

What is a Quality Parish Council?

A Quality Parish Council:

- is representative of, and actively engages, all parts of its community, providing vision, identity and a sense of belonging;
- is effectively and properly managed;
- articulates the needs and wishes of its community;
- upholds high standards of conduct;
- is committed to work in partnership with principal local authorities and other public service agencies;
- in proportion to its size and skills, delivers local services on behalf of principal local authorities when this represents the best deal for the local community;
- works closely with voluntary groups in its community;
- provides leadership to the community through its work on parish plans; and
- working with its partners, acts as an information point for local services.

The Benefits of the Quality Scheme

Quality Parish Councils will play an enhanced role in their communities and in partnership with principal authorities:

- as an integral part of all relevant consultation and co-ordination arrangements set up by principal authorities and other service providers on how services are delivered in the parish council area;
- to manage and deliver services which parish councils may carry out either on behalf of the principal authority, or by using their existing powers; and
- working with partners on the provision of access points to information on services of principal authorities and other service providers.

This enhanced role will be achieved by parish councils negotiating Charters with principal authorities. Charters will be in two parts, the first part concerns all parish councils and the second applies to Parish councils that have attained Quality Parish Status and sets out the enhanced role that such councils will play. County and District Councils are to be strongly encouraged to enter into agreement with Quality Parish Councils.