

SEPTEMBER 2020

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME COVID-19 UPDATES

In light of COVID-19, the following accommodations are available for the Local Council Award Scheme criteria. These accommodations are temporary until the updated Local Council Award Scheme criteria is launched. This is expected to be announced in January 2021.

Foundation level – criteria 22 – A record of all training undertaken by staff and councillors in the last year

Any gaps in training directly affected by COVID-19 will be accounted for within assessment and councils should highlight this within their application. However, councils should evidence their training records to date.

Foundation level – criteria 23 – A clerk who has achieved 12 CPD points in the last year

Where this requirement has not been possible to fulfil due to COVID-19, the application should evidence training plans and related training budget, to demonstrate the council's commitment to professional development.

Quality level – criteria 7 – Evidence showing how electors contribute to the Annual Parish or Town Meeting

For councils that have held an Annual Parish or Town Meeting, evidence will be required for this criteria.

However there is presently no requirement to hold this meeting for 2020 (in light of 'The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020').

Therefore, if applicable, this should be indicated on the application form.

Quality level – criteria 9 – Evidence of community engagement, council activities and the promotion of democratic processes in an annual report, online material and regular news bulletins

There will be flexibility on how councils evidence the distribution of the annual report.

Quality Gold level – Criteria 2c - At least four positive outcomes achieved for the community in the last six months and a broad range of council activities including innovative projects

Where possible councils are encouraged to evidence the positive outcomes achieved within the last six months. However, due to COVID-19, evidence from the past 12 months can be accepted if necessary.

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