

**From OALC**

**Sent:** 28 February 2023 13:30

**To:** Sharon Groth

**Subject:** OALC Membership Invoice 2023

Dear Sharon,

Please could you ensure that this is forwarded to your Chair and, if approved for payment, please use the invoice number as the payment reference.

As Chair of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC), I hope your Council will continue its membership of our Association for the coming financial year 2023-24.

Membership of OALC provides access to support and information in an ever changing local government context. Each year there is new legislation which councils are required to implement. We aim to assist our member councils by alerting them to forthcoming changes, providing briefings, templates and a comprehensive training program, as well as answering questions and providing guidance.

OALC is financially independent of all Oxfordshire district councils and the county council as well. Our income comes from just two sources, **SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TRAINING**. Our subscription is calculated on electorate and is a combination of the NALC affiliation and OALC's membership fees. This year there will be an increase of 3.5% (equivalent to 0.78 pence per elector), which includes the 3% NALC increase. An invoice for the annual subscription is attached to this email. We would encourage your council to pay the invoice by BACS, if at all possible, quoting the invoice number and parish name as reference. This helps us to keep administrative costs down.

What are the benefits of membership?

- **Representation at district, county, regional and national level**, 97% of town and parish councils, in Oxfordshire belong to OALC; we represent your interests at all levels of local government. Membership of OALC includes membership of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) which lobbies Ministers and central government on your behalf. They have successfully lobbied with our help to ensure no cap on precepts. NALC also respond on your behalf to the continuous flow of government consultations, to emphasise the issues affecting town and parish councils.
- **Advice, guidance, briefings and information**, we answer hundreds of queries by phone and email for member councils, the queries cover all manner of governance, procedure and administration. If we don't know the answer, we can pass the query on to NALC solicitors for their opinion or to other experts in appropriate organisations without cost.
- **Monthly Update for councils**; keeping you and your council up to date on new legislation, news and consultations – these updates summarise all the important developments which you and your council need to be aware of.
- **Specialised advice from OALC consultants** on HR/Employment issues and Finance, Audit and VAT. Initial expert advice is free of charge. We pay so that member councils can benefit from this specialised advice.
- **Training**; an expanding training programme for clerks and councillors, with reduced rates for member councils. Look at the [events section](#) of our website. Topics include Clerks training, Finance, Allotments, Cemetery Management, Play Areas, Employment, Sustainability, Councillor and Chairmanship training. We also run free sessions only for member councils on

topics such as Training Opportunities and will be running a Oxfordshire County Council day in June with relevant officers from highways, countryside, gypsies, emergency planning etc..

- **Access to the Members Areas of OALC and NALC websites**, which provides many useful reference documents, briefings, including 88 Legal Topic Notes.

Members of our Executive Committee represent the interests of local councils on various outside bodies at both county, regional and national level. We participate in County and District partnerships where they still exist. We work to improve the efficiency, transparency and professionalism of town and parish councils and parish meetings and use every opportunity to lobby relevant bodies on parishes' behalf.

The Association office is staffed by Christine Lalley, the County Officer and Lucy Dalby, Assistant County Officer, both of whom will be happy to provide further information about our work if you wish to contact them.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Kiera Bentley

Chair

The Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils keeps a record of the contact details for all member councils that subscribe to our services. These contact details are held so that we can contact you to keep you updated about what is happening in the local government world, forthcoming training, advice, guidance and information. We will only share data outside the organisation where this is necessary to obtain specific advice on your behalf. This could be with the National Association of Local Councils or consultants specialising in Human Resources, Finance or Legal matters. Please let us know about any changes to contact details as soon as possible otherwise there is a danger that you will not be enjoying the full benefits of membership.

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils

Town Hall, Market Place, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0EG

email [info@oalc.org.uk](mailto:info@oalc.org.uk)

Your query may be answered by looking at the OALC website