



**CIRENCESTER TOWN
COUNCIL**
A Quality Town Council



MEDIA RELEASE

ANOTHER FIRST FOR TOWN COUNCIL

Cirencester Town Council has become the first council in the County and one of the first in the South West to be awarded Quality Status under the new scheme which was launched earlier this year.

“This is a great achievement for the Town Council,” said the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Shirley Alexander.

“To be the first in the County to do so makes it even better. It is recognition of the community led and focussed work that we see emerging through the Community Plan, ‘Our Future Cirencester’. We will continue to work with everyone in the town, seeing this award as just the beginning of what we hope will be a wonderful future for Cirencester. It is also recognition of the hard work put in by the CEO, Andrew Tubb and all our staff not just for this award but on a daily basis.”

Andrew Tubb, CEO/Town Clerk added “The awarding of Quality Status sends out a strong message that the Town Council is well positioned to take the lead for and on behalf of the people and place of Cirencester. It is also national recognition of the dedicated work undertaken by councillors and staff.”

The Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme was originally launched in 2003 following the government’s Rural White Paper with the aim of raising standards for all parish and town councils and providing a benchmark of high achievement. The 2008 Scheme has raised the bar to a new and higher standard and is seen by the Government as vital to re-invigorating local democracy and improving the quality of management and administration of parish and town councils.

“Being first is becoming a habit,” continued Mrs Alexander, “as Cirencester was the first town in England and Wales to form a partnership with the police for an enhanced service.”

END

Notes to editors:

The Scheme is supported by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks and is endorsed by the Commission for Rural Communities; the Department for Communities and Local Government; the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Local Government Association.

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The revised Scheme ensures that Cirencester Town Council:

- has a clear electoral mandate
- has a qualified CEO/Clerk
- holds regular Council meetings, open to the public and enabling public participation
- communicates and engages effectively for and within the local community
- publishes and makes available an Annual Report
- maintains accurate and transparent financial records
- has signed up to the Code of Conduct
- promotes local democracy and citizenship
- has adopted the national terms and conditions for staff
- identifies and meets the training and development needs of Councillors and staff

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