

## **West Sussex Local Area Agreement**

Reward Element Target & Investment  
Target 21c – Quality Parish Councils

### Action and Resource Plan

#### **(a) Outcome, indicator and targets**

To progress from a position of 11 Quality Councils to 35 by March 2009 to achieve the reward element. Indication of progress will be the number of Councils successfully meeting the requirements to achieve accreditation.

#### **(b) Lead organisation**

West Sussex Association of Local Councils, with Trevor Leggo, Executive Officer as the accountable person. WSALC will work in close association with Action in rural Sussex, in particular with the team led by Teresa Gittins, Head of Rural Enterprise.

#### **(c) Target measurement and data collection**

All Councils seeking Quality Council status go through a process of accreditation by a Panel appointed by ODPM. The Executive Officer services the Panel and as the agent of DeFRA the National Association of Local Councils is immediately notified of successful Councils, a number is allocated by NALC and the Council features on the NALC website. There is a very clear audit trail.

#### **(d) How will the target be achieved?**

A part-time Local Councils Development Officer will be appointed to work with the Town and Parish Councils in West Sussex; the postholder will provide direct support to assist Councils meet the requirements of Quality Status. This will include the cultivation of potential candidates to ensure that as many councils as possible meet the requirement of 100% councillors standing for election in May 2007.

The encouragement of clerks to achieve the CiLCA qualification will also be part of the brief; currently two "fast track" weekend courses a year are organised by SALC to give clerks the opportunity to mix with others at a similar stage, having the LCDO in place will enable SALC to offer an alternative approach to the residential weekend.

It is the clerks qualification and the percentage of councillors standing for election that represents the two main barriers to progress for many councils.

**(e) Budget**

See attached schedule

**Schedule**

**New Revenue Spending**

e.g.	2006/07 £000	2007/08 £000	2008/09 £000	Total £000
Executive Officer	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
Local Councils Development Officer	12,500	16,000	16,500	45,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>26,500</b>	<b>75,000</b>

**Financed by**

	2006/07 £000	2007/08 £000	2008/09 £000	Total £000
Action in Rural Sussex (Rural Social & Community Programme)	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
WSCC	10,000			
LAA	2,500	16,000	16,500	35,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>26,500</b>	<b>75,000</b>