

Agenda item 8

For information – NALC Local Council Award Scheme

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Summary

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) designed the Local Council Award Scheme “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 offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed them by their peers, and put in place the conditions for continued improvement.” There are three award levels councils can apply for; foundation, quality and gold. We made a successful application for the gold award.

There was a comprehensive application form to fill out and five statements to prepare. I would like to thank Miles Macey who worked hard to pull together much of the information in the application whilst I was on maternity leave.

At the Council meeting on 18 March 2020 a report confirming our eligibility to apply was approved. [The report can be read on the website here](#). Since that meeting we made some tweaks and amends to the application and officially submitted it for consideration on 30 November 2020. As with many things during 2020/21 there was a delay in the panel meeting to discuss and decide on our application. We finally heard back on 26 October 2021 with the news that we had been successful. [The congratulations letter can be read here at Appendix 2.](#)

According to NALC “The Quality Gold Award demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development. Quality Gold councils provide leadership for their communities, bring people together, have excellent business planning processes, ensuring value for money as well as constantly seeking new innovations and opportunities to improve. They highlight the very best we, as a sector, can achieve for our communities.”

At the time of writing we are the only council in Somerset to be awarded the gold award. We will be working with the Marketing and Comms team to make the most of the award. The accreditation is valid for four years.

