

National AGM 2017

Setting the Area Levy for 2017

It is proposed to set the area levy on the same basis as the last two years.

Motion - That the compulsory element of the Area levy be set at 25% of the total income from membership fees for each Area in the preceding year. And, that any proposals for expenditure beyond this are to be put to Areas.

Instead of all Areas paying the same, Areas would continue to pay a levy in proportion to their membership. ("Total income from membership fees" means the full amount of the membership fee, including any part retained by or returned to the group.) The levy would be calculated as 25% of the membership fee income in the preceding year.

The contribution should be 25% of income received – so for new members who are charged £10 the contribution will be £2.50. (The intention being to encourage Areas to offer a £10 introductory membership fee and not to penalise those that do so.)

But for life members it will be £5 because the Area has already received income from them when they took out their life membership.

This would be the compulsory element of the levy. Areas could pay more if they elected to do so.

Setting the levy in this way provides sufficient funds for the NEC to hold meetings and pay for insurance and website. Areas or Groups which are in a strong financial position may wish to help, by supporting their members by contributing to their expenses for attending meetings.

Other expenditure proposals, such as funding national holidays and training events, would be put to the Areas. So, when the NEC wishes to authorise expenditure which exceeds their total income in the year from member Area fees ("the levy"), any monies which Areas or Groups voluntarily contribute and any other income, such proposals shall be put to Areas for a vote on whether the expenditure should proceed and whether it should be funded by further contributions from Areas and Groups, from the National Reserves or by other means. The expenditure may proceed if the majority of Areas vote in favour.

This is not an amendment to the constitution; it is simply a resolution to set the levy for the coming year and a mandate to the NEC on how they should act for the coming year. It can be reviewed and revised at the next National AGM.