



An Olympic effort by the UK's public services

Local authorities throughout the UK were today celebrating their own Olympic efforts having made it to the finalists category of the UK's most prestigious service awards for the public sector. The APSE Service Awards 2008 attracted over 350 entries from authorities throughout the UK and entrants needed to impress a panel of judges made up of industry experts and professionals who looked at how the local authorities have performed on improving public services and the benefits to local communities.

Commenting on the finalists Councillor Leon Unczur APSE's national chair said *"Public servants often make the headlines for negative reasons. What I have seen in this year's awards submissions is a story, so far untold, of huge effort and innovation on the part of local councils to improve services, and in doing so the benefits to local communities"*.

Congratulating the short listed local authorities APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien said *"These councils are wonderful examples of how local government has grasped the mettle and taken forward the challenge of efficient, effective and innovative public service delivery. Other areas of the public sector could learn a lot from the best in local government."*

The winners of the APSE Service Awards will be announced at the awards dinner at the rise of the [APSE Annual Seminar 2008](#).

The finalists are:-

Best Employee & Equality initiative

Sponsored by UNISON

City & County of Swansea
City of Wakefield MDC
East Renfrewshire Council
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Rotherham MBC
South Lanarkshire Council
West Lothian Council

Best Elected Member Development initiative

Hull City Council
Humber Improvement Partnership
Kettering Borough Council

Knowsley MBC
London Borough of Newham
Sandwell MBC
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Best Housing & Regeneration initiative
Sponsored by Walker Morris

Carmarthenshire County Council
Darlington Borough Council
Flintshire County Council
Midlothian Council
Newcastle City Council
North Lanarkshire Council
Sandwell MBC

Best Efficiency initiative
Sponsored by Tribal Group

Carmarthenshire County Council
City & County of Swansea
City of Edinburgh Council
City of Wakefield MDC
Knowsley MBC
London Borough of Lambeth
Milton Keynes Council

Best Healthy Living initiative

East Riding of Yorkshire Council
London Borough of Barking & Dagenham
Manchester City Council
Newport City council
North Lanarkshire Council
Sandwell MBC
Slough Borough Council

Best Partnership Working (Public/ Private)
Sponsored by Eversheds

Bolton Council
Carmarthenshire County Council
Exeter City Council
Falkirk Council
Glasgow City Council
Rotherham MBC (RTB Connect Ltd)
South Lanarkshire Council

Best Partnership Working (Public/Public)
Sponsored by Eversheds

Fife Council
Inverclyde Council
London Borough of Lambeth
Neath Port Talbot CBC
Stirling Council
Sunderland Youth Offending Service
Tayside Contracts

Best Partnership Working (Public/ Voluntary)

Sponsored by Eversheds

Bedfordshire County Council
Darlington Borough Council
Inverclyde Council
London Borough of Lambeth
Rochdale MBC
Strathclyde Fire & Rescue
West Dunbartonshire Council

Best Community & Neighbourhood initiative

Sponsored by Terberg Matec UK Ltd

East Ayrshire Council
Gateshead Council
Hull City Council
London Borough of Islington
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
Newcastle City Council
Strathclyde Fire & Rescue

Best Information & Communication Technology initiative

Sponsored by Consilium Technologies

Aberdeen City Council
City of Edinburgh Council
Glasgow city Council
North Lanarkshire Council
Rotherham MBC
St Helens Borough Council
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Best Environmental initiative

Sponsored by Carbon Accountable

Cornwall County Council
Gateshead Council
Glasgow City Council
Newcastle City Council
Southern Group Environmental Health Committee
Tayside Contracts

Vale Royal Borough Council

Best Service Team Construction & Building

Sponsored by Hays

Aberdeen City Council
Blackpool Council
City of Edinburgh Council
East Dunbartonshire Council
Fife Council
Newcastle City Council
South Lanarkshire Council

Best Service Team Catering

Sponsored by Stellex

Gateshead Council
Knowsley MBC
Lincolnshire County Council
North Lincolnshire Council
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Tameside MBC
Wigan Council

Best Service Team Building/ Facilities Cleaning

Sponsored by Incorporatewear Ltd

East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Hull City Council
Leeds City Council
Liverpool City Council
North Lanarkshire Council
Warwickshire County Council

Best Service Team Highways, Winter Maintenance & Street Lighting

Sponsored by Amey

Bolton Council
Denbighshire County Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Gateshead Council
London Borough of Islington
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Vale of Glamorgan Council

Best Service Team Transport & Fleet

Sponsored by Fraikin

City of Wakefield MDC
Dudley MBC
Flintshire County Council

Gateshead Council
Glasgow City Council
Leeds City Council
London Borough of Islington

Best Service Team Waste & Refuse Management
Sponsored by Heil Europe

City & County of Swansea
City of Wakefield MDC
Gedling Borough Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Stirling Council
Swindon Borough Council

Best Service Team Streetscene & Public Realm
Sponsored by APTUS Personnel

Birmingham City Council
Darlington Borough Council
Gateshead Council
Nottingham City Council
Sheffield City Council
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Wrexham CBC

Best Service Team Parks, Grounds & Horticultural
Sponsored by SGM (UK) Ltd

Aberdeen City Council
Bristol City Council
Cardiff County Council
Copeland Borough Council
Gateshead Council
Glasgow City Council
Torfaen CBC

Best Service Team Sports, Leisure & Cultural

Hull City Council
Knowsley MBC
North West Leicestershire District Council
Northampton Borough Council
Rotherham MBC
Salford City Council
Swindon Borough Council

Best Service Team Social Care
Sponsored by UNISON

Bedfordshire County Council
Hull City Council
Lancashire County Council
Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Nottinghamshire County Council

**Council of the Year in Service Delivery
Sponsored by Enterprise**

Bedfordshire County Council
City & County of Swansea
City of Wakefield MDC
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Gateshead Council
Glasgow City Council
Hull City Council
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Ends

Notes to editors

The full list of finalists is listed below

The awards attracted over 350 entries from councils across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

The APSE Service Awards are unique in the local government calendar, dedicated to awarding excellence in front line local government public services

The judging panels look for examples of best practice, innovation and evidence of service improvements and better outcomes for the service users

APSE is a not for profit local government organisation working with over 300 local authorities, police, fire and civil defence authorities throughout the UK

To view more information about APSE visit www.apse.org.uk

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