



The purpose of this paper is to ask Members to consider the Town Council's Membership of the Isle of Wight Association (IWALC) for 2018/19.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) At its meeting of 13 November 2017 the Town Council considered the Discussion Paper previously circulated to IWALC's membership and attached to Report 88/17 for that meeting.
- b) The meeting noted that IWALC's constitution section 18a provides for resignation of Member Councils as:
Any Member Council wishing to resign from the National Association from the end of financial year shall give notice to the Association on or before 31st December in any year and such notice shall become effective as from the succeeding 31st March.
- c) The outcome of the consideration was as stated in Minute 128/17 of that meeting:
It was proposed by Councillor Tony Marvin, seconded by Councillor Leigh Geddes and unanimously resolved that:
a decision about continued membership of IWALC would be made at the December meeting of the Town Council. s current Membership includes only 75% of the Island's Town & Parish Councils (25 of 33) with Bembridge Parish Council, Calbourne Parish Council, East Cowes Town Council Nettlestone & Seaview Parish

2) IWALC EXECUTIVE OF 16 NOVEMBER

- a) In a third attempt to persuade the Executive of the need for significant structural change, the Mayor, in his role as the Town Council's IWALC representative, asked for the inclusion of the matter on the Agenda of the Executive's next meeting, on 16 November.
- b) That meeting was attended, in addition to the Officers, by 10 Executive members.
- c) Minute 6 of the meeting records the decision in response to the proposal from Ventnor Town Council:
To consider setting up a Working Party, made up of Executive Members, to look into the detailed workings of IWALC and consider proposals for change.
Cllr Mack presented a paper for consideration. The item had been discussed 18 months ago and again earlier this year when a workshop date was agreed. However, only four people expressed an interest in attending so this was cancelled. There was not a seconder for the current proposal so this was lost.
- d) The meeting did decide to *review matters after the next AGM*, which is scheduled for 20 July 2018.

3) HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

- a) Of the eight Island Town & Parish Councils not currently members of IWALC four - Bembridge, Whippingham, East Cowes and Calbourne – are in membership of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC).
- b) HALC has over 230 Town & Parish Council's in membership organised into seven District Associations reflecting the local authorities within the emparished areas of the County.
- c) Its annual turnover is around £220k with 36% coming from Hampshire Council Grant, 33% from Affiliation Fees and 31% from Earned income.
- d) It has seven staff and more information is available from its web site [here](#).

4) DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

- a) Under HALC's current Memorandum & Articles, Town & Parish Councils outside the County are designated as Development Partners rather than Members, though still having access to the same range of professional services and information as Members.
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- b) They are not able, however, to be members of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) although all the information NALC provides is available on the HALC website and HALC publish a monthly newsletter with other relevant information.
 - c) Bembridge Parish Council's Clerk has confirmed that in her experience of the Development Partner status HALC provides the same range of support services that NALC does.
 - d) HALC have confirmed by email that the Town Council's access to the Public Works Loan Board would not be affected as a consequence of not being in membership of HALC as the application process requires the support of an Association of Local Councils and HALC provides that service along with all others to its Development Partners.
 - e) The Annual fee payable by Ventnor Town Council as a Development Partner would be calculated on the same basis as that for Members and with the town's current electorate size of 4,837, would involve a payment of £677 from 1 April 2018; the Town Council's membership fee due to IWALC for the financial year 2018/19 will be £1,000.
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5) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to decide whether to continue its Membership of IWALC in 2018/19 or to become a Development Partner of HALC.
