

General Meeting
Thursday 21st November 2024

ADEPT membership fees – 2025/26

Summary/Recommendation

The Leadership Team recommends that:

- The annual subscription rate for all membership categories for 2025/26 is increased in line with Consumer Prices Index for September 2024 (1.7%).

1. Background

At the General Meeting in November 2019, members agreed to a proposal from the Leadership Team to increase the annual subscription rate for all membership categories in line with inflation as indicated by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) for September of the preceding year. This policy would be subject to annual review.

- This policy applied to membership fees for 2020/21, with an increase of 1.7%.
- Membership fees were unchanged for 2021/22.
- Membership fees for 2022/23 were increased by 3%.
- At the General Members Meeting in November 2022, in recognition of highly constrained financial circumstances facing local government, the annual subscription rate for 2023/24 remained unchanged from 2022/23.
- At the General Members Meeting in November 2023, due to the high rate of inflation it was agreed to increase the membership fees by 6.7%.

Table 1 provides the 2023/34 fee structure for all membership categories.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	Local Authority	LEP / Combined Authority	Sub-national Transport Body	Corporate Partner	Special Honorary	National Assn.
FEES	Year 1	£620				
	<u>Thereafter</u>					
	<250k	£685	£239	£1,140	£5,671	£56
	250k-500k	£1,368				£3,413
	>500k	£2,316				

NB: membership for Honorary Members is free.

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2. Rationale for the fee

ADEPT membership fees remain extremely competitive compared to similar organisations such as ADASS, ADCS and ADPH (Annex 1). In terms of workforce, ADEPT now has a CEO and a deputy CEO and retains the services of two policy officers, an administration officer and finance officer (all part-time). We continue to commission communications, design, events management and website support from external providers; and programme management to oversee delivery of the Live Labs 2 Programme.

Whilst membership numbers remain relatively static, alternative funding streams are generating income. This includes the partnership with Proving Services, supporting delivery of the Woodland Creation Acceleration Fund for Defra and Adaptation Pathways programme for the Environment Agency; and developing new L&D courses. Event sponsorship levels are also excellent. This is generating higher costs relating to policy development and advocacy, including growing our profile with parliamentarians; administering current and new L&D programmes; and delivering a number of events, including reintroducing six-monthly seminars for corporate partners.

3. Recommendation of the Leadership Team

Having reviewed the budget/reserves and recognising costs, the Leadership Team has concluded it is appropriate to raise the annual membership fee for all membership categories by 1.7%. This is aligned with the current CPI inflation figure. Annex 2 illustrates that the overall increase in membership fees over the past 5 years is below inflation over the same period.

If agreed, membership fees for 2025/26 will be:

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	Local Authority		Combined Authority	Sub-national Transport Body	Corporate Partner	Special Honorary	National Assn.
FEES	Year 1	£631					
	<u>Thereafter</u>						
	<250k	£697	£243	£1,159	£5,767	£57	£3,471
	250k-500k	£1,391					
	>500k	£2,355					

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4. Timing

Members are asked to approve the proposal at the General Meeting taking place during the Autumn Conference on 21st November 2024.

Hannah Bartram, Chief Executive Officer and June Meadows, Finance Officer

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Annex 1: Membership rates for the other professional local government associations

ADASS

- **Tier 1**
Population Range: 501,000+ ; Membership Fees (2024): £2,947
- **Tier 2**
Population Range: 200,001–500,000 ; Membership Fees (2024): £2,739
- **Tier 3**
Population Range: 0–200,000 ; Membership Fees (2024): £2,528

Associate fees are £345. In addition, many members pay additional membership fees to their region, which are set separately by the region.

ADCS

- Between £1,900 and £3,800 depending on the size of the LA determined by population.
- This provides membership to the DCS and the two tiers of officers that sit directly underneath the DCS.
- There is also an Associate membership category where individuals can join ADCS (£150).

ADPH

A three-year subscription plan which is first approved by the Board and then taken to the wider membership at the AGM. The plan for the next 3 years is presented at the final AGM of the existing cycle, at which point the membership is asked to approve the increases for the full 3 years. At the subsequent AGMs it is asked to ratify that approval for the upcoming year.

The increase varies e.g. due to Covid Inquiry costs but for this year is 5%.

ADPH starts with a flat rate for each LA, initially set at £1,000, and then an additional amount depending on population covered. The average is £4,500 but there is a significant variation. This fee is an organisational subscription so covers the DPH role and some consultants as well as workshops, masterclasses and annual conference.

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Annex 2: Membership fees (2019/20)

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Membership fees (2020/21)

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Membership fees (2021/22) - Unchanged

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Membership fees (2022/23)

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Membership fees (2023/24) – Unchanged

Membership fees (2023/24)

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	Local Authority	LEP / Combined Authority	Sub-national Transport Body	Corporate Partner	Special Honorary	National Assn.
FEES	Year 1 £620					
	<u>Thereafter</u>					
	<250k £685	£239	£1,140	£5,671	£56	£3,413
	250k-500k £1,368					
	>500k £2,316					