



Double Ace!

Two of Britain's brightest young people were honoured at a special awards ceremony to mark their outstanding contribution to environmental and transport services for local government at the Association for Public Service Excellence National Annual Awards for 'Apprentice of the Year'.

Daniel Short of **London Borough of Redbridge Council** and **Patrick Middlehurst** of **Oxford City Council** took home winners trophies and certificates after competing against 10 other finalists for the 2007 Apprentice of the Year Awards.

Patrick Middlehurst was named 'Apprentice of the Year for Horticultural Services' sponsored by Lantra and Daniel Short was named 'Apprentice of the Year for Transport and Fleet Services' sponsored by Zoeller Waste Systems Ltd after reaching the final heat of the national competition.

APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien said 'Too often young people and young men in particular are caricatured as having nothing to offer society. These two outstanding individuals have shown their commitment not only to their chosen profession but to public services. Bringing added value to council citizens with their eagerness to learn and helping their council deliver better services as a result'

Mr O'Brien added "Councils that invest in apprenticeship training are genuinely providing a route to long term stable employment which has economic benefits to the country as a whole. We want to see more councils taking on the lead shown by London Borough of Redbridge Council and Oxford City Council in delivering excellent support to their young apprentices and harnessing the workforce of tomorrow"

Ends

Notes to Editors

The APSE 'Apprentice of the Year' programme is uniquely designed to recognise the contribution of councils in developing training and apprenticeship schemes that benefit front line service delivery.

'Apprentice of the Year for Transport and Fleet' is open to those local authority apprentices working in the area of vehicle maintenance and repairs helping councils keep their fleet of grounds maintenance, street cleansing and refuse collection vehicles on the road delivering services to local citizens

'Apprentice of the Year for Horticultural Services' is open to apprentices working in grounds maintenance and horticultural services delivering front line services such as parks and public realm displays including cemetery and crematoriums. Many of the young apprentices also deal with play equipment inspection and maintenance.

APSE has also been keen to promote the involvement of female apprenticeships in areas traditionally employing predominantly male workers.

APSE works with over 300 authorities throughout the UK and is a not for profit organisation.

APSE uniquely provides support to councils delivering front line public services at the local level including refuse, street cleansing and waste management, street lighting, transport and fleet services, social housing repairs and maintenance, school meals and FM services.

Jpeg images of the awards winners are available on request from APSE together with further information. Please contact Mo Baines on mbaines@apse.org.uk or telephone 0161 772 1810 or 07971 843515.