

REVIEW OF COUNCIL AND STAFF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO OTHER BODIES

AGENDA ITEM No. 22

MEETING: ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 13TH MAY 2026

REPORTED BY: TOWN CLERK

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a list of subscriptions to other bodies currently paid on behalf of the Council and its officers as required by the Council's Constitution and best practice requirements.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Council has a number of subscriptions in place with outside bodies.

2.2 Subscriptions are paid for via the Subscriptions Budget in the Administration Section Revenue Budget.

2.3 Some of these subscriptions are made on behalf of the Council as a corporate body. These include the subscription to the National Association of Local Councils and County Durham Association of Local Councils, North East Regional Employers' Organisation, Information Commissioner's Office, Open Spaces Society, National Allotments Society, Stockton and Darlington Railway and the Institute of Cemeteries and Crematorium Management.

2.4 Other subscriptions are made on behalf of officers including subscriptions to the Society of Local Council Clerks for the Town Clerk and to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy for the Finance Manager.

3.0 Current Situation

3.1 A full list of current subscriptions is attached as Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.

4.0 Impact on Great Aycliffe Town Council

4.1 The subscriptions in place benefit the Council and its officers in a number of ways, including:-

- National and local representation and support.
- Membership of professional bodies.
- Up to date information on relevant issues.
- Access to professional advice and information and training.

5.0 Policy Implications

5.1 This complies with the Council's Strategic Aim No. 2:-

"To manage the Council's finances and assets in a responsible manner".

6.0 Staffing Implications

6.1 The Town Clerk is currently permitted to be a member of the Society of Local Council Clerks and the Finance Manager is currently permitted to be a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

6.2 These subscriptions are currently paid on behalf of these officers by the Council where relevant.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 The Council's 2026/27 Subscriptions Budget is £6,300 per year.

8.0 Crime and Disorder Implications

8.1 None.

9.0 Equal Opportunity Implications

9.1 None

10.0 Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change Implications

10.1 None.

11.0 Risk Assessment

11.1 It is not considered that the matter contained in this report poses a risk to health and safety of staff or to the financial or public standing of the Council to a degree that a risk assessment should be appended to this report.

12.0 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

12.1 Is any personal or sensitive data required for this proposal which may have any implications for GDPR? **No**

13.0 Recommendations

13.1 It is recommended that Members:

- a) Receive the report.
- b) Advise of any recommended changes to the Council's approved subscription list.

Appendix 1 - List of Council Subscriptions

Organisation	Nature of Subscription	Period of Cover	2026/27 Budget
North East Regional Employers Association	Advisory Service	Annual	£300
County Durham Association of Local Councils	CDALC / NALC / LCR Subscription	Annual	£4,685
National Association of Local Councils	Direct Information Service	Three Year Subscription	£80
Society of Local Council Clerks	Town Clerk	Annual	£500
CIPFA	Finance Manager	Annual	£405
Open Spaces Society	Annual Subscription	Annual	£50
National Society of Allotments and Gardens	Annual Subscription	Annual	£70
Stockton and Darlington Railway	Annual Subscription	Annual	£50
The Information Commissioner's Office	Data Protection Register	Annual	£55
ICCM	Annual Subscription	Annual	£105
Total			£6,300