

DEVON ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS MEMBERSHIP

Introduction

On 22 April 2024, the Council resolved to not renew the Devon Association of Local Councils membership based on the significant year-on-year increases in the membership fee and concerns regarding value for public money (ref. minute 24/54).

The latest annual renewal fee for 2024-25 had been to the value of £1,272.00. The Council had paid £856.48 in 2022-23 and £995.09 in 2023-24.

Considerations

In a letter from the Leader of Devon County Council to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution dated 25 February 2025, the Leader stated that he is meeting with the Devon Association of Local Councils regarding local government reorganisation. While the upper-tier authorities never played a role locally in the adoption of assets and services locally and reorganisation will not impact on the Town Council in that sense – because the Town Council is already responsible for every single asset, including elements (e.g. SUDS) which are not normally adopted by local councils – the Council may find that some statutory responsibilities which might be devolved relate to e.g. public spaces protection orders, advertising permissions and so on. Without being a member of the Devon Association of Local Councils, the Town Council may be excluded from the dissemination of information.

On 5 March 2025, the National Association of Local Councils published updated model financial regulations in light of the Procurement Act 2023 and the Procurement Regulation 2024 with changes are to model regulations 5.4, 5.7 and 5.11. Councils are automatically affiliated with the National Association by virtue of being a member of their county association; a standalone membership with the National Association does not exist. Without being a member of the Devon Association of Local Councils the Council now does not have access to the updated model financial regulations dated March 2025.

Recommendation(s)

To seek a renewal quote for the membership of the Devon Association of Local Councils for 2025-26.