

Dear Chairman,

As the Chairman of MSALC and as a Director of the Board of WSALC, I would like to know the level of opposition from local councils to the action WSALC are currently taking in respect of their 'Value for Money Project'. Please could you confirm if your Council is against this action? I totally disagree with WSALC's actions and my concerns are;

1. In November last year the SSALC Board under the Chairmanship of Councillor Terry Oliver adopted a Strategy Review Report from Councillor Oliver, the other two County Chairmen and the CEO. This Review addresses various aspects of the way SSALC operates including training, staff levels, office accommodation, legal and financial support and intended to ensure that there is a clear relationship between cost and the value of the services delivered to the towns and parishes in Sussex and Surrey.
2. Work on the review was started but suspended by agreement in March when Covid happened. Shortly after this the WSALC Board, under Councillor Oliver decided to carry out its own review.

This begs the following questions;

- a) What happened between November 2019 and April 2020 to prompt the WSALC action?
- b) Why was it considered vital to commence a review during the Pandemic?
- c) Why didn't the Board approach the towns and parishes and ask if the satisfaction level with the services provided by SSALC was such that a review was immediately necessary before agreeing to spend a substantial sum of money?

I am becoming aware of the concerns of other council chairmen that the actions of WSALC Board Directors is potentially damaging to the excellent service provided by SSALC for no obvious benefit.

I am submitting the following motion as an agenda item for the next WSALC AGM on 10th November. The meeting is on Zoom and two members of each Council may attend and vote:

- The Company Directors cease to progress the current value for money study.
- The Company Directors work constructively with SSALC to conclude the current strategic review which includes a value for money element.
- The company Directors establish a clear mechanism for engaging Parish Councils in West Sussex in studies that fall outside of the SSALC operational framework
- That the current Chairman and Vice Chairman of WSALC stand down.

The grounds for opposing any change to the status quo are:-

- 1) Overall satisfaction with the service, performance and price of SSALC to c140 Parish Councils in West Sussex.
- 2) The cost and value of SSALC is established, proven and irreplaceable.
- 3) That to establish WSALC with new staffing, new offices, new legal status and smaller subscriber base will not be cost effective for West Sussex Parish Councils; plus the impact on our neighbours in East Sussex and Surrey Parish Councils.
- 4) That a proposal that has its origins in internal personal disputes is not a foundation on which WSALC should incur expense, time nor disruption to the satisfactory structure and workings of SSALC to the detriment of the three constituent parts.

I look forward to receiving confirmation of your support for this resolution at the AGM.

Kind Regards

Tony Steer