

Samantha Tunney
Assistant Chief Executive
Sefton Council
Town Hall
Lord Street
Southport Merseyside
PR8 1DA

23 March 2011

Dear Samantha

Re: LGA Membership

Thank you for your letter dated 4 March 2011 notifying us of Sefton Council's decision to give notice of resignation from the Local Government Association, which would enable you to leave membership on 31st March 2012.

I understand the background to your Council's decision but we believe there are huge benefits from authorities working together in what is likely to be an unprecedented time of change. I do hope that over the next year we can demonstrate the benefits of continuing LGA Membership.

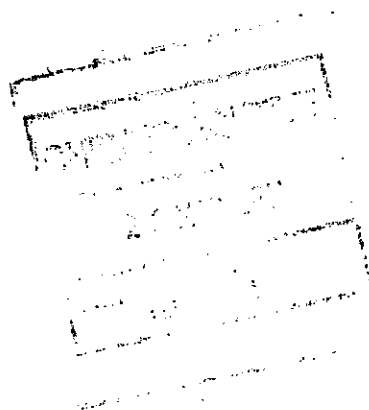
We would be happy to visit the Council to hear your concerns in more detail. If you think this would be helpful, then please do not hesitate to me on 020 7664 3156.

As requested, I have enclosed a copy of Paragraph 22 of the LGA Constitution, which sets out of the cancellation notice period.

Yours sincerely

Claire Holloway

Claire Holloway
Corporate Programme Director



Peter Cowley

From: Tim Hodey [Tim.Hodey@local.gov.uk]
Sent: 02 February 2012 13:50
To: Peter Cowley
Subject: Notice to withdraw from LGA membership

Dear Peter

I am writing to make you aware that your authority has given notice to withdraw from membership of the LGA from 1 April 2012. Should this occur your authority will no longer be able to access services that it currently receives from the LGA. These services include facilitation of joint action on the legal claims seeking refunds of past charges for property searches data. LGA and Bevan Brittan support extends only to member authorities, so any authority leaving membership will need to make its own arrangements to resolve the claims and to seek a funding contribution from central government.

Collective action has enabled member authorities to obtain a substantial amount of legal advice and representation over the past year at a fraction of the cost that they would have incurred on their own. Moreover, the LGA has invested considerable staff resources in

- helping member authorities to work together and thus minimise the exposure of individual councils;
- liaising with the legal team in order to keep members' costs down; and
- providing strategic advice, which has thus far kept the claims from escalating to full-blown court proceedings and given local authorities time to try to resolve them in a more cost-effective manner.

Our lobbying has also resulted in new burdens funding towards lost income and repayment of past charges. We also persuaded the Government to reverse its original position that this funding would be a final "one off" payment, and secured their commitment to revisit the funding decision once the true scale of liabilities is known, working with us to set up the review process. As the Government is unlikely to do a blanket deal on further funding for refunds, we will be supporting LGA member councils to assess their funding requirements and lobbying on their behalf. Authorities out of membership will have to make their own representations if they wish to seek a funding contribution from central government.

As you know, the courts have ordered all parties to try to resolve the claims through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The ADR process appears likely to continue for the foreseeable future so if your authority leaves LGA membership, you will need to make your own arrangements to liaise with the claimants' solicitors and report back to the court on progress.

We know that councils are having to make some incredibly difficult decisions over the course of this Spending Review period, which means scrutinising all spending commitments. We believe that our support on property search issues is one example of how the LGA provides member authorities with tangible benefits for their subscription fees.

The LGA subscription for your authority for the coming year would be £47,395.

If you would like further information about how LGA membership benefits your authority, or you would like to discuss this matter generally, please contact either of us.

Kind regards,

Tim Hodey
Phone: 020 7664 3197
Email: tim.hodey@local.gov.uk

Julia Russell
Telephone: 0207 664 3246
Email: julia.russell@local.gov.uk

This e-mail may include confidential information and is solely for the use by the intended recipient(s). If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the sender immediately. You must not disclose, copy, distribute or retain any part of the email message or attachments. Views and opinions expressed by the author are not necessarily those of the organisation.

This email has been checked for known viruses and is believed to be virus free.