

Report to:	Northants CALC AGM
Tabled on:	3 October 2026
Agenda Ref:	6. To agree subscription levels for the year ending 31 March 2028
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 2027 and ending 31 March 2028 be increased by inflation (CPIH July 2026 – 3.1%) from £207.39 to £213.82.

The board of directors recommends that the **per elector** element of the Northants CALC membership fee for the year starting 1 April 2027 and ending 31 March 2028 be increased by inflation (CPIH July 2026 – 3.1%) from 31.12 pence to 32.09 pence.

The effect of the recommendations is:

Fee Element	YE 31 March 2027	YE 31 March 2028	Real terms increase
Per council - NCALC	£207.39	£213.82	£6.43
Per elector - NCALC	£0.3112	£0.3209	£0.0097
Per elector - NALC	£0.0860*	£0.0880*	£0.0020

*To be decided by the AGM of the National Association of Local Councils to be held on 12 November 2026

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

Electorate	YE 31 March 2027	YE 31 March 2028	Real terms increase
250	£306.79	£316.04	£9.25
500	£406.19	£418.25	£12.06
1,000	£604.98	£622.69	£17.71
2,500	£1,201.37	£1,235.99	£34.62
5,000	£2,195.34	£2,258.15	£62.81
9,999	£4,182.89	£4,302.08	£119.19

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 2026 and ending 31 March 2027 was £3,318.22. A 3.1% increase would take it to £3,421.09. The total fee payable for YE 31 March 2028 will therefore be (£3,421.09 + NALC Affiliation fee). The equivalent fee for super councils (30,000 + electors) would be increased from £6,027.84 to £6,214.71. The NALC fee is capped at £2,274.00, so the total fee payable will therefore be (£6,214.71 + NALC £2,274.00).

Parish Meetings with less than 100 electors AND no precept are offered affiliate membership for 2027/28 free of charge. The maximum fee that **any** council or parish meeting pays is capped at £1 per elector.

Commentary

1. For the past eleven 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 2026 was 3.1%.
3. The outlook is for CPIH inflation to moderate over the next twelve months, although the decline is unlikely to be entirely smooth. CPIH stood at 3.1% in July 2026, with housing costs and continuing services inflation helping to keep it elevated. Nevertheless, easing wage and price pressures, weaker demand and the unwinding of earlier energy and food price increases should gradually bring inflation down. The central expectation is therefore that CPIH will move back towards, but may remain slightly above, 2% during 2027, with energy prices, housing costs and international events presenting the main risks to that outlook. The OBR's March 2026 central forecast similarly expected the closely related CPI measure to reach 2% in late 2026 and remain around that level thereafter.
4. The proposed fees for the year ending 31 March 2028 were discussed at the board meeting held on 17 September 2026 and the focus was on 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 2026, 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 2028 by CPIH July 2026 (3.1%)