

Local Council Award Scheme

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Overview of the Scheme

All local councils want to serve their local communities and make a real difference to the lives of the people that live there.

The Local Council Award Scheme has been designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils, and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential.

The Scheme provides both the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. It offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and enables them to put in place the conditions for their continued improvement.

Councils can apply for an award at one of three levels: -

- To achieve a **Foundation Award** a council will demonstrate that it meets the requirements for operating lawfully and according to standard practice. The council also has policies for training councillors and officers and is building a foundation for improvement and development.
- To achieve the **Quality Award** a council will demonstrate that it meets all requirements of the Foundation Award and has additional documentation and information in place for good governance, effective community engagement and council improvement. The quality award criteria include the eligibility criteria for the General Power of Competence
- To achieve a **Quality Gold Award** a council will demonstrate that it meets all requirements of the Foundation and Quality Awards, and is at the forefront of best practice by achieving an excellent standard in community governance, community leadership and performance.

Councils are reviewed by experienced peers through the work of a national accreditation panel. The aim of the accreditation process is to be as simple, efficient and flexible as possible. It also seeks to ensure that every council that wishes to take part in the scheme can do so and is assessed in a reasonably consistent way.

Fees

There are two fees payable by councils

- **Registration Fee** – A registration fee of £50 is paid to the National Association of Local Councils. This is paid by all councils for each level regardless of size.
- **Accreditation Fee** – An accreditation fee is also paid to NALC. The accreditation fee will vary according to the award applied for, the income of the council and the council's accreditation history.

Annual Income	Under £25,000	Over £25,000
Foundation Standard	£50	£80
Quality Standard	£80	£100
Quality Gold	£100	£200



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How to Register your Interest

- The council registers its intention to apply for a specified award online <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/lcawardscheme>
- The council pays a registration fee of £50 to NALC to cover the costs of managing the national scheme, including: - administration, national online resources, quality assurance and review processes.
- NALC or ChALC will provide the applicant with a template application form to complete and return

Which Award level should we apply for?

The full 2023 guidance documentation on the scheme and the different levels of award can be downloaded at: -

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/lcas/1855-lcas-guide/file>

What is the deadline for applications?

There are three rounds a year. In 2024 the deadlines are 5th January 2024; 3rd May 2024 and 6th September 2024. It takes approximately 4 months for applications to be fully assessed and awarded.

Which councils have been awarded under the Local Council Award Scheme?

You can view an up to date list of the councils who have applied and the awards gained in your area and also nationally at: -

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/lcas/3837-lcas-accreditation/file>