

**Report Purpose:**

Other Memberships

**Author**

Town Clerk

**National Allotment Society:**

The National Allotment Society (NAS) is the leading organisation upholding the interests and rights of the allotment community across the UK. They work with council's all across the country to offer support, guidance and advice to members. They are a not for profit organisation.

The officers use the advice service on a regular basis. In the past year, the NAS have advised officers on the introduction of our annual admin fee (from 2025), the letter to tenants regarding the change, water supply issues and the rent audit that we completed earlier this year.

This is a valued service.

The annual charge is £70.

**The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)**

The SLCC is the professional body for local council officers, providing specialist advice, training, and guidance to support effective council administration and compliance with current legislation and best practice.

Membership is widely recognised across the sector and is referenced in the *Good Councillor's Guide 2024*, which highlights the importance of clerks being members of SLCC to ensure appropriate professional support.

In light of Cheshire East Council's direction towards devolution of services to Town and Parish Councils, it is increasingly important that Macclesfield Town Council maintains strong governance capacity, up-to-date knowledge, and access to expert professional support.

While the Council is currently compliant, SLCC membership would help ensure standards are not only maintained but improved. It would provide access to specialist legal and procedural advice, particularly in complex areas such as procurement, tendering, contract management, governance, and employment matters.

The availability of this support will help identify risk, improve consistency, and strengthen decision-making processes.

**Proposals**

To renew the membership of the National Allotment Society for 2025 cost of £70

To approve SLCC membership for both Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk at the cost of £929 between them.