.05	£12.46
1,000	£562.14		£581.08	£18.94
2,500	£1,115.78		£1,154.14	£38.36
5,000	£2,038.52		£2,109.25	£70.73
9,999	£3,883.62		£4,019.09	£135.47

Larger councils (10,000 – 30,000 electorate) are charged a fixed fee for membership of Northants CALC. The fee for the year starting 1 April 2024 and ending 31 March 2025 is £3,088.72. A 3.1% increase would take it to £3,184.47. The total fee payable for YE 31 March 2026 will therefore be (£3,184.47 + NALC Affiliation fee). The equivalent fee for super councils (30,000 + electors) would be increased from £5,610.94 to £5,784.88. The total fee payable will therefore be (£5,784.88 + NALC £2,139.00).

Parish Meetings with less than 100 electors AND no precept are offered affiliate membership for 2024/25 free of charge. The maximum fee that **any** council or parish meeting pays is capped at £1 per elector.

Commentary

1. For the past nine years the board has recommended an increase in the membership fee by inflation as determined by the Consumer Prices Index (Housing) (CPIH) for the July preceding the AGM.
2. CPIH for July 2024 was 3.1%.
3. Inflation forecasts suggest that rates will reduce further in 2024 and 2025 and stabilise at 2% from 2026.
4. At the board meeting held on 19 September 2024 there was a full discussion about subscription fees, affordability, and value for money.
5. The board carefully considered all options and agreed unanimously to adhere to the policy of recommending to the AGM an increase in line with CPIH – July, 3.1%. The board focused on the real terms increase (see table above) and felt that the increase protected services and still represented very good value for money.
6. Northants CALC is a not-for-profit Association, whose income is used purely to provide member services to local councils in Northamptonshire. It does not have shareholders and does not distribute profits. Every penny is used solely for the benefit of member councils.
7. In accordance with the constitution, the setting of membership fees is a matter for the AGM, based on a recommendation from the board of directors.

Recommendation:

That the AGM approves the recommendation of the board of directors to increase membership subscription fees for the year ending 31 March 2026 by CPIH July 2024 (3.1%)