

HOW COUNCILS WILL BE ACCREDITED

The emphasis of the scheme is on encouraging and supporting the improvement of councils. The aim of the panel is therefore to help councils to achieve awards and panels are urged to be constructive.

The accreditation panel is set up by the County Association and consists of a peer group of people working in the sector. Individual panel members assess each application and may liaise to discuss any issues.

The panel checks that the criteria for the relevant award have been met in published and/or requested information. Most documents and information will be posted on a website. Where it is not appropriate for a document or information to be on a website, the panel is permitted to ask to see electronic versions.

The decision of the panel is overseen by the panel chairman who will write and inform the council of the outcome which will be either:

- The award is achieved
- The award is achieved but the council is advised to make some small changes
- The award is not achieved until specified improvements have been made