



## The Great Eight!

Eight local councils from across the UK have been listed as finalists for their role in delivering excellent local council services. The finalists have been selected from 390 submissions in the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Service Awards 2007. For councils to make the finals for '**Overall Council of the Year in Service Delivery**' each of the finalists had to demonstrate excellence in four areas of local public services such as refuse collection, parks and school meals, making a real difference to the communities the councils serve.

Councillor John Kerr Brown, APSE's National Chair, said "**Whilst the Government highlights the need for reform in the public sector local councils are quietly undertaking a revolution in the way they deliver local services to local people**" And APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien added "**Each of the finalists has made great strides in providing innovative services for local people that have delivered real outcomes. They are truly the great eight that have delivered for local communities**".

This year's finalists have been named as:-

- Crawley Borough Council
- Gateshead Council
- London Borough of Islington
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Nottingham City Council
- Renfrewshire Council
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

The winner will be announced at a glittering awards dinner with over 700 leading lights in local government at the Gateshead International Stadium on Wednesday 19 September 2007. The APSE annual conference taking place from the 18 -19 September 2007 will be opened by Parmjit Dhanda MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities.

**Ends**

## Notes to editors

APSE is the Association for Public Service Excellence which works with over 300 local councils throughout the UK promoting excellence in service delivery.

The '*Overall Council of the Year in Service Delivery*' accolade is only ever awarded to those councils that have shown excellence and continuous improvement in their public services across at least four different service areas.

Each of the councils shortlisted as finalists for the '*Overall Council of the Year in Service Delivery*' has been subjected to a rigorous assessment of their submissions by a panel of expert 'judges' made up from a knowledge bank within local government including elected members, local government directors and senior managers, trade unions, consultants and industry experts from a range of specialists backgrounds and other associations and organisations.

Each councils service award submissions are as follows:-

### Crawley Borough Council

- Best employee & equality initiative
- Best elected member development initiative
- Best efficiency initiative
- Best community & neighbourhood initiative

### Gateshead Council

- Best efficiency initiative
- Public/ private partnership working initiative
- Best service team: Building/ facilities cleaning
- Best service team: Transport/ fleet

### London Borough of Islington

- Best environmental initiative
- Public/ voluntary partnership working initiative
- Best community & neighbourhood initiative
- Best environmental initiative

### North Lanarkshire Council

- Best employee & equality initiative
- Public/ private partnership working initiative
- Public/ voluntary partnership working initiative
- Best service team: Transport/ fleet

Nottingham City Council

- Public/ private partnership working initiative
- Best community & neighbourhood initiative
- Best environmental initiative
- Best service team: Streetscene & public realm

Renfrewshire Council

- Best efficiency initiative
- Best efficiency initiative
- Public/ private partnership working initiative
- Best information & technology initiative

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

- Best efficiency initiative
- Public/ private partnership working initiative
- Public/ private partnership working initiative
- Best service team: Waste Management & Recycling

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

- Best elected member development initiative
- Public/ private partnership working initiative
- Public/ public partnership working initiative
- Public/ voluntary partnership working initiative

To arrange for interview or a further press briefing please contact Mo Baines on 0161 772 1810 or mobile 07971 843515. A list of winners will be available for press use on Thursday 20 September 2007.

Limited press passes are available for the APSE conference on the 18- 19 September at The Sage Gateshead. For details please contact Mo Baines on mbaines@apse.org.uk or mobile 07971 843515.

Mo Baines  
Principal Advisor