

Services Provided to Member Councils

Legal Advice

Confidential legal advice and assistance tailored to the needs of Parish and Town Councils. The County Association will take legal advice on behalf of member councils from solicitors dedicated to the law on local councils at the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

Two Free Hours of Specialists' Advice From

- ✓ Dedicated HR consultant with a knowledge of local councils
- ✓ Qualified independent planning consultant
- ✓ Experienced Clerk providing a mentoring service for new Clerks and on the ground procedural and financial advice

Contact with Other Local Councils

The Association has a network of Area Committees, which provide an opportunity for sharing problems and experiences. Officers from other tiers of authority are invited to speak on topical issues. Area Committees and larger councils have an automatic right of nomination of members to the County Committee of the Association.



Advice & Guidance for Chairmen & Clerks

Confidential guidance on correct procedure in councils, employment matters, and changes in legislation affecting local councils. Support is particularly important to council Clerks who are often working alone. A number of useful Good Practice Notes are available in the members' area of the website, as are some Legal Topic Notes provided by solicitors at NALC.

Financial Advice & Loan Consent

Councils may seek guidance on the preparation of budgets, precepts, audit process, VAT, financial risk management, regulations, reserves etc. Applications to obtain consent to take out loans are made through the County Association.

Local Council Award Scheme

Guidance on achieving accreditation under the Scheme, the nationally recognised Charter Mark for all Parish and Town Councils.

One Free Subscription to LCR

Local Council Review is the flagship magazine of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). It is a high quality quarterly publication with in-depth articles and features offering advice, good practice and top tips to help you deal with real issues affecting local communities.

Publications

Essential to all councils: *Standing Orders for Local Councils* (Includes guidance on administration law), *Governance and Accountability for Local Councils*. Supply of information booklets: *The Good Councillors' Guide*, *Being A Good Employer*, *Guide to Neighbourhood Planning*. Leaflets for the promotion of councils at election time: *All About Local Councils*, *Becoming A Parish Councillor*.



Training and Qualifications

Our training, based on the National Improvement Strategy for Parish & Town Councils, offers a subsidy of free places which is extended to all councils in membership. WALC also provides a subsidised training scheme for Clerks - the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) and monthly Clerk 'Toolkit' briefing events. walc.org.uk/events

Rights and Interests of Member Councils

National Level: The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) holds regular meetings with MPs and representatives from Government Departments. It continually lobbies and raises awareness of the role and interests of Parish and Town Councils. It attracts Cabinet Ministers to its Conferences.

Regional Level: The County Association, with neighbouring Associations in the West Midlands, is recognised by relevant Government officers working at this tier.

Local Level: The County Association is recognised as the representative body in the local area and has put in place the Local Councils' Charter. Warwickshire County Council; North Warwickshire and Rugby Borough Councils; Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon District Councils have all appointed "Champions" to liaise with WALC and Parish Councils. Regular meetings are held to discuss highway and other issues. Warwickshire County Council has made available HR advice to the Association. Work is ongoing to improve partnership opportunities with statutory and third sector bodies.

