

THE QUALITY TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL SCHEME

Submitted by: **Head of Central Services and Monitoring Officer**

Ward(s) affected: **All**

Purpose of the Report

To promote and maintain high standards of conduct and to comply with the Localism Act 2011.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

1. Background

- 1.1 At the previous meeting of this Committee on 1 October 2012, the Committee was asked to suggest areas of work for inclusion in its work programme for the current municipal year.
- 1.2 It has been requested by your Chair that Committee look at the NALC Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme and a copy of the NALC website home page is attached at Appendix A. A copy of the application form is attached at Appendix B and a 'frequently asked questions' document is attached at Appendix C.
- 1.3 Under Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has in place arrangements under which this Council is responsible for dealing with complaints against Parish Councillors and recommending actions to them. It is therefore important to understand how they work and how we may assist, particularly in the area of conduct.

2. Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The new regime will contribute to the overall ethical wellbeing of the Council, and help to ensure a culture of high ethical standards, which the public and the Council's partners can have confidence in. This will thereby contribute to the Council's priority of transforming our Council to achieve excellence.

3. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by their Members.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

No differential equality impact issues have been identified.

5. Major Risks

There are no specific risk issues.

6. Financial Implications

There are none flowing from this report.