

Meeting	Full Council
Date	20 th October 2026
Report Title	NALC Local Council Award Scheme – Gold Renewal
Agenda Reference	15
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Chief Officer's Recommendations:

- Note that the Gold award is due to expire in December.
- Approve registration for the next LCAS round immediately.
- Delegate preparation of the evidence pack and submission to Chief Officer
- Agree the budget impact for registration and accreditation fees up to £250.

Background

- The Council's NALC Gold award expires in December.
- NALC's current guidance says the first step is to register online.
- Council does not need to have all criteria ready at registration stage, but the scheme is treated as a fresh application for the new round.

What the council needs to do

- Register online with NALC as soon as possible for the next round.
- Prepare the evidence pack and confirm the required criteria in a public meeting.
- Notify the local accreditation panel coordinator and submit the application form with supporting documents and links.

Key timescales

- Next relevant national panel round after December is likely the January 2027 round. NALC's deadline for applications is 4 January 2027.
- Triage feedback is due by 22 January 2027.
- Council response to triage feedback is due by 5 February 2027.
- Application goes to panel by 12 February 2027.
- Panel results are due by 9 April 2027.
- If the council wants to aim for the September 2027 round, applications open by 3 September 2027.

Costs

- Registration fee: £50 + VAT. This is paid to NALC for all councils, for each level.
- Gold accreditation fee for a council with annual income over £25,000: £200.
- As Haydon Wick Parish Council has turnover of £1.6 million, the over-£25,000 rate applies.
- If the council is a NALC member, both fees are reduced by 50%; if not, the full fee applies.

Advantages of the scheme

- Recognises high standards in governance, community engagement and council development.
- Gold indicates excellence in governance, leadership and performance management.
- Supports continuous improvement and gives a structured framework for keeping policies and practices up to date.
- Can strengthen public confidence and demonstrate value for money and good business planning.