

Silver Quality Council Award

Wickham St Pauls Parish Council are pleased to announce it has achieved the **Silver** level of the **Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS)**, which means this accolade, will remain current until **2031**.

The Council achieved **Quality Status in 2020 known as the Bronze** level and it was awarded a commemorative Certificate by the **EALC** (Essex Association of Local Councils). The Parish Council then continued to obtain the Silver award.



A presentation of the **Silver Certificate** was made by the **Essex Association of Local Council's Chairman Mike Eldred** at the **July Parish Council Meeting** on 28th July 2026.



What is the Local Council Award Scheme?

The Local Council Award Scheme was launched in January 2015.

Local Councils are at the very heart of their communities; giving neighbourhoods a voice and making people more involved in the decisions that affect them. Over 15 million people (35% of the population) live in the communities served by Local Councils who want to serve their communities as best they can and make a real difference to the lives of the people that live there.

The **Local Council Award Scheme** was designed to celebrate the successes of the very best Local Councils, and to provide a framework to support them all 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 by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

The **Award Scheme** was designed to provide the tools and encouragement to 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, sharing best practices, driving 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.

Three Levels are available:

1. **Bronze**
2. **Silver**
3. **Gold**

There are 10,480 Parish and Town Councils in England and, of the 307 in Essex, only 6 have achieved the Silver level.

Why did **Wickham St Pauls Parish Council** apply?

There are a range of reasons why a Council benefits from taking part in the Award Scheme. For those Councils who are already confident that they perform to a high standard the scheme provides assurance that it is up-to-date and progressive by the standards set by the sector. For those who wish to improve, it provides a framework to plan and make the first steps, helping the Council improve performance and confidence, with policies in place for continuous development.

Winning the award should be celebrated by Councillors and Officers, as their commitment and hard work is recognised and respected.

- The Award is a tool that Councils can use when working with the local community or other local partners, giving them confidence that the Council is delivering to a national professional standard.
- The Scheme contributes to the national reputation of Local Councils demonstrating achievements and a commitment to improvement.

The **Silver** Award shows that **Wickham St Pauls Parish Council** meets a set of standards that enables it to deliver effectively for the community:

- It demonstrates that the **Council** has the required documentation and information in place for operating lawfully and according to standard practice.
- It also demonstrates that the **Council** has policies for training for its Councillors and Officers and so has the **Foundation** for improvement and development in place.
- It allows the **Council** to benchmark its performance and challenges it to consider its own continuing development and improvement.

The **Silver** Level Award recognises councils that exceed basic requirements, showing leadership and strong community engagement and has to be re-applied for and the **Council's** standards are re-assessed every **4** years.