



KEIGHLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Mr. Joe Cooney
Town Clerk to the Town Council
25 October 2022

Email: townclerk@keighley.gov.uk

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND a meeting of the **Policies & Governance Committee** which will be held at Keighley Town Council, Civic Centre, North Street, Keighley, BD21 3RZ on **Tuesday 1 November 2022 at 6pm.**

Mr. Joe Cooney
Town Clerk

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Cllr M. Westerman – Chairman	Cllr J. Akhtar
Cllr M. Curtis – Vice Chairman	Cllr M. Walker
Cllr C. Abberton	Cllr L. Maunsell – ex-officio
Cllr J. Adams	
Cllr A. Ahmed	

*Committee Terms of Reference are contained within the Scheme of Delegation.

ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Notice is given that at a time agreed by the meeting, 15 minutes may be set aside for members of the public to make representation on the business of the agenda for the meeting:

- Members of the public wishing to speak are to have given three working days' notice to the Town Clerk; this may be waived at the Chairman's discretion.
- Any member of the public shall not speak for more than five minutes.
- In the event of more than three members of the public wishing to address the Council then priority will be determined by the Chairman, based on subject matter.
- A question asked by a member of the public during Public Participation shall not require a response or debate during the meeting though the Chairman may direct that a written response will be provided after the meeting.

Recording at Council Meetings is allowed at Council, committee and sub-committee meetings which are open to the public, subject to:- (i) the recording being conducted with the full knowledge of the Chairman of the meeting; and (ii) compliance with the Town Council's Recording of Meetings Policy. Anyone wishing to record must contact the Town Clerk prior to the start of the meeting. Any recording must be conducted openly and not in secret.

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introduction – For Noting

Members are reminded to consult the Standing Orders regarding conduct at meetings. Member's attention is particularly drawn to Standing Order 1.

2. Apologies for absence

Members are asked to receive apologies of absence for this meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and the relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Members are reminded that should you declare a pecuniary interest at a meeting, it is your responsibility to inform the Monitoring Officer.

- i) Declarations of Interest from Members
- ii) Declarations of Interest from Officers

4. Public Question Time and Participation

Members of the public are advised that they are welcome to ask questions about items on the Agenda. It is not always possible to give a verbal response at the meeting and questions may receive a written reply. No resolution can be made under this item.

Questions should relate to matters of Town Council policy or practice and not relate to the individual affairs of either the questioner or any other named person.

5. Minutes – For Decision

Members are asked to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Policies & Governance Meeting held Tuesday 4 October 2022.

Copy attached

6. Progress Report – For Noting

To receive the progress report following the last meeting held Tuesday 4 October 2022.

Copy attached

7. Town Plan – For Noting

To consider the attached report from the Assistant Town Clerk/CDO on the Town Plan objectives the Policies & Governance Committee is responsible for.

Copy attached

8. Budget 2023/24 Update – For Decision

To consider a report from the Town requesting the committee submit their budget request for the 2023/24 financial year to the Budget Working Group.

Copy attached

9. Key Performance Indicators – For Decision

To consider a report from the Town Clerk on the performance of the Council's Key Indicators
Copy attached

10. Community Emergency Action Plan – For Decision

To consider a report from the Town Clerk on the development of an updated Community Emergency Action Plan.

To Follow

11. Internal Governance Working Group – For Noting

To receive a verbal update on the initial meeting of the Internal Governance Working Group.

12. Local Council Award Scheme – For Decision

To consider a report from the Town Clerk regarding the Local Council Award Scheme application.

Copy attached

13. Items for Future Agenda – For Decision

To consider items for inclusion on future agendas.

14. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting of this committee will be held on Tuesday 6 December 2022 at 6.00pm.

OFFICER SUPPORT TO THE MEETING

Officers scheduled to attend: Joe Cooney, Town Clerk

APOLOGIES

Contact the office during normal opening hours (01535) 872126
Email: sarah.kissack@keighley.gov.uk

Late apologies should be made by phone to the senior officer scheduled to attend.



KEIGHLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Policy & Governance (PG) Committee held Civic Centre, North Street, Keighley, BD21 3RZ on Tuesday 4 October 2022

Present: Councillor Westerman - Chairman
 Councillor Abberton
 Councillor Akhtar
 Councillor M Walker
 Councillor J Adams
 Councillor Maunsell – Ex Officio

Also Present: Joe Cooney, Town Clerk
 Cllr Paul Cook, Observing

Minute Ref	Agenda Item
042/2022 (PG)	Welcome from Chairman Cllr Westerman welcomed members to the meeting.
043/2022 (PG)	Apologies for Absence Cllr Curtis RESOLVED to accept and record the above apologies.
044/2022 (PG)	Declaration of Interest RESOLVED there were no declarations of interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and the relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 from either Members or Officers.
045/2022 (PG)	Public Question Time None.
046/2022 (PG)	Minutes RESOLVED Members approved the amended minutes of the meeting of the Policies & Governance Committee held on Tuesday 6 September 2022.
047/2022 (PG)	Progress Report Members received a progress update on decisions taken at the last committee meeting on Tuesday 6 September 2022.

	NOTED.
048/2022 (PG)	<p>Town Plan</p> <p>Members received an update report from the Assistant Town Clerk/CDO on the town plan progress.</p> <p>RESOLVED members noted the Town Plan progress.</p>
049/2022 (PG)	<p>Draft Budget</p> <p>Members considered a report from the Town Clerk regarding the Committee budget for 2023/24.</p> <p>RESOLVED members noted the proposed budget for financial year 2023/24.</p> <p>RESOLVED members requested the Town Clerk present the current year spend for each budget line to the next meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED to defer the final decision on the committee budget to the November meeting.</p>
050/2022 (PG)	<p>Post Office Lawkholme Lane Consultation</p> <p>Members considered a report from the Town Clerk detailing a consultation by the Post Office on a new Pay & Drop facility on Lawkholme Lane.</p> <p>RESOLVED not to submit a response to the public consultation.</p>
051/2022 (PG)	<p>Community Emergency Action Plan</p> <p>Members considered a report from the Town Clerk on the current Community Emergency Action Plan.</p> <p>RESOLVED members requested the Town Clerk update the Emergency Action Plan and report back to the next meeting in November.</p>
052/2022 (PG)	<p>Green Space Campaign</p> <p>Members considered two draft letters to be sent to Homes England and Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities relating to the future of the Green Space.</p> <p>RESOLVED members adding a question to the Homes England letter regarding what would be classed as regeneration of the site.</p> <p>RESOLVED members approved both letters and instructed the Town Clerk to send the letters to the relevant recipients.</p>
053/2022 (PG)	<p>Items for a future agenda</p> <p>None.</p>

054/2022 (PG)	Date & time of next meeting The next meeting will be on Tuesday 1 November 2022.

Signed **Date**
Chair



REPORT FROM: TOWN CLERK

TO: POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: 1 November 2022

Report Author: Joe Cooney

Tel No: 01535 872126

Email: joe.cooney@keighley.gov.uk

**PROGRESS REPORT ON DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE
POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
DATED 4 OCTOBER 2022**

Item No	Committee Decision	Update
1.	Draft Budget 2023/24 RESOLVED members noted the proposed budget for financial year 2023/24. RESOLVED members requested the Town Clerk present the current year spend for each budget line to the next meeting. RESOLVED to defer the final decision on the committee budget to the November meeting.	Item appears elsewhere on the agenda.
2.	Post Office Lawkholme Lane consultation RESOLVED not to submit a response to the public consultation.	No action taken.
3.	Community Emergency Action Plan RESOLVED members requested the Town Clerk update the Emergency Action Plan and report back to the next meeting in November.	Item appears elsewhere on the agenda.

4.	<p>Green Space Campaign</p> <p>RESOLVED members adding a question to the Homes England letter regarding what would be classed as regeneration of the site.</p> <p>RESOLVED members approved both letters and instructed the Town Clerk to send the letters to the relevant recipients</p>	<p>Letters have been sent and now waiting responses.</p>
----	---	--

KEIGHLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Item 7

REPORT ON TOWN PLAN PROGRESS



REPORT AUTHOR	Pip Gibson Assistant Town Clerk/CDO
EMAIL	pip.gibson@keighley.gov.uk
Date	Tuesday 1 November 2022

SUBJECT	TOWN PLAN REPORT
----------------	-------------------------

PURPOSE:

1. To inform Members of the progress made towards the Town Plan Key Objectives.

RECOMMENDATION(s):

2. That Members use this information to make decisions and allocate funding where applicable with specific reference to the Committee's areas of responsibility within the Town Plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

3. The Council is responsible for the delivery of the Town Plan, either through the implementation of its own projects and activities, individually, in partnership with key service providers or by commissioning projects and services from third party organisations, groups and individuals.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS:

4. Forthcoming Town Plan Steering Group meeting dates to be announced following the community consultation period for the new Town Plan 2023-2027.
5. The Town Plan 2020-23 sets out the Council's aims and objectives over a 3-year period. This year will see the final year of the Plan.
6. The Town Plan Steering Group meets quarterly to develop and monitor a general strategic approach and champion the Town Plan's vision and objectives.
7. It is important that all Members are involved in the delivery of the Town Plan.

8. Chairs of Committees are asked to add to the Town Plan proposed Actions for their respective Committees in advance of the Town Plan Steering Group meetings.
9. It is the responsibility of the Chair of each Committee to attend the Town Plan Steering Group and to share this Committee's progress. If the Chair cannot attend, he/she must arrange for the Vice Chair or elected third Member of the Committee to attend.
10. The Chair of each Committee will share the discussion had at each Town Plan Steering Group meeting with Members of their Committee at their next meeting.
11. The Key Objectives, attached as Appendix A, detail the responsibilities of this Committee over the life of the Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION:

12. With the exception of staffing and essential running costs, all other Council funding including Committee Budgets should be allocated with reference to Town Plan Objectives.

TOWN PLAN IMPLICATIONS:

13. All decisions should be made with direct reference to the Town Plan.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS:

14. Wherever appropriate climate change considerations are factored into all activities implemented with reference to the Town Plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

15. There are no new policy implications arising from this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

16. In some circumstances consultations may have taken place.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

17. Town Plan.

FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Pip Gibson, Assistant Town Clerk/CDO pip.gibson@keighley.gov.uk

Town Plan 2020-2023				
Key Objective	What we will do	Timescale	Who's responsible	Actions 2022/23
Civic Pride				
CP009	Promote civic pride and public participation.	Ongoing (2020-23)	All Councillors and staff	Events Programme 2022. CD Funded: Mini Bounce Planet; Youth Arts Development Programme; Outdoor Education Programme; People's Planters; Community Consultation; Keighley In Frame; Do it Yourself Ward Funding: Bookmarks; Bin Sponsorship (Todley Hall Rd & Westburn Avenue); Play in Parks; Mini Bounce; CCTV Long Lee Cricket Club; Grant Funded: Keighley in Bloom; Children's Literature Festival; Ma Kelly's Kitchen; Keighley Cricket Club; Lund Park Community Group; Keighley Lions; Events x 3 at Lund Park; Defib at Lund Park; Benches at Holden Park; Keighley Business Awards;
CP013	Develop a Corporate Governance Action Plan to ensure the Council is being run effectively.	Ongoing (2020-23)	Policies & Governance Committee	P&G will continue to monitor the Corporate Action Plan, next review due in the September meeting
CP018	Keep the Town Plan under continuous review throughout its lifespan.	Ongoing (2020-23)	Policies & Governance Committee	The Town Plan Steering Group oversees the progress of the Town Plan. Meetings are held quarterly and minutes/reports presented to Full Council.
Community Development				
CD002	Participate in any public consultation that would have a direct impact on Keighley.	Ongoing (2020-23)	Policies & Governance Committee	Parish poll for the use of land at the top of Cavendish Street/North Street junction. LNER May 2022 Timetable; Planning Committee. Policies & Governance Committee has recently considered responses to two Royal Mail consultations. One for the location of the new Post Office and the second about a new Drop & Go service on Lawkholme Lane.
CD014	Undertake a review of bylaws within Keighley.	Long Term (2022/23)	Policies & Governance Committee	Report to follow Autumn 2022
Developing the Local Environment				
Arts & Culture				

KEIGHLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Item 8

REPORT TO THE POLICIES & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



REPORT AUTHOR	Town Clerk Joe Cooney
EMAIL	Joe.cooney@keighley.gov.uk
Date	Tuesday 1 November 2022

SUBJECT	Draft Budget 2023/24
----------------	-----------------------------

PURPOSE:

1. To seek members views on a budget request for financial year 2022/23, which will be submitted to the Budget Working Group for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION(s):

2. Members request an overall budget of £149,059 for financial year 2023/24.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

3. To provide oversight of the council's financial management.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS:

4. To form part of the budget planning process for 2023/24 members are asked to consider their budget requirement for the year ahead. This information will be considered by the Budget Working Group who will make a recommendation to the Finance & Audit Committee and ultimately Full Council for approval in January 2023.
5. To assist members in considering their budget requirements officers have devised a draft budget, to meet the likely priorities for the next financial year.
6. Details of the draft budget have been included in the table below along with a comparison to the requests made by the committee for the current financial year:-

Item	Description	2023/24	Projected spend	Spend to date	2022/23
Travel & Subsistence (Members & Officers)	Travel to/from training, conferences, seminars, etc.	2,268	1,500	557	2,100
Subscriptions	Membership of YLCA & NALC, Yorkshire Society, Clerks SLCC membership	4,320	3,894	200	4,000
Elections	Cost of Town Council election in May 2023	60,000	12,453	4,894	5,000
Legal Fees	Annual HR & H&S contract	5,783	5,221	4,025	5,355
Office Administration	Covers costs such as mobile phone bills, photocopier charges, general office supplies. It is likely the current photocopier/printer will require replacing within the next 12 months	9,500	8,643	3,467	8,500
Postage	Franking Machine contract and general postage costs	1,620	1,500	1,118	1,500
Stationary	General stationary supplies	2,700	2,402	1,988	2,500
Insurance	Third of three-year contract with Gallagher, costs fixed	9,866	9,548	9,098	9,135
IT Costs	Annual Contract with Cosurica - due for renewal in February 2023.	19,440	17,723	10,387	18,000
Website	Annual website hosting fees	1,728	1,799	1,799	1,600
Meeting Refreshments	Town Council meetings	864	658	125	800
Civic & Ceremonial	Potential for replacing some Civic Robes which are starting to show wear and tear	8,000	2,824	1,940	3,000
Training - Members	Training budget to support members	4,320	3,884	117	4,000
Training - Officers	Training budget to support officers	7,700	6,584	6,193	7,000
Conferences	Attendance at conferences	2,750	2,122	499	2,500
Annual Report	Printing and distribution of the annual report	6,000	5,000	-	5,000
Uniform & PPE	The provision of necessary staff uniform and PPE where required	2,200	2,000	327	2,000
Total		149,059	88,314	46,735	81,990

7. The officers are recommending an increase in several budget lines, to better represent the needs of the council. In response to the current high rate of inflation, budget lines that are impacted, such as annual report, have been increased to accommodate inflationary rises.
8. Members are asked to consider the officer budget and make a recommendation to the Budget Working Group.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION:

9. Members request £149,059 for their 2023/24 budget provision.

TOWN PLAN IMPLICATIONS:

10. Meets the Town Plan Key Objectives: CP012, CP016, CP020,

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS:

11. N/A.

COMMUNITY IMPACT:

12. N/A.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

13. N/A.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

14. N/A.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

15. N/A.

FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: Joe Cooney,
joe.cooney@keighley.gov.uk, 01535 872126

KEIGHLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Item 9

REPORT TO POLICIES & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



REPORT AUTHOR	Town Clerk Joe Cooney
EMAIL	Joe.cooney@keighley.gov.uk
Date	Tuesday 1 November 2022

SUBJECT	Key Performance Indicators Report
----------------	--

PURPOSE:

1. To update members on progress made during Quarter one on the Council's Key Performance Indicators.

RECOMMENDATION(s):

2. Members note the report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

3. To provide oversight of the council's Key Performance Indicators.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS:

4. Appendix A of the report provides an overview of the Council's 20 Key Performance Indicators (KPI).
5. The same appendix details the performance during Quarter Two (June – September) of each KPI.
6. Progress has been against all remaining KPI's and the full details are included in Appendix A.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION:

7. None directly arising from this report.

TOWN PLAN IMPLICATIONS:

8. Meets the Town Plan Key Objectives: CP016

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS:

9. N/A.

COMMUNITY IMPACT:

10. N/A.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

11. N/A.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

12. N/A.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

13. Appendix A – Key Performance Indicators

FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: Joe Cooney,
joe.cooney@keighley.gov.uk, 01535 872126

Key Performance Indicators 2022/23

To support the objectives detailed in the Town Plan and our Corporate Governance Action Plan there are several areas of our service which requires monitoring against set targets. These targets should be considered alongside the relevant objectives in either the Town Plan or Corporate Governance Action Plan.

Objective	Originated	How we will achieve it	Annual Target	Progress			
				Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Members meet on a regular occasion to set the strategic direction and policy of the Council	Corporate Governance Action Plan	Full Council will meet at least 4 times year supported by the annual calendar of committee meetings	4 meeting of the Full Council	Council met twice in May and June	Council met once in September		
Complete to all stage 1 complaints within 10 working days	Corporate Governance Action Plan	Ensuring the Complaints Policy is adhered to and following the Handling Complaints Standards Operating procedure (SoP)	95% of all stage 1 complaints completed within 10 working days	1 complaint received. Completed in 17 working days	0 complaints received		
Complete all stage 2 complaints within 21 working days	Corporate Governance Action Plan	Ensuring the Stage 2 requirements outlined in the Complaints Policy are adhered to.	95% of all stage 2 complaints completed within 21 working days	0 complaints at stage 2	0 complaints at stage 2		
Respond to all Freedom of Information requests within 20 working days	Corporate Governance Action Plan	Following the Freedom of Information Policy and the timeframes required in the Freedom of Information Act 2000.	99% of all requests completed in the legally required timeframes	0 Freedom of information requests	0 Freedom of information requests		
Process all invoices within 14 days	Corporate Governance Action Plan	14-day payment terms are outlined in the Council's Financial Regulations. Officers will follow the	90% of all invoices paid within 14 days	96%	94%		

		Budget Management SoP which includes the processing of invoices	of being received				
Respond to all new allotment applications within 7 days	Corporate Governance Action Plan	Develop a new process for recording all applications for new allotments which track the progress of the application.	85% of all applications responded to within 7 days	100% 39 new applicants	55 New New applicants Missed deadline for 2		
Create additional allotment capacity	Town Plan	Aim to reopen overgrown allotments at Guardhouse, Selborne Grove and Arncliffe Road	Increase allotment plots by 10 during 2022/23	10 created in Q1	11 created in Q2		
Collect allotment rental income	Town Plan	Annual collection of rents commences in August and tenants have 40 days to pay their invoices	Collect £14,000 in allotment rents due annually	N/A (Invoiced in Q3)	N/A (Invoiced in Q3)		
Collect rental income from the Civic Centre	Town Plan	Offices are rented out currently to Making Space and Cougars Foundation. Rental income is collected monthly.	Collect £13,000 from Civic Centre rents due annually	£10,883 (83%)	£14,430 (111%)		
Raise income from room hire in the Civic Centre	Town Plan	Develop a marketing campaign to promote the use of the Civic Centre, specially targeting Community & Voluntary Group with discounted rates.	Collect £6,000 from Civic Centre room hire	£5,649 (94%)	£8,980 (150%)		
Hold Community events	Town Plan	An annual events programme is agreed each year by the Events & Leisure Committee	11 events to be held throughout the year	2 Events held: Queen's Jubilee, School Achievers Awards,	2 Events held and 1 postponed. Eid on the Green, Yorkshire Day Community		

					Awards postponed		
Increase public awareness of the work undertaken by the Town Council	Town Plan	One hard copy magazine published during the year and a monthly e-newsletter sent to email database	1 hard copy magazine and 12 e-newsletters	1 e-newsletter	None		
Safeguarding the health & wellbeing of staff	Corporate Governance Action Plan 4.b	Monitor number of days off sick for staff	A maximum of 5% lost of the total working hours available	9.39% lost time. This mainly due to one staff member having a broken hand and 6 week sick leave	5.08% a total of 396 hours has been lost since 1 st April.		
Fulfilling role as Community Leaders	Town Plan CP009	Councillor attendance	Councillor attendance at meetings to be 95%	69%	79%		
Health & Safety of staff, councillors, tenants and visitors	Corporate Governance Action Plan 3.g	All accidents and near misses reported within 3 days	All accidents and near misses reported within 3 days	1 accident reported	0 accidents reported		
Greater interaction with the public	Town Plan	Use of social media as a tool to disseminate information which will be of interest to Keighley residents	Increase to 3,500 Facebook likes and 1,000 twitter followers 1,000 Instagram followers	3147 Facebook Likes 254 Twitter Followers 460 Instagram Followers	3233 Facebook Likes 262 Twitter Followers 475 Instagram Followers		
Greater interaction with the public	Town Plan	Use of Council website as information hub for residents of Keighley	2,000 unique visits to the website per month.	6,300 average 2,000 per month	7,400 due to Yorks Day		

Allotment Inspections	Town Plan	Regular inspections of all allotments sites each year	At least 60 plot inspections per quarter	53 completed	39 completed		
Reduce Energy Usage within the Civic Centre	Climate Change Action Plan	Reduce the annual usage of gas within the Civic Centre by 5% from financial year 2021/22	Reduction of 5,589 kwh on 2021/22 annual gas usage	+10% on previous year	+13.20% on previous year		
Reduce Energy Usage within the Civic Centre	Climate Change Action Plan	Reduce the annual usage of electricity within the Civic Centre by 5% from financial year 2021/22	Reduction of 2,538 kwh on 2021/22 electricity usage	+34 on previous year	+27.58% on previous year		

Sarah	Joe	Brian
Peter	Pip	

Annual Target Achieved

KEIGHLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Item 12

REPORT TO POLICIES & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



REPORT AUTHOR	Town Clerk Joe Cooney
EMAIL	Joe.cooney@keighley.gov.uk
Date	Tuesday 1 November 2021

SUBJECT	Local Council Award Scheme
----------------	-----------------------------------

PURPOSE:

1. To seek members approval to recommend to Full Council that the council submits an application for the Foundation Award.

RECOMMENDATION(s):

2. Members note the council meets the criteria for the Local Council Foundation Awards.
3. Recommends to Full Council to approve the submission of the foundation application to the Local Council Awards.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

4. To recommend the submission of a Local Council Award application.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS:

5. The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) 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.
6. Within LCAS there are 3 separate categories, Foundation, Quality and Gold. A copy of the full criteria has been included in Appendix A.
7. The Town Clerk has reviewed the 3 categories and is currently recommending the Council submits an application to achieve the foundation status. It is likely within the next few months the town council will also meet the criteria required for the quality award.

8. Once those criteria have been met, a further report with recommendations will be presented to the Policies & Governance Committee for members to consider.
9. Appendix B to this report outlines how the town council has met all the criteria required for the Foundation Award.
10. Once approved by Full Council, the LCAS application is submitted to YLCA who will undertake the review of the application before deciding if the application does or does not meet the criteria.
11. If the Foundation award is met, the council will be able to use the LCAS logo on its website and publications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION:

12. The cost of the application is £50.

TOWN PLAN IMPLICATIONS:

13. Meets the Town Plan Key Objectives: CP016

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS:

14. N/A.

COMMUNITY IMPACT:

15. N/A.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

16. N/A.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

17. N/A.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

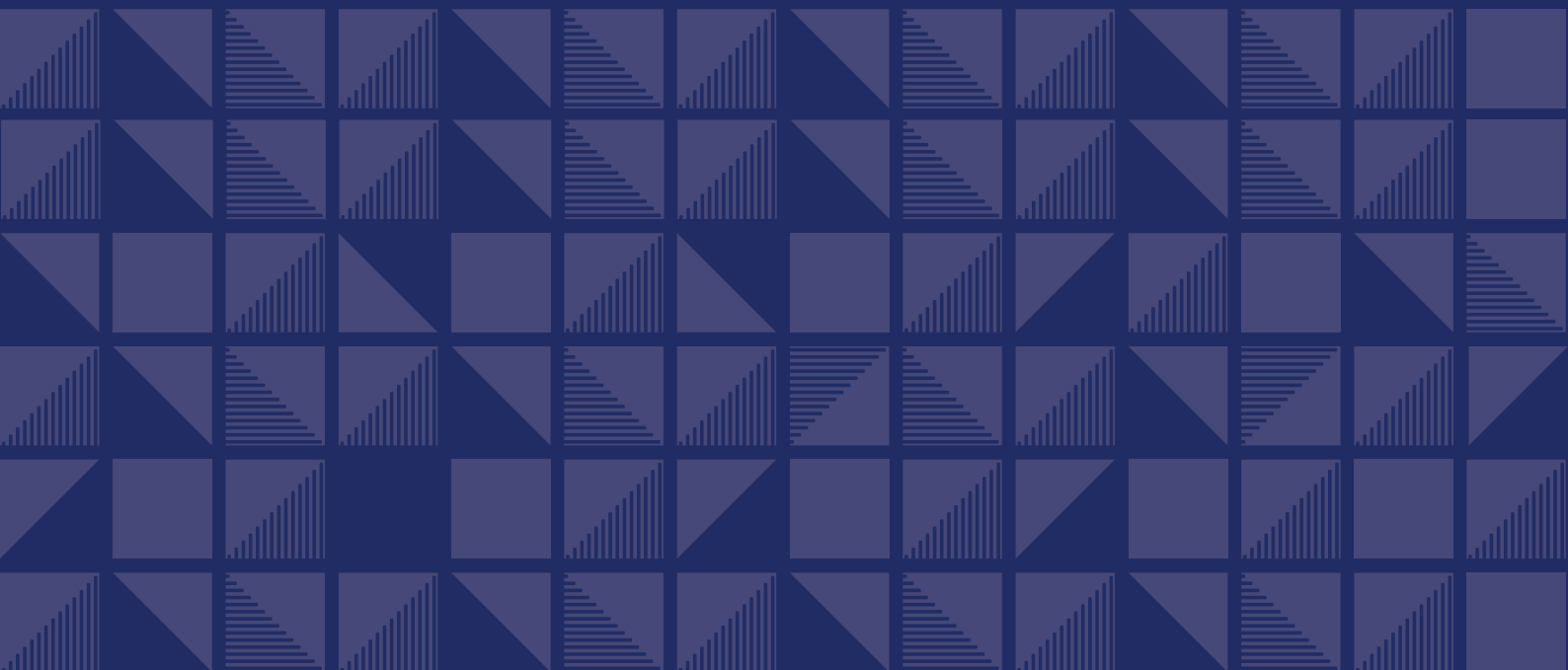
18. Appendix A – Internal Audit Report

FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: Joe Cooney,
joe.cooney@keighley.gov.uk, 01535 872126



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME

A guide to the Local Council Award Scheme 2016



Published by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) on behalf of the Improvement and Development Board (IDB).

For further information on the Improvement and Development Board, please contact either:

The National Association of Local Councils
109 Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3LD
Tel: 0207 637 1865 | www.nalc.gov.uk

The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)
8 The Crescent
Taunton
Somerset TA1 4EA
Tel: 01823 253646 | www.slcc.co.uk

Every effort has been made to ensure that the contents of this publication are correct at time of printing. The Improvement and Development Board cannot accept responsibility for errors, omission and changes to information subsequent to printing.

© Improvement and Development Board 2016.
All rights reserved

THE LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME EXISTS TO CELEBRATE THE SUCCESSES OF THE VERY BEST LOCAL COUNCILS, AND TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT ALL LOCAL COUNCILS TO MEET THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

All local councils want to serve their local communities and make a real difference to the lives of the people that live there. This scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

The Local Council Award Scheme has been designed to both provide 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 is only through the sector working together to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

The scheme was created in 2014 and is managed on behalf of local councils by the Improvement and Development Board (IDB).

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

The Foundation Award demonstrates that a council meets the requirements for operating lawfully and according to standard practice.

The Quality Award demonstrates that a council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement.

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.

The scheme sets out criteria to meet at each level covering selected aspects of the council's work. Councils can seek to progress through the tiers over time thereby raising standards. Councils of any size can aspire to an award appropriate for their budget and level of activity.

To support transparency, every award level has a requirement for certain information to be published online (plus some information that does not need to be published). In all instances the council confirms that the required documents, information and conditions are in place (whether published or not) by resolution in public at a full council meeting. For Quality Gold, councils also provide statements for submission to the panel demonstrating excellence in their activities. The panel may ask for additional information to check the accuracy of claims.

CONTENTS

06 AWARD CRITERIA

This section sets out in brief what is required for each award and then explains in more detail the evidence that the accreditation panel is looking for. Councils should find this additional guidance helpful in identifying what is required.

18 ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The Local Council Award Scheme is a form of peer review. Councils are reviewed by experienced peers through the work of an accreditation panel.

This section outlines guidance for County Associations (CALCs) managing the process for accreditation. These are not strict rules, and CALCs can tailor this to local need in consultation with NALC.

21 FEES

There are two fees:

- A registration fee paid to NALC
- An accreditation fee paid to the organisation responsible for administering the local or regional accreditation process.

22 EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT

The aim of the evaluation and improvement process is to allow the sector to feel ownership of the Local Council Award Scheme, and to see the scheme changing to meet the feedback and needs expressed by the sector. This section outlines the evaluation and improvement process that will allow the scheme to be dynamic and respond over time to changes in the sector, national policy and other relevant issues.

A COUNCIL CAN REGISTER TO TAKE PART IN THE
LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME BY VISITING
WWW.NALC.GOV.UK/LOCALCOUNCILAWARDScheme

THE STEP BY STEP PROCESS FOR APPLYING TO THE AWARD
SCHEME CAN BE FOUND IN THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS
SECTION ON PAGE 18.

THE CRITERIA IN THIS BOOKLET APPLY TO COUNCILS
SUBMITTING THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THEIR LOCAL
ACCREDITATION PANEL FROM 1 JANUARY 2016 - 31 DECEMBER
2016. THE CRITERIA FOR THE LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME
ARE REVIEWED ANNUALLY.

TO ACHIEVE A FOUNDATION AWARD A COUNCIL DEMONSTRATES THAT IT HAS THE DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION IN PLACE 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.

The council confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it publishes online:

GOVERNANCE	COMMUNITY	DEVELOPMENT
Criteria demonstrating good governance in managing the business and finances of a council	Criteria representing a council's role in the community and how it engages with the community	Criteria representing council improvement through the management and development of staff and councillors
Its standing orders and financial regulations	Council contact details and councillor information in line with the Transparency Code	
Its Code of Conduct and a link to councillors' registers of interests	Its action plan for the current year	
Its publication scheme	Evidence of consulting the community	
Its last annual return	Publicity advertising council activities	
Transparent information about council payments	Evidence of participating in town and country planning	
A calendar of all meetings including the annual meeting of electors		
Minutes for at least one year of full council meetings and (if relevant) all committee and sub-committee meetings		
Current agendas		
The budget and precept information for the current or next financial year		
Its complaints procedure		

The council also confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it has:

GOVERNANCE	COMMUNITY	DEVELOPMENT
Criteria demonstrating good governance in managing the business and finances of a council	Criteria representing a council's role in the community and how it engages with the community	Criteria representing council improvement through the management and development of staff and councillors
A risk management policy		Disciplinary and grievance procedures
A register of assets		A policy for training new staff and councillors
Contracts for all members of staff		A record of all training undertaken by staff and councillors in the last year
Up-to-date insurance policies that mitigate risks to public money		A clerk who has achieved 12 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points in the last year

This evidence is not posted online, the panel may ask to see the evidence if it is considered necessary.

The council notifies the accreditation panel co-ordinator when the resolution has been agreed and provides a completed application form, including webpage addresses to where the information can be found online.

WHAT IS THE ACCREDITATION PANEL LOOKING FOR?

The panel seeks assurance that a council acts lawfully and according to standard practice. Unless it is a matter of law, the panel is not making a judgement on the quality of the evidence at this level; it simply confirms that the documentation and information is in place, up-to-date and complies with the guidance below. For those documents that are not posted up online, the panel may ask to see the evidence if it is considered necessary.

- All policies should comply with current legislation and guidance and note the date of the next review.
- Standing orders, financial regulations, the Code of Conduct, publication scheme and complaints procedure are public documents tailored to the specific council. Standing orders or financial regulations explain procedures for contracts and internal controls. There should be evidence of an open media policy which does not restrict engagement with the press. For councils with an annual turnover of less than £25,000 they also demonstrate compliance with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
- The council does not need to publish the councillors' registers of interests on their own website provided that there is a working link to the complete register of all councillors' interests on the principal authority's website.
- The council's website should include the name of the clerk and contact details (address, phone, email) for the council as a corporate body. It should also publish the names of councillors and councillors' responsibilities in compliance with the Local Government Transparency Code.
- The council posts up a scanned copy of the last annual return. The panel checks that the council has a limited assurance (unqualified) opinion from the external auditor; the opinion may contain recommendations for consideration as long as a qualified opinion is not given. The panel checks the arrangements for internal audit and internal controls. From 2017, councils with an annual turnover of less than £25,000 will not be required to submit their annual return for audit. Panels check that these councils comply with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.
- Information on all payments must be transparent and in accordance with financial regulations and statutory proper practices. The panel will check the minutes of meetings, financial regulations, the annual return (if relevant) and compliance with the Local Government Transparency Code.
- The calendar (in any format) includes the Annual Meeting of the Council and the Annual Parish/Town Meeting and both meetings must be held during the correct statutory period. The calendar also shows that the council has at least four full council meetings a year.
- Similarly, the minutes for full council meetings over the last year include the Annual Meeting of the Council. If relevant, the council also posts up the minutes of its Finance Committee to demonstrate transparency according to statutory regulations and of its Planning Committee showing that procedures for reviewing planning applications are correct. The panel checks that minutes and agendas demonstrate the lawful convening of meetings and decision-making

and that all meetings allow the public to make representations to the council.

■ The council can post up the current or next year's budget (or both). Budget documents would normally show columns comparing the year in question with the two previous years; they include information on income and expenditure (or receipts and payments) and show how the precept was calculated.

■ The council must publish an action plan; as a minimum this is a one-page document listing the council's objectives for the current year. It is not a parish plan which is a plan for the future of the community; the council can extract objectives for action from the parish plan depending on its areas of responsibility.

■ The panel seeks at least one piece of evidence from council publicity that it consults and actively serves its community. Publicity might include an annual report, web material or news bulletins. The information gives a flavour of any council activity such as lobbying principal authorities, giving grants to community groups, the provision of a service or helping with community events. For guidance, councils can refer to The Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity. Similarly any form of consultation is suitable, including surveys, online polls, focus groups or public meetings.

■ Council documents demonstrate that the council participates in the planning system by, for example, commenting on planning applications or working on a neighbourhood plan. Decisions

on planning matters must be made in properly convened meetings and, if required, by delegation to a committee. Some decisions may be delegated to an officer.

■ The panel may wish to check that insurance policies have been reviewed and are up-to-date and that the council recognises insurance as a way of mitigating risks to public money. The panel does not seek to judge the appropriateness of the insurance policies themselves.

■ Contracts, disciplinary/grievance procedures, a risk management policy and register of assets can be based on a model but tailored to the specific council. They are not published.

■ A training policy for new staff and councillors can be a short statement of intent while a training record gives dates, titles and providers of development activities undertaken by named individuals in the last year, including, for example, updating events, online courses, CPD activity and qualifications. Councillors should note that they should undertake training on financial management for which they are all responsible. In particular, the clerk's training record includes evidence of CPD such as training, conference attendance, mentoring and studying for qualifications. CPD points are allocated according to a system published by the IDB.

TO ACHIEVE THE QUALITY AWARD A COUNCIL DEMONSTRATES 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.

The council confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it meets all requirements for the Foundation Award and that it also publishes on its website:

GOVERNANCE	COMMUNITY	DEVELOPMENT
Criteria demonstrating good governance in managing the business and finances of a council	Criteria representing a council's role in the community and how it engages with the community	Criteria representing council improvement through the management and development of staff and councillors
Draft minutes of all council and committee meetings within four weeks of the last meeting	A community engagement policy involving two-way communication between council and community	
A Health and Safety policy	Councillor profiles	
Its policy on equality	A grant awarding policy	
	Evidence showing how electors contribute to the Annual Parish or Town Meeting	
	An action plan and related budget responding to community engagement and setting out a timetable for action and review	
	Evidence of community engagement, council activities and the promotion of democratic processes in an annual report, online material and regular news bulletins	
	Evidence of helping the community plan for its future	

The council also confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it has:

GOVERNANCE	COMMUNITY	DEVELOPMENT
Criteria demonstrating good governance in managing the business and finances of a council	Criteria representing a council's role in the community and how it engages with the community	Criteria representing council improvement through the management and development of staff and councillors
A scheme of delegation (where relevant)	At least two-thirds of its councillors who stood for election	A qualified clerk
Addressed complaints received in the last year	A printed annual report that is distributed at locations across the community	A clerk (and deputy) employed according to nationally or locally agreed terms and conditions
		A formal appraisal process for all staff
		A training policy and record for all staff and councillors

This evidence is not posted online, the panel may ask to see the evidence if it is considered necessary.

The council notifies the accreditation panel's co-ordinator when the resolution has been agreed and provides a completed application form, including webpage addresses to where the information can be found online.

WHAT IS THE ACCREDITATION PANEL LOOKING FOR?

The accreditation panel first checks that the criteria for the Foundation Award are in place if the award was granted more than one year ago. The exception to this is if the council received the Foundation award less than a year ago. Then the panel does not check the Foundation criteria again, but the council still confirms in a public meeting that it meets these criteria. It then considers the additional criteria for the Quality Award.

The panel assesses the quality of documents and information with a light touch, seeking reassurance that the council is acting lawfully and according to good (rather than best) practice. The panel confirms that the documentation and information is in place and up-to-date and complies with the guidance below. For those documents that are not posted on the website, the panel may ask to see the evidence if it is considered necessary.

- All council policies should comply with current legislation and guidance and note the date of the next review.
- Draft minutes (marked Draft) of all council and committee meetings should be posted up as soon as possible after the meeting and within at least four weeks. The minutes will show that the council monitors its actions, internal controls and performance against the budget at least every three months.
- A community engagement policy demonstrates the council's commitment to hearing what people in the community think and communicating its own actions and decisions. The council also gives grants to community organisations and publishes a grant awarding policy.
- Councillor profiles normally contain a photo and reference to the ward represented (if relevant) but personal contact details are not required.

■ The panel seeks evidence that the council has in place light touch policies for managing Health and Safety, including its duty of care to staff and promoting equality in compliance with legislation. For example, evidence might include employment documents or statements on agendas.

■ Evidence that electors can contribute to the Annual Parish or Town Meeting can come in any form; for example, it could be an invitation to attend and participate in discussions or a record of how community groups spoke about their use of grant funding over the last year.

■ The action plan (or similar forward plan) summarises findings from community engagement and sets out aims and objectives that respond to community views. The action plan includes a timetable for actions to be completed with dates for reviewing the plan. The council's budget shows how the action plan is put into practice and manages risks to public money.

■ The council is expected to produce an annual report, online material and regular news bulletins throughout the year. The annual report and news bulletins must be online even if they were also distributed in hard copy such as in printed newsletters or village magazines. If the council uses social media such as Facebook or Twitter, this will be evident from the council's website. The accreditation panel will read the materials looking for evidence of community engagement, council activities and promoting democratic processes. The panel expects to see that the council consults the community in at least three different ways (such as surveys, focus groups, online or street polls and community workshops) and engages with other organisations, including community groups and the principal authority(ies). It will look for at least three positive actions for the community in the last year.

- The annual report should be distributed widely. It is accepted that it cannot always be distributed to all households, but copies can be left at prime locations in a community, including a library, doctors' surgeries, schools, pubs, shops or residential homes.
- The panel seeks evidence from council documents and online information that it supports the community in planning for its future. This can include at least one contribution to creating, implementing or reviewing a parish or town plan, a design statement or a neighbourhood plan, holding community planning events, facilitating debate in the community about planning applications or registering community assets.
- The panel also seeks evidence of promoting elections and the value of the democratic process; this might include explaining how the system works, advising people of election dates and promoting the value of being a councillor.
- At the time of making the resolution, at least two-thirds of the seats on the council must be filled by councillors who stood for election at either the last ordinary elections or a by-election. This shows that the council represents the community through democratic processes. Councillors who stood for election, even if elected unopposed, do count, while councillors who were co-opted or appointed cannot count. If two thirds is not a whole number, then it must be rounded up to the next whole number using the table below.
- The panel may wish to check that a council properly operates the delegation of decision-making to committees, sub-committees and officers (where relevant). Arrangements for delegation may be set out in standing orders or in a separate scheme of delegation.
- The panel may also seek evidence that any formal complaints received by the council during the last year have been properly addressed.
- A qualified clerk is defined in Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012. The clerk (and deputy clerk) should be properly remunerated with a contract in accordance with terms and conditions set out in the national agreement or in a local government scheme.
- The panel may ask to see the document setting out the formal appraisal process that must be in place for all staff. It checks that the council has a training budget and may ask to see a general training policy for staff and councillors with a detailed record of all training undertaken by staff and councillors in the last year. The panel seeks assurance that a training culture is embedded in the council. The clerk is expected to achieve at least 12 Continuous Professional Development Points every year. The CPD guidance on how points are allocated can be downloaded from NALC's or SLCC's websites.

Total council seats

5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

4 4 5 6 6 7 8 8 9 10 10 11 12 12 13 14

Two thirds

TO ACHIEVE A QUALITY GOLD AWARD A COUNCIL
 DEMONSTRATES 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 MANAGEMENT.

The council confirms by resolution at a full council meeting that it meets all requirements for the Foundation and Quality Awards and also publishes on its website:

GOVERNANCE	COMMUNITY	DEVELOPMENT
Criteria demonstrating good governance in managing the business and finances of a council	Criteria representing a council's role in the community and how it engages with the community	Criteria representing council improvement through the management and development of staff and councillors
A business plan covering a financial forecast for at least three years linked to revenue and capital plans for the council and its community	<p>An annual report, online material and at least four news bulletins a year with evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — engaging with diverse groups in the community using a variety of methods — community engagement leading to positive outcomes for the community — At least four positive outcomes achieved for the community in the last six months and a broad range of council activities, including innovative projects — co-operating constructively with other organisations 	

The council also confirms by resolution at a full council meeting, that it has prepared statements (of no more than one page each) to be presented to the accreditation panel showing how it

GOVERNANCE	COMMUNITY	DEVELOPMENT
Criteria demonstrating good governance in managing the business and finances of a council	Criteria representing a council's role in the community and how it engages with the community	Criteria representing council improvement through the management and development of staff and councillors
Ensures that the council delivers value for money	Provides leadership in planning for the future of the community	Manages the performance of the council as a corporate body
Delivers best practice in meeting its duties in relation to bio-diversity and crime & disorder		Manages the performance of each individual staff member to achieve its business plan

The council notifies the accreditation panel when the resolution has been agreed and provides a completed application form, including webpage addresses to where the information can be found online, and the prepared statements.

WHAT IS THE ACCREDITATION PANEL LOOKING FOR?

The accreditation panel first checks that criteria for the Foundation and Quality Awards are in place if an award was assessed more than one year ago. It then considers the additional criteria for Quality Gold. The exception to this is if the council received a Foundation or Quality award less than a year ago. Then the panel does not check the criteria for that award again, but the council still confirms in a public meeting that it meets these criteria.

The panel assesses the quality of documents and information in some depth. It seeks reassurance that the council is acting lawfully and aspires to excellence. Complying with the guidance below, the panel confirms that up-to-date documentation and information for Quality Gold is in place. The panel may ask for further information or talk to councillors and staff. The panel will be interested to note whether the council already has a reputation for being at the forefront of best practice. Councils seeking the Quality Gold Award should be aware that the panel is a peer group applying their own standards of excellence to the criteria explained below.

- In identifying excellence, the panel confirms that the council operates within the law as explained in standard works of reference, demonstrates transparent, efficient and effective decision-making and governance and exercises sound financial management.

- The panel also seeks reassurance that the council is not experiencing destructive internal conflict or that nothing has occurred to bring the council into disrepute.

- The council works to a forward plan (or

business plan) created for at least three years even if this takes the council beyond the next election.

This plan explicitly responds to community engagement. It sets out the council's aims and objectives for both the council and the community and shows how they will be achieved including financial forecasts for both revenue and capital for the duration of the plan.

- The annual report, web material and news bulletins publicise the work and achievements of the council and contain substantial evidence that the council takes the lead in actively representing and serving all parts of its local community. The council therefore addresses the diversity of its community, including, for example, different age groups, service users, physical locations, housing types, language, employment status and skills.

- These sources of information also show that the council seeks out and responds to views and ideas expressed by its community. The council uses a variety of ways (at least four) of consulting and involving local people to understand their views. There should be evidence that the council identifies local needs and views through community engagement that are then addressed in constructive council action. These sources also show that the council promotes local democracy.

- The panel seeks at least four positive outcomes achieved for the community in the last six months and a broad range of council activities. The council is innovative; this is the case if the council undertakes actions that are still relatively unusual for a local council of its size in that county. The panel also checks that the council is co-operating with other organisations, including community

groups, its principal authority(ies) and other agencies to provide an effective service to the community. Co-operation includes but is not limited to partnerships.

■ The statement on ensuring value for money explains how the council reviews the quality and costs of its activities to confirm that the costs are appropriate. This could include, for example, the cost of the clerk's role in serving the council, the purchase of computer equipment or a grass cutting contract. It may also include reference to criteria from the other award levels as a number of these criteria do provide evidence that the council offers value for money.

■ The statement on duties related to biodiversity and crime & disorder demonstrates knowledge of the law and includes ways of reminding councillors of these duties and examples of how they are implemented.

■ The statement on leadership in planning for the future shows how the council engages with a range of activities that influence the planning system and facilitate community-led planning. Activities may include, for example, identifying and representing community views on planning applications and local plans, working on parish or town plans, or holding community-led planning activities such as Planning for Real® or community conferences. The statement should include the council's approach to neighbourhood planning.

■ Finally, the statement on performance management explains the process by which the performance of the council as a corporate body is constantly improved and shows how

the performance, skills and knowledge of each individual in the council is managed to help the council achieve its objectives on behalf of the community. This includes confirming that each member of staff has their own professional development plan and that the majority of councillors participate in a member development programme. It is important to show evidence that the council is a good employer.

A GUIDE TO THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The Local Council Award Scheme is a form of peer review. Councils are reviewed by experienced peers through the work of a local accreditation panel.

The aim of this 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 is able to, and is assessed in a reasonably consistent way.

REGISTRATION

1. The council registers its intention to apply for a specified award online at www.nalc.gov.uk/localcouncilawardscheme
2. The contact at NALC for this stage is the Improvement and Development Manager, Charlotte Eisenhart, who can also be contacted at charlotte.eisenhart@nalc.gov.uk or 020 7290 0319.
3. The council pays a registration fee to NALC to cover the costs of managing the national scheme, including: administration, national online resources, quality assurance and review processes.
4. NALC provides the applicant with a template application form and the contact details of the co-ordinator of the appropriate accreditation panel.
5. NALC provides the panel co-ordinator with information of the council's application.
6. When a council is ready to make its application to the accreditation panel, its clerk notifies the panel co-ordinator that the council has passed a resolution confirming that all the documentation and information is in place for a specified award and submits a completed application form with any additional documentation required.

7. The council pays the accreditation fee which covers the costs administering the local service.

8. The local panel co-ordinator keeps a record of all applications and monitors their progress.

9. When the accreditation panel makes its decision it informs the council. It also completes an online form to allow NALC to update national records.

ONLINE CONNECTIVITY

The Award Scheme requires councils to publish certain information and documents online. In exceptional circumstances a council may not be able to put documents online because of poor digital connectivity in the local area. In this case, the council applies to the panel co-ordinator for permission to submit evidence for an award in an alternative format. The co-ordinator must be confident that poor digital connectivity is the problem rather than an unwillingness to use an online service for publishing council documents.

THE ACCREDITATION PANEL

The accreditation panel is set up by a County Association or a regional group of County Associations. The aim of any panel arrangement is to facilitate training, promote consistency and help manage the workload. Where an individual County Association is unable to support the scheme, a council will be able to submit their application to an appropriate neighbouring or regional panel.

County Association's may adapt the accreditation process to fit local need. They are able to discuss this with the Improvement and Development Manager at NALC, for support and

guidance.

The panel co-ordinator manages a pool of up to ten potential panel members, in the expectation that between three and five members are required to review each application. The panel includes experienced councillors and clerks as well as someone independent of the sector with an understanding of local government.

Panel membership should be reviewed by the panel co-ordinator every two years.

At the beginning of the accreditation process a panel is drawn together from the pool of potential members. The panel could choose a lead panellist or chair if needed to facilitate decision making.

All panel members are expected to use email or an online service to read a council's documents and also act in the spirit of a Code of Conduct; for example, they do not assess an award for their own or a neighbouring council.

The accreditation panel determines how often an accreditation process occurs, or an appropriate trigger for this to take place. For example, a panel may decide to convene every two months or may wait until the receipt of ten applications (as long as this is no later than two months after an application has been received). Panels should note that all costs of administering the panels must be met from application fees. So, to minimise costs, the panel can convene and conduct its business remotely rather than face-to-face. The resources provided by NALC will support this way of working.

The local panels have discretion over the detail of how they organise the accreditation process. In consultation with the panel co-ordinators,

NALC will provide regularly updated guidance and support for accreditation panels.

THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

The emphasis of the scheme is on encouraging and supporting the improvement of councils. The aim of the panel is therefore to help councils to achieve awards and panels are urged to be constructive.

The panel checks that the criteria for the relevant award have been met in published and/or requested information. Most documents and information will be posted on a website. Where it is not appropriate for a document or information to be on a website, the panel is permitted to ask to see electronic versions.

As all information and documents are available online or in electronic format, the panel's work can be done without meeting. Each member of the panel completes a form showing their responses to the co-ordinator. The co-ordinator reviews the completed forms from the panel which decides whether additional information or documents are required.

Panel members do not need to examine every document in detail but are advised to carry out spot-checks enabling them to make recommendations.

For Quality Gold, the panel may wish to discuss the council's activities with councillors, or staff or visit the parish but the cost of doing so must be covered by the fee.

THE OUTCOME

When the panel is satisfied that it has seen sufficient information, the findings are presented in a report agreed by the panel. The panel makes one of three recommendations to the council:

- The Award is achieved.
- The Award is achieved but the council is advised to make some small changes.
- The Award is not achieved until specified improvements have been made.

If a council has applied for a higher award but has not achieved all the criteria, the panel can award a lower award if appropriate.

The aim of the scheme is to be supportive and help councils achieve the status they have applied for and so it is expected that achieving a lower (or no) award would be an exceptional circumstance. The panel should let the council know as soon as possible if it appears that they have omitted necessary evidence or it appears likely that they will not achieve the award, and the council should be given some time to respond to that feedback.

The co-ordinator informs the council of the outcome within two months of being notified of the application. They also inform NALC of the outcome and successful councils are included in a published list. NALC issues a certificate and provides resources to help the council celebrate and promote their achievement which is sent to the council and panel co-ordinator.

Councils and accreditation panels will be contacted by NALC for feedback on the process and the benefits of receiving the awards. A council may appeal to the IDB (with an additional fee) if it feels that the panel's decision is unjustified. The IDB will appoint two

representatives to review the appeal and the IDB's decision is final.

UPGRADING ACCREDITATION, RE-ACCREDITATION AND REMOVAL OF ACCREDITATION

Accreditation lasts for four years.

Applying for a higher award:

- If a council wishes to apply for a higher award, it makes a fresh registration and application.
- A council can make a fresh application for a higher award at any time. If this is within one year of the previously successful accreditation, the panel does not need to revisit evidence that was previously approved.

Re-accreditation:

- The council may seek re-accreditation at the same level after four years. If it does not achieve a new accreditation or re-accreditation before four-year end-date, it loses its award.

Removal of accreditation:

- The council is expected to maintain its reputation by meeting the criteria throughout the four years.
- Although some circumstances may change, the council will not lose its award unless a significant event such as an audit, employment tribunal, court case or police investigation demonstrates the council's poor performance. In this case, a panel co-ordinator asks the IDB to appoint two representatives to review the situation. The IDB assesses the severity of the case before deciding whether to impose a sanction which may include the removal of all awards or returning the council to a lower award.

- The council can appeal to the IDB if the decision to remove an award is taken in which case two different IDB representatives review the case and their decision is final.

FEES

There are two fees:

- A registration fee paid to the National Association of Local Councils
- An accreditation fee paid to the organisation responsible for administering the local or regional accreditation process.

The registration fee paid to NALC is £50 paid by all councils for each level regardless of size.¹

The accreditation fee² varies according to:

- the award applied for
- the income of the council
- the council's accreditation history.

	ANNUAL INCOME UNDER £25,000	ANNUAL INCOME OVER £25,000
Foundation Standard	£50	£80
Quality Standard	£80	£100
Quality Gold	£100	£200

The accreditation fee covers the cost of the accreditation panel decision making process only. County Associations may charge additional costs for advice, training or support of applications. Those services and fees will be determined locally.

The IDB will review fee levels annually.

The fee is reduced by 20% if the council sought accreditation at a lower level within the previous 12 months as the checking process covering criteria for the previous award requires less work.

¹ All figures quoted are excluding VAT.

² The figures quoted are the discounted rates for members of NALC. Both the registration fee and accreditation fee are reduced by 50% for member councils. Non-member councils must pay the full fee ie double the figures quoted in this grid.

EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT

The aim of the evaluation and improvement process is to allow councils to feel ownership of the scheme, and to see the scheme changing to meet the feedback and needs expressed by the sector. It should also allow the scheme to be dynamic and able to respond over time to changes in the sector, national policy and other relevant issues.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Twice a year, representatives of the IDB will check at random a small sample of awards by carrying out spot checks of documents and information posted on a council's website.

The findings will not affect a council's award but will be used to improve the training for accreditation panels and to inform regular reviews of the scheme.

EVALUATION

At the end of each accreditation process the council and the panel will be sent a short evaluation questionnaire. This will aim to gather feedback on the process, the criteria, the resources provided by NALC and how they could be improved.

One year after accreditation the council will be contacted again. The council will be encouraged to apply for the next level of award, to make use of the fee discount. The council will also be asked to describe the benefits they have felt from being accredited by the scheme and their feedback on the scheme as a whole.

IMPROVEMENT

The feedback collected will be used to inform improvements to the scheme. The whole scheme, including the content and accreditation process, will be reviewed every year.

These reviews will alternate between:

- A light touch approach only making urgent required changes where these are considered critical to the scheme.
- A wider ranging review aiming to best address collected feedback from all parties.
- The IDB will oversee all changes to the scheme.

Council Name: Keighley Town Council
Date of application: 25 November 2022
Award level applied for: Foundation Award

Local Council Award Scheme application form

This document is a resource for Local Councils taking part in the Local Council Award Scheme

My council has not registered to take part in the scheme – this document is a useful tool to map where you do meet the criteria, and to help you see what work would need to take place before you apply

My council has the relevant criteria in place and has already registered with NALC – you can complete this document and submit it to your local accreditation panel. This will help them find the necessary information and make sure they don't miss any details by mistake.

Tip – proving a web link to the exact page or document needed is important as it will reduce the risk of the panel missing any necessary information. So instead of

<http://www.nalc.gov.uk> use <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/improvement-and-development/local-council-award-scheme>

Tip – some information and documents are not required to be published online. To keep things simple email these to the panel coordinator at the same time as providing this document. That way they have all the information in one place.

Tip – Don't forget to read the full criteria in the Local Council Award Scheme guide. This form just has the summary, but there is further essential information in the guide which can be downloaded from <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/improvement-and-development/local-council-award-scheme>

What criteria do I need to meet for each award level?

If you are applying for Foundation – just the Foundation criteria

If you are applying for Quality – both Foundation and Quality criteria

If you are applying for Quality Gold – Foundation, Quality and Quality Gold criteria

If you are unsure what criteria you are required to submit please check with your County Association.

Council Name: Keighley Town Council
 Date of application: 25 November 2022
 Award level applied for: Foundation Award



The Council confirms by resolution that all documentation and information is in place for a specified award	Does the council meet this requirement?	Hyperlink to council resolution: https://keighley.gov.uk/documents/town-council-minutes-28-01-2021/
Criteria	Do you meet these criteria?	Where are these published online?
Its standing orders	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/26.-Standing-Orders-2022.pdf
Its financial regulations	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/42.-Financial-Regulations-2022.pdf
Its Code of Conduct and a link to councillors' registers of interests	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/council-members/ https://keighley.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Members-Code-of-Conduct-Policy.pdf
Its publication scheme	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/15.-Publication-Scheme.pdf
Its last annual return	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/annual-governance-accountability-return-aqr/
Transparent information about council payments	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/document-category/payments/
A calendar of all meetings including the annual meeting of electors	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/events/category/meetings-schedule/2022-09/
Minutes for at least one year of full council meetings and (if relevant) all committee and sub-committee meetings		https://keighley.gov.uk/committees-of-the-council/ N.B Minutes and agendas are listed under each separate committee
Current agendas		https://keighley.gov.uk/committees-of-the-council/ N.B each agenda is listed separately under each

Council Name: Keighley Town Council
Date of application: 25 November 2022
Award level applied for: Foundation Award

		committee
The budget and precept information for the current or next financial year	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/budget-information-2020-2021/
Its complaints procedure	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Complaints-Policy.pdf
Its accessibility statement	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/accessibility-statement/
Its privacy notice	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/general-privacy-notice/
Council contact details and councillor information in line with the Transparency Code	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/council-members/
Its action plan for the current year	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/town-plan-2/
Evidence of consulting the community	Yes	Evidence attached to application form
Publicity advertising council activities	Yes	The Town Council uses its Facebook to promote council activities https://www.facebook.com/keighleytowncouncil
Evidence of participating in town and country planning	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/a/planning/

Criteria	Do you meet these criteria?	Where are these published? Can they be provided electronically?
A risk management scheme	Yes	Copy of Corporate Risk Assessment attached to application
A register of assets	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/documents/asset-register-2021/
Contracts for all members of staff	Yes	All staff are provided a contract on or before their first date of employment
up-to-date insurance policies that mitigate risks to public money	Yes	Copies of Council Insurance Policies attached to application
Disciplinary and grievance procedures	Yes	Copy of the Council Employee Handbook attached to application
A policy for training and training and development of and councillors	Yes	https://keighley.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/27.-Statement-of-Intent-for-Training.pdf
A record of all training undertaken by staff and councillors in the last year	Yes	Evidence attached to application form
A clerk who has achieved 12 CPD points in the last year	Yes	Town Clerk holds Principal Membership with SLCC – evidence attached to the application