

**Meeting:** Annual General Meeting  
**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
**Item:** 6  
**Subject:** Membership fees and voting rights



## Introduction

This paper proposes a change to the Nuleaf constitution to require that membership fees are paid in reasonable time in order for local authorities to have voting rights at Nuleaf meetings.

## Recommendations

That the AGM agrees that Contributing member authorities of Nuleaf must settle their annual membership fees within 3 months of receiving an invoice. Failure to do so may result in the loss of voting rights until the payment is made.

### 1. Context and proposal

Local authorities affiliate to Nuleaf on a Corresponding or Contributing basis. Contributing members pay an annual fee for membership, based on the population of their local authority area.

Contributing members provide valuable financial support to Nuleaf. In return they receive the right to vote at Nuleaf meetings and can represent the Forum on outside bodies. They receive other benefits such as an ability to participate, free of charge, in our Annual Gathering, and the receipt of regular communications.<sup>1</sup>

The cost of the Annual Gathering is significant and, as it is usually held in the summer or early autumn, the commitment of Contributing members to settle their annual fee is taken on trust. In recent years there have been some cases where the membership fee has not been settled until very late in the year. This has highlighted a potential financial risk to Nuleaf.

It would therefore be of benefit to Nuleaf if membership fees are settled early in the financial year, providing certainty of the resources available to the organisation. It is proposed that Contributing local authorities be requested to settle any invoice for membership fees within three months of the invoice being issued or risk losing voting

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nuleaf.org.uk/about/joining-nuleaf/>

rights until the fee is settled. Any decision on this would be made by the Chair of Nuleaf in consultation with the Executive Director. In advance of any decision being taken there would be dialogue with the local authority concerned to determine the reasons for the late payment and if this could be remedied.