



Hampshire Association of Local Councils

President: Professor Gerry Stoker

Chief Executive: Steven M Lugg

For consideration by all Member Councils

11th May 2015

Dear Member Council

CONSULTATION ON FUTURE AFFILIATION TO NALC

Welcome and Congratulations to all new and returning Councillors to Member Hampshire Parish and Town Councils.

Like me, you will have just heard that the new Communities Secretary of State is Greg Clark MP. Read more about him at <https://www.gov.uk/government/people/greg-clark>. I am wondering how this will change National Policy direction of travel, if at all for parish and town councils?

I have also today, asked Michelle Leadbitter to forward to all member councils, a letter from the Chairman NALC to all new and returning parish and town councillors across England. Clerks will ensure that all councillors get the chance to read this note.

It is thus timely, and a good chance to ask you whether you – Hampshire local councils, should continue to affiliate to NALC? The decision will not be rushed, and if the ALC were to leave, then it would be effective as at 1st April 2017 – so this is very much the beginning of this two-year conversation.

Background

Following communications from councils in 2014 that were dissatisfied with NALC, the ALC Board resolved on a draft resolution in November 2014, to give NALC a year's notice – this will be voted on in October 2015 – at our AGM. This resolution gives NALC a year's notice to improve or if not, notice of future disaffiliation. This resolution would then be revisited in AGM 2016 for final decision, to be effective 1st April 2017, in the worst case scenario. Timelines for consultation and voting were agreed at our GMC meeting of 30th April 2015.

Consultation

I am now asking councils for their initial view, before our next General Management Committee meeting on 2nd July. Your answers might be Yes disaffiliate, Don't know yet, or No do not disaffiliate? In order to be able to discuss this, further information will be provided:

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Hampshire Association of Local Councils Limited

c/o Eastleigh Borough Council, Floor 2, Eastleigh House, Upper Market Street, Eastleigh. SO50 9YN

Tel: 02380 688061 E-mail: hampshirealc@eastleigh.gov.uk Website: www.hampshirealc.org.uk

Twitter: @hampshirealc

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- FAQ's will be posted on the front page of our website shortly, and I will update it each time there is a relevant question,
- District Associations can welcome the Chairman, Board Member, myself and/or NALC Chairman/Officer to their meetings for a discussion.
- Michelle is currently producing our 2015/16 service brochures, which will be distributed to each of the 2048 parish and town councillors in Hampshire.
- Eleanor Greene is available via email, for discussions on any financial aspect of the issue.

What Should Your Council Do Now?

- Start to understand the issues
- Decide upon your initial response
- Ensure you have a delegate to attend the AGM on **10th October 2015**
- Keep up to date with the emerging conversation
- Keep in contact with your District Association

Council responses can be as long or short as you wish, and should be addressed to me, at the ALC – to allow my first report to the Board, on 2nd July.

Finally, a further request. We are always looking to identify new Board Members – currently four representatives from each District Association make up the full Board. We do need your input! Eastleigh for example currently has vacancies, and I welcome competition, and also regular injections of 'fresh faces' and new views. Please do let me know if you have someone in your council, with an interest? We can only be as representative as you wish us to be – so please do get involved.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Lugg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

STEVEN LUGG
Chief Executive