
Membership 2024/2025

(1 April 2024–31 March 2025)

1 April 2024

Dear GAPTC Member,

I hope this letter finds you well and thriving in your service to your community. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities of the times, it is with great pleasure and anticipation that we extend our warm invitation for your council to renew its membership or consider joining the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC).

At GAPTC, we pride ourselves on being specialists in town and parish council law and procedures. We understand the vital role that local councils play in fostering community resilience and prosperity, especially in times of uncertainty. Through our membership, councils gain access to a comprehensive suite of services designed to empower and support their efforts in serving their communities.

The past year has underscored the importance of robust support structures for local councils. Throughout 2023/24, our members have benefited immensely from our specialist advice and unwavering support in navigating the myriad challenges posed by the Cost-of-Living crisis as well as the deepening Climate and Biodiversity crisis.

Let me recap on what GAPTC services members have come to value:

- Expert advisory support via website, phone, or email.
- Regular website and social media updates and resources.
- Tailored downloadable model documents.
- Comprehensive training programmes.
- Monthly sector newsletter.
- Support through buddy scheme and networking.
- Customised training solutions.
- Affiliation with NALC.
- Access to independent audit services.

While our members are familiar with the invaluable support and resources we provide, I am thrilled to highlight some lesser-known initiatives that truly set GAPTC apart:

Monthly Networking Sessions: Our monthly networking sessions offer councillors and clerks the opportunity to engage on hot topics, compliance, project initiatives, and more. These sessions have led to the creation of policies adopted nationwide and contributed to GAPTC being shortlisted for the national award of County Association of the Year.

Robust Communications Strategy: We have developed and implemented a robust communications strategy with district and county councils to ensure a more cohesive approach to supporting communities via town and parish councils. This ensures that the grassroots work of our members is effectively communicated upward, informing district and county policy.

Mediation Services: Our new CEO is actively engaged in facilitating effective communication and mediation in member councils experiencing challenges. Positive feedback underscores the importance of these efforts in ensuring the stability and professionalism of our members.

Website Redevelopment: In the middle of the year, we will launch a brand new, redeveloped website with a professional public-facing aspect and a robust member portal. This portal will provide access to documents, model policies, advice tickets, training, toolkits, and more, enhancing member experience and support.

Bespoke Training on Climate and Biodiversity Actions: Thanks to successful funding applications, we will be bringing bespoke training to our members on climate and biodiversity actions. This will accompany a suite of new services critical in addressing this pressing theme and supporting councils in taking meaningful action.

These initiatives exemplify our commitment to innovation, collaboration, and excellence in serving our members and their communities. We believe they will further enhance the value and impact of GAPTC membership for your council.

Members receive a Service Level Agreement outlining the terms of our partnership and the support they can expect from GAPTC and NALC.

As we look ahead to the 2024/25 subscription period, we are pleased to announce a modest increase in subscription fees, reflecting our ongoing commitment to enhancing services and performance for parish councils. We offer discounts to councils that have achieved the Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) or employ a permanent qualified clerk, as part of our strategy to promote excellence in governance.

Membership also grants your council the opportunity to participate in our Annual General Meeting (AGM), where representatives can engage in discussions, propose motions, and contribute to shaping the future direction of GAPTC.

To renew your membership or explore the benefits of joining GAPTC, please complete and return the attached payment form. For any inquiries or further information, please do not hesitate to contact us directly at 01452 883388.

Thank you for considering GAPTC as your partner in serving your community. We look forward to the opportunity to continue supporting your council's invaluable work. We welcome feedback and ask that you please get in touch with me should you have any observations/suggestions you would like to share.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Haine
GAPTC Chief Executive Officer