

The Standards of Practice Scheme 2015

Enabling
Assisting
Localism in
Councils

Local Councils

- Local Councils serve 35% of the population in England
- In Essex there are 274 Local Councils and 9 Parish Meetings
- Providing Local Communities a voice and enabling them to make local decisions
- Have discretionary powers to provide and maintain a variety of services and facilities
- Local Councils make a difference

To Celebrate Success – The Local Council Award Scheme

- The Local Council Awards Scheme provides the framework to support and celebrate success
- It will assist Councils to develop working practices
- It will offer Councils an opportunity to demonstrate their successes
- Local Councils can develop through the scheme

The New Scheme

The scheme aims to

- Encourage development
- Promote excellent working
- Share best practice
- Drive up standards
- Develop Councils to reach their full potential
- Serve communities better

3 Levels

1. Foundation level demonstrates a set the standard for Local Councils
 - Operate lawfully
 - Policies in place for training for both Councillors and Officers

The foundation level is a benchmark on which to build further success

3 levels

2. Quality level

- Demonstrates good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement
- The Council goes above and beyond their legal obligations and seeks opportunities to improve
- Quality Councils should be eligible to use The General Power of Competence

3 levels

3. Quality Gold Level

- Council is at the forefront of best practice
- Achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and Council development
- Provides leadership
- Brings people together, develops communities
- Has an excellent business plan, planning for the future

Accreditation

- Web based
- Peer reviewed
- Council minutes criteria achieved
- Essex County Accreditation Panel reviews and approves applications
- Inform the Council

Why?

Councils are encouraged to enter the Local Council Award scheme to:

- Meet the challenge and prove competence
- Demonstrate they are acting as a good Council
- Develop their processes and procedures to ensure good governance
- Ensure they meet legal requirements
- Develops the service provided to the Community the Council serves
- Excels in Community leadership, meeting the aspirations of local people