

Sutton Coldfield Parish Council

Interim Parish Council Meeting

15th March 2016

Agenda Item 24

Membership of Associations

This paper seeks authorisation for the Council to join the National Association of Local Councils and the Local Association of Local Councils.

1. Background

All parish and town councils are eligible for membership of the National Association of Local Councils, (NALC) and, locally, the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) which is affiliated to NALC. Further information about the two associations can be found at their websites:

www.nalc.gov.uk/

www.walc.org.uk/

Both organisations provide information, advice and support for member councils, including training and conferences. NALC also provides a national advocacy role with Government and Parliament. Membership of the two affiliated associations provides cost-effective access to support and advice that will benefit the Parish Council and its staff.

2. Sutton Coldfield Parish Council is the largest parish council in England in terms of its population size. A Government consultation paper earlier in 2015 suggested that there were only 11 such councils serving a population greater than 40,000; the Sutton Coldfield Parish Town Council therefore, could play a significant role within NALC if it so wishes.

3. Financial implications

- i. NALC membership fees from 1 April 2016 will be 6.6p per elector capped at £1,750 per council per financial year.

II. You cannot be a member of NALC without being a member of your County association of Local Councils. Based on the number of electors in Sutton Coldfield the annual affiliation fee for WALC would be £2,152. These amounts exclude VAT.

III. The total affiliation fees for NALC & WALC membership would be £3,902. Appropriate provision has been included in the budget for 2016/17.

4. Recommendation

The Council is recommended to apply for membership of the National Association of Local Councils and Warwickshire Association of Local Councils from 1 April 2016.