

'**Getting better all the time**' is how APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien described the finalists from local authorities across the UK in APSE's performance networks awards 2006.

The awards recognise those delivering front line services in local government who have improved public services both on quality and value for money, and awards are only given following a rigorous assessment and review process of the local authorities performance information. Explaining the significance of the awards Paul O'Brien explained "**Local authority front line services are often only noted when something goes wrong but in the back ground there is a small army of committed public sector workers who are working tirelessly to deliver better public services.**"

- The APSE performance networks awards are unique in the public sector in rewarding those who help keep our streets and schools clean, our parks safe and green, and deliver top quality school meals to our children
- They also reward local authority building maintenance and street lighting services, transport and vehicle maintenance and winter gritting and highway maintenance services.
- The awards will be presented by the well known television presenter Julie Peasegood
- APSE is the UK's fastest growing local government association working with over 300 local authorities throughout the UK and performance networks is the largest benchmarking club within the local government sector providing performance information and support to local authorities
- The Awards ceremony and announcement of winners will take place tonight (14th December) at Blackpool's Hilton Hotel and will be attended by over 500 representatives of local authorities throughout the UK

Paul O'Brien added '**There are no losers amongst our finalists and making it into the last round is of itself a storming good achievement**'

Finalists and categories as follows:-

Building Cleaning

Best Performer

- Birmingham City Council
- Decorum Borough Council
- Hartlepool Borough Council
- Midlothian Council
- Preston City Council
- South Lanarkshire Council
- Stoke-on-Trent City District Council

Most Improved Performer

- Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Stirling Council
- Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council

Building Maintenance

Best Performer

- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Clackmannanshire Council
- Derbyshire County Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Hartlepool Borough Council
- South Lanarkshire Council
- Swindon Borough Council

Most Improved Performer

- Cardiff County Council
- Durham County Council
- Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
- Shetland Islands Council
- Sunderland City Council
- Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council
- Wansbeck District Council

Civic, Cultural & Community Venues

Best Performer

- Albert Halls, Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council
- Arnold Hill Community Centre, Gedling Borough Council
- Easington Lane Access Point, Sunderland City Council
- Ryhope Community Association, Sunderland City Council
- The Cross Community Centre, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Most Improved Performer

- Albert Halls, Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council
- Glyncorrwg Community Centre, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Immingham Resource Centre, North East Lincolnshire District Council
- Middleton Civic Centre, Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
- Mozart Drive Community Centre, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Upton Community, Halton Borough Council
- Noddfa Community Centre, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Education Catering

Best Performer

- Bridgend County Borough Council
- Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
- Hartlepool Borough Council
- Manchester City Metropolitan Borough Council
- Sunderland City Council

Most Improved Performer

- Bridgend County Borough Council
- Fife Council
- Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
- Midlothian Council

- South Lanarkshire Council
- St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council

Highways & Winter Maintenance

Best Performer

- Ashfield District Council
- Dorset County Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Midlothian Council
- Nottingham City Council
- Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Most Improved Performer

- Aberdeen City Council
- Aberdeenshire Council
- Argyll & Bute Council
- Cardiff County Council
- Dorset County Council
- Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council

Parks, Open Spaces & Horticultural Services

Best Performer

- Bradford City Metropolitan Borough Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Fife Council
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Sunderland City Council
- Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council

Most Improved Performer

- Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
- London Borough of Hounslow
- Midlothian Council
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Preston City Council
- Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
- Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council

Refuse Collection

Best Performer

- Bassetlaw District Council
- Eastleigh Borough Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Most Improved Performer

- Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- London Borough of Enfield
- London Borough of Merton
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Plymouth City Council
- Southampton City Council
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Sunderland City Council
- Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Sports & Leisure Facility Management

Best Performer

- Hermitage Leisure Centre, North West Leicestershire District Council
- Hood Park Leisure Centre, North West Leicestershire District Council
- Northgate Arena, Chester City District Council
- Riverside Ice and Leisure, Chelmsford Borough Council
- The Dome, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

Most Improved Performer

- Bramcote Leisure Centre, Broxtowe Borough Council
- Carlton Forum Leisure Centre, Gedling Borough Council
- Fife Institute of Physical & Recreation Education, Fife Council
- The Louisa Centre, Derwentside District Council
- Tyldesley Pool, Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
- Washington Leisure Centre, Sunderland City Council
- Waterstone Crook Sports Centre, Fife Council

Street Cleansing

Best Performer

- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
- Broxtowe Borough Council
- Chorley Borough Council
- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Most Improved Performer

- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- London Borough of Merton
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Rotherham MBC
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Sunderland City Council

Street Lighting

Best Performer

- Denbighshire County Council
- Moray Council
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
- Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council

Most Improved Performer

- Aberdeenshire Council
- Cardiff County Council
- Carmarthenshire County Council
- Falkirk Council
- Swindon Borough Council
- Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council

Transport Operations & Vehicle Maintenance

Best Performer

- East Renfrewshire Council
- Moray Council
- Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Oxford City District Council
- Sheffield City Metropolitan Borough Council

Ends

APSE is a not for profit local government body working with over 300 local authorities throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

APSE is the foremost representative body of local service provision within the UK.

APSE provides a range of services to member authorities including, performance information, training and development, ethical consultancy support, advisory services, lobbying and seminars.

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