



Star performers!

The UK's biggest benchmarking club for local councils has today announced the finalists for the most improved and best performing councils throughout the UK who will go through to national finals on the 6 December 2007.

The councils involved have all provided performance information to APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) which runs 'performance networks' a system that is used to analyse how well local councils have performed on cost, productivity and quality of the services they provide.

Speaking about the awards APSE Assistant Chief Executive, Mark Bramah, said **"When we hear the talk about transforming public services people often think of the NHS or Education but there has been a quiet revolution in the way councils provide services. What these awards show is that actually councils are getting better all the time and take seriously their commitment to improving public services"**

Ends

Notes to editors

- APSE performance networks service works with over 250 councils throughout the UK
- APSE performance networks is the UK's largest voluntary performance measurement system in local government
- Those participating in performance networks provide information on services as diverse as school meals to street lighting.
- 'Most improved performer finalists' are those councils that have shown a good improvement on their previous performance within a service area, which encourages councils to continuously improve the services they provide.
- 'Best performer finalists' are those councils that have out-performed other local authorities on a range of performance indicators.
- APSE is a not for profit local government organisation throughout the UK.
- The winners will be announced at a special awards ceremony at the Hilton Hotel, Blackpool on Thursday 6 December 2007

- For more details or to arrange for interview please contact Mo Baines on 0161 772 1810 or mobile 07971 843515 email mbaines@apse.org.uk

List of finalists and categories

Building cleaning

Most improved performers:

Cheshire County Council
London Borough of Enfield
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Kingston-upon-Hull City Council
Moray Council
Southampton City Council

Best performers:

Birmingham City Council
Preston City Council
Sheffield City MBC
St. Helen's Metropolitan Borough Council
Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Building maintenance (Sponsored by Cognito Ltd)

Most improved performers:

Clackmannanshire Council
Copeland Homes
East Ayrshire Council
Newark and Sherwood Homes Ltd.
North Ayrshire Council
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council

Best performers:

Chesterfield Borough Council
Clackmannanshire Council
Newark and Sherwood Homes Ltd.
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
South Lanarkshire Council

Civic, cultural and community venues (Sponsored by Walker Morris)

Most improved performers

Albert Halls, Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council

Ditton Community Centre, Halton Borough Council
Taibach Community Centre, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Immingham Resource Centre, North East Lincolnshire Council

Best performers:

Albert Halls, Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council
Sandfields Community Centre, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Freeman Street Resource and Community Centre, North East Lincolnshire Council
Tipton Muslim Centre, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

**Education catering
(Sponsored by Fretwell Downing Hospitality)**

Most improved performers:

East Ayrshire Council
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Manchester City Council
Plymouth City Council

Best performers:

Bridgend County Borough Council
Manchester City Council
Falkirk Council
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

**Highways and winter maintenance
(Sponsored by TOLTEC)**

Most improved performers:

Dorset County Council
Dumfries & Galloway Council
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Midlothian Council
Vale of Glamorgan County BC

Best performers:

Dorset County Council
East Lothian Council
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Midlothian Council
Moray Council
Orkney Islands Council
Vale of Glamorgan County BC

**Parks, open spaces, and horticultural services
(Sponsored by CABE)**

Most improved performers:

Broxtowe Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Halton Borough Council

Best performers:

Bradford City MBC
Fife Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
North Lanarkshire Council
South Lanarkshire Council
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council

Refuse collection

(Sponsored by Vision Techniques UK Ltd)

Most improved performers:

Broxtowe Borough Council
Gedling Borough Council
Preston City Council
Southampton City Council
St. Helen's Metropolitan Borough Council

Best performers:

Broxtowe Borough Council
East Lothian Council
Erewash Borough Council
North Lincolnshire Council
Peterborough City Council

Sports and leisure facility management

(Sponsored by IQ Associates)

Most improved performers:

Christleton Sports Centre, Chester and District Sport & Recreation Trust
Ancholme Leisure Centre, North Lincolnshire Council
Fulwood Leisure Centre, Preston City Council
West Somerset Leisure Centre, Somerset County Council
Europa Pools, Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council

Best performers:

Chilwell Olympia Sports Centre, Broxtowe Borough Council
Northgate Arena, Chester & District Sport & Recreation Trust
The Dome, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Hood Park Leisure Centre, North West Leicestershire District Council
Link Centre, Swindon Borough Council

Street Cleansing

(Sponsored by BMI Municipal)

Most improved performers:

East Riding of Yorkshire Council
London Borough of Enfield
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
West Dunbartonshire Council

Best performers:

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Chesterfield Borough Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Gedling Borough Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Street Lighting

Most improved authorities:

Kingston-upon-Hull City Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
Greenwich London Borough
Falkirk Council
Dumfries & Galloway Council

Best performers:

Hartlepool Borough Council
Hambleton District Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
East Lothian Council
Derbyshire County Council
Denbighshire County Council

Transport and operations and vehicle maintenance operations (Sponsored by Truckfile)

Most improved performers:

Derbyshire County Council
Southampton City Council
Tynedale District Council
North Lanarkshire Council
Kingston-upon-Hull City Council

Best performers:

East Renfrewshire Council
Erewash Borough Council
Gedling Borough Council
Glasgow City Council
Sheffield City Council
Southampton City Council