

Appendix – Membership

To approve making applications for membership of the Dorset Association of Local Councils (DAPTC), the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)

Specialist Advice - DAPTC advises member councils on a wide range of issues pertinent to their work and role including:

- Legal Advice – DAPTC is affiliated to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). The Town Council would be able to have direct access to NALC’s qualified legal specialists.
- Procedural Advice - Advice on procedural matters for member councils is normally answered in-house although more complex or unusual queries may be referred to NALC.
- Financial and Insurance Advice - Depending on their complexity, such queries are either handled in-house or referred to NALC.

Dissemination of Current Information

The DAPTC provides new and updated information to its members via electronic newsletters and circulars. It also provides publications for purchase at favourable cost. Its website has information on a range of procedural matters. NALC will also provide information directly to the Town Council, in recognition of the size of the Town Council’s electorate.

Liaison With Local Statutory And Voluntary Organisations

- Other Tiers of Local Government in Dorset - DAPTC has close and friendly ties with Dorset Council.
- Other Local Organisations - DAPTC maintains links with public organisations and voluntary bodies

National and Local Lobbying

- At the national level lobbying is usually carried out in co-ordination with our National Association but, for example, following a resolution at the DAPTC AGM, DAPTC may lobby Government Ministries direct. DAPTC forwards consultation papers to its members to enable their voices to be heard.
- Local lobbying whenever appropriate, DAPTC lobbies public organisations in Dorset on behalf of our members on specific issues of concern to them and will continue to do this with the new unitary councils. DAPTC is also a member of many consultative bodies, representing first tier councils throughout Dorset.

Training

The following is provided at minimal cost to members:

- Training courses and other sessions are organised regularly for both Clerks and Councillors of parish and town councils. The training courses cover a wide range of subjects providing essential training to those new to local council work and refresher training for the more experienced.
- Seminars - Seminars provide updates on new legislation, Government initiatives and subjects of general interest to Clerks, Councillors and Chairmen.
- Non-member councils are required to pay double fees for attendance to any of the above events.

Membership of DAPTC includes membership to NALC, which has achieved major financial savings for parish and town councils:

DAPTC also works closely with NALC to gain guidance on the many changes to legislation which affect the day to day operation of parish and town councils. In addition to providing advice from a specialist legal team, NALC provides a lobbying service directly to central government. Legal updates are sent to clerks and are reflected in DAPTC training and events.

The Society of Local Council Clerks

The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) is the nationally recognised body for Clerks and is the provider of the recognised Clerks qualification, the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA). This is the qualification necessary for a Council to take on the Power of Competency. The SLCC also offers advice and training for society members.

Cost is £2,036.95