Membership Fees 2027/2028

For councils committed to effective, well-informed and properly governed local government, membership of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils is an investment in the capability and resilience of the whole council.

LALC provides councils with access to advice, training, professional resources, information, representation and a network of councils facing many of the same challenges.

For almost ten years, LALC has absorbed rising costs without increasing the local LALC fee element. The proposed change for 2027/28 is intended to ensure that the value and quality of the services members rely upon can be sustained through a period of significant change for local government.

The value of LALC membership

Membership provides practical support throughout the year, helping councillors, clerks and officers deal confidently with the increasingly complex responsibilities of parish and town council business.

Advice and specialist support

Members can access advice and guidance on council operations, legislation, policy, governance and good practice along with specialist finance and VAT advice. Through LALC's relationship with NALC, councils also have access to wider specialist legal and policy support, including employment and HR, health and safety, data protection, Freedom of Information and governance.

Training and professional development

LALC provides training specifically designed for parish and town councils, covering subjects including finance, internal controls and audit, procurement, data protection, communications, chairing meetings, health and safety, councillor development and CiLCA training. Members benefit from reduced rates on many courses as well as access to member learning opportunities.

Professional resources

Membership provides access to sector-specific templates, policies, guidance and other resources, giving councils a recognised starting point when developing or reviewing their own governance arrangements.

Information when it matters

LALC keeps members informed about legislation, policy and developments affecting parish and town councils, helping councils understand and respond to a rapidly changing local government environment.

Networking and shared experience

Area Committees and other member networks provide opportunities for councils to exchange experience, discuss good practice, receive updates and learn from councils dealing with similar issues.

A stronger collective voice

LALC represents the interests of parish and town councils and provides a route through which members can contribute to wider discussions about the future of local government, locally, regionally and through its relationship with NALC.

Sustaining member services

The value of membership is not measured simply by the number of times a council contacts LALC or attends a training course. It is the reassurance of knowing that when a difficult question arises there is a specialist sector organisation, a professional network and a wider local-government community to turn to.

LALC has continued to develop its support for members, including its training offer, member communications and access to advice and resources. Enquiry response times have also significantly improved, with responses within hours or by the next working day.

The 2027/28 plan is therefore about sustaining the value of LALC's advice, training, information, representation and support, while providing a sound basis from which those services can continue to develop in response to members' needs.

Proposed membership subscriptions 2027/28

The local LALC subscription has remained unchanged for over nine years while operating costs have risen, and services have continued to develop. The proposed increase will help put those services on a sustainable financial footing. NALC increases have been passed on separately; they have not increased the local subscription available to fund LALC's own services.

The minimum LALC subscription is proposed to rise from £25 to £52, an increase of £27. The previous minimum no longer provides a sufficient contribution towards the baseline support available to every member council.

The table below illustrates the proposed annual subscriptions for councils of different sizes. Increases vary according to council size, and each council should receive its own comparison of current and proposed costs.

Ref	Electorate example	LALC subscription	NALC subscription	Area Secretary*	Total
A	200	£52.00	£17.60	£10.00	£79.60
B	500	£142.27	£44.00	£10.00	£196.27
C	1,000	£277.68	£88.00	£10.00	£375.68
D	10,000	£729.05	£880.00	£10.00	£1,619.05
E	20,000	£1,315.88	£1,760.00	£10.00	£3,085.88

** The £10 Area Secretary charge applies where applicable. The totals shown include this charge; where it does not apply, deduct £10.*

The proposed NALC subscription is calculated at 8.8p per elector. The £52 minimum LALC subscription is equivalent to £1 per week, then adding on NALC and applicable Area Secretary charges, the smallest example council cost will be £79.60 a year, approximately £1.53 per week.

Supporting councils through change

The coming years are likely to bring significant change for parish and town councils. LALC's role is to ensure that members have access to reliable information, professional support, training, representation and opportunities to learn from one another as that environment develops.

A sustainable membership income will help LALC maintain those services, continue developing the membership offer and support councils through Local Government Reorganisation and the wider changes affecting the sector.

LALC membership means

- ✓ Support when you need it.
- ✓ Training when you need it.
- ✓ Information when it matters.
- ✓ A network of councils facing the same challenges.
- ✓ A stronger collective voice for parish and town councils.

After almost a decade of stable local LALC fees, the proposed 2027/28 increase is about sustaining a strong and effective Association and protecting the value of the services available to members.

This will help ensure LALC remains a stable and sustainable source of support for Lancashire's parish and town councils, their councillors and officers, through Local Government Reorganisation and beyond.