

TOWN CLERK BRIEFING NOTE**77.5 SALC/NALC**

The Sussex Associations of Local Councils has issued recently SALC and National Association of Local Councils subscription renewal invoices for 2007-08 – in the case of Rye broken down as follows:

SALC £677.04	NALC £153.14	Total £830.18
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This is £318.66 higher than 2006-07 (£511.52) – a rise of 62%.

The increase is ostensibly the consequence of the introduction of an 'equitable banding system'. Councils have been placed in one of 6 bands, depending on the size of their electorate. The formula is '21p per elector'. The details were notified in the Autumn 2006 SALC Circular (sent to Members on 23.10.06).

When the Circular was published I assumed the new system incorporated our NALC subscription (as previous years). It appears this is not the case.

I am surveying currently Rother Clerks on the subject. Thus far, Battle, Sedlescombe, Salehurst, Northiam and Brede have said their subscription has increased in the range 27-62%.

The Circular states that many councils will pay the same or less. However, it has been suggested that the new system could provide a significant boost to SALC's total subscription revenue. The first reaction of those who are being asked to pay substantially more is: what will my council receive in return? It doesn't necessarily follow that larger councils place a greater demand on SALC/NALC resources – they tend to have more experienced clerks who are more able to deal with problems themselves.

The Circular does say that 'where a council feels that its fee has increased by an unacceptable amount, this will be looked at by the Executive Committees [East or West] on a case by case basis.'

There is no pressing need to pay the invoice – there is fair amount of discontent among the medium/larger councils affected and SALC won't want to risk too many of them deciding not to renew.

- CLERK'S RECOMMENDATION That Rye Town Council asks SALC:**
- 1 for its 2007-08 subscription rate to be reassessed**
 - 2 for a breakdown of its 2006-07 subscription (NALC/SALC split)**
 - 3 (assuming Counties-wide compliance) how much additional funding the new system will generate for SALC.**
 - 4 how SALC/NALC subscription rates have been determined previously**
- and that the Council continues to liaise with other affected councils.**