

West Sussex Association of Local Councils [West Sussex ALC Limited]

The West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC) was established (as a Private Company Limited by Guarantee, on 23rd April 2013) to protect and promote the interests, rights, functions and privileges of Member Councils, to assist Members in the performance of their functions, to promote and develop the social, economic, environmental, cultural and recreational life of Parishes, and to promote a widespread and well-informed interest in local government, good local government, and governance (Articles of Association, 13th March 2013). WSALC also liaises with a range of organisations including WSCC, Sussex Police, Health & Social care providers and Voluntary Sector organisations on numerous issues. It also lobbies and puts forward the collective views of its Town and Parish Council Members – and the annual WSALC/WSCC joint conference provides a forum for the exchange of views. There are currently 138 Members,

WSALC is a Member of the Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils (SSALC Limited), the other Members being East Sussex (East Sussex ALC Limited) and Surrey (Surrey ALC Limited). WSALC (West Sussex ALC Limited) acquires services from SSALC (SSALC Limited) on behalf of WSALC's Member Councils – the original objective being the benefits of scale. Those services are currently costing WSALC Members some £91,000 per annum (2020 – 2021). As part of its function, WSALC is concerned to see that value for money is obtained from the contributions that Member Councils pay to it and with which it, in turn, buys member services from SSALC.

The board of WSALC is currently undertaking a “Value-for-Money” Review of how Member Councils' subscriptions to WSALC are spent on the member services and other options, if any, which are available to deliver better value than that currently provided to Members by SSALC. The Review is being led by Professor Colin Copus, a respected and well-known expert in local government and author of the national review “The Voice of the Councillor”. This exercise reflects the expectation that is incumbent upon all Councils – to check on expenditure and service-delivery to ensure that the public money for which they are responsible and accountable is being well spent and to enhance local Council (or government) and Parish democratic services.

The findings of Colin Copus's Review will be published in a Report, which is expected by the end of the year – together with a Directors' Report that will consider all options available and make Recommendations that the Board considers would be in the best interests of all member councils.

Every Parish and Town Council that is a Member of WSALC will have an opportunity to make known its views on the content of the Report and any Recommendations made, at a series of District Association Q & A “Zoom” sessions in late 2020.

The decision as to how Member Councils wish to proceed for the year commencing April 2021 will be determined at an Extraordinary General Meeting of WSALC early in 2021.

Board of Directors

West Sussex ALC Limited

Enquiries *about this project* should be addressed to Joanna Cadman at admin@westsussexalc.org.uk