



## Ahead of the game!

Some local councils were today recognised as amongst the best in the UK after securing a place in the finalists' category of this years prestigious APSE Service Awards 2007.

For a place on the finalist list councils needed to win over a panel of judges looking at near to 400 entries from local council services throughout the UK. APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) announced the results of its UK wide judging panels' decision on the 6 August after its judging panel completed the first round of results.

APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien said "**To gain a place on the finalist list is an achievement in itself when we consider the sheer calibre of entries and the numbers of submissions**". Adding "**This year more than ever our panel of judges faced some really tough decisions but we are confident that our finalists really are ahead of the game in local government.**"

Councillor John Kerr Brown APSE's national chair said "**Government needs to recognise that actually local councils are doing a good job. These awards show that throughout the UK best practice and innovation are becoming the norm. The rest of the UK's public services should follow the example set by local councils**".

Ends

Notes to editors

The full list of finalists is listed below

The awards attracted near to 400 entries from councils across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

The APSE Service Awards are unique in the local government calendar because they are 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](http://www.apse.org.uk)

For press information or to arrange an interview please contact Mo Baines on 0161 772 1810 or 07971 843515 or email [mbaines@apse.org.uk](mailto:mbaines@apse.org.uk);

### **Best Employee and Equality initiative**

Aberdeenshire Council  
Carlisle City Council  
City and County of Swansea  
Crawley Borough Council  
Fife Council  
Local Government Staff Commission  
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

### **Best Elected Member Development initiative**

Blackpool Council  
Bolton Council  
Crawley Borough Council  
Kirklees Metropolitan Council  
Liverpool City Council  
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

### **Best Housing & Regeneration Initiative**

Fenland District Council  
Harlow District Council  
Kirklees Metropolitan Council  
Midlothian Council  
Optima Community Association in partnership with Birmingham City Council  
Renfrewshire Council

### **Best Efficiency initiative**

Aberdeen City Council  
City and County of Swansea Council  
Gateshead Council  
Kirklees Metropolitan Council  
Renfrewshire Council  
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

### **Best Healthy Living initiative**

Daventry District Council  
East Ayrshire Council  
Golden Gates Housing  
Merseyside Fire and Rescue  
Newcastle City Council  
Sefton Council  
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

### **Public / Private Partnership working**

Belfast City Council  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
Nottingham City Council  
South Lanarkshire Council  
Telford and Wrekin Council  
Walsall Council

### **Public / Public Partnership working**

Carmarthenshire County Council  
Gedling Borough Council  
Kettering Borough Council  
London Borough of Enfield  
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council  
Sefton Council  
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council

### **Public / Voluntary Partnership working**

City of Edinburgh Council  
Dacorum Borough Council  
North Lanarkshire Leisure Ltd  
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council  
South Tyneside Council  
Strathclyde Fire and Rescue  
Sunderland City Council

### **Best Community & Neighbourhood initiative**

Crawley Borough Council  
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council  
London Borough of Islington Council  
Renfrewshire Council  
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

### **Best Information & Communication Technology initiative**

Aberdeen City Council  
London Borough of Camden  
London Borough of Waltham Forest  
Newport City Council  
Renfrewshire Council  
Salford City Council  
Southampton City Council

### **Best Environmental initiative**

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Belfast City Council  
City and County of Swansea Council  
Cornwall County Council  
London Borough of Islington  
Preston City Council

### **Best Service Team Construction & Building**

Blackpool Council  
City and County of Swansea Council  
City of Edinburgh Council  
Fenland District Council  
Kirklees Metropolitan Council  
South Lanarkshire Council

### **Best Service Team Catering**

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council  
North Lincolnshire Council  
Salford City Council  
South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council  
Sunderland City Council  
West Dunbartonshire Council

### **Best Service Team Building/ Facilities Cleaning**

Gateshead Council  
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
North Lanarkshire Council  
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council  
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council  
Staffordshire County Council

### **Best Service Team Highways, Winter Maintenance & Street Lighting**

Bolton Council  
Denbighshire County Council  
Falkirk Council  
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council  
Stockton on Tees Borough Council  
The Vale of Glamorgan Council

### **Best Service Team Transport & Fleet**

East Dunbartonshire Council  
Fife Council  
Gateshead Council  
Glasgow City Council  
Leeds City Council  
North Lanarkshire Council

### **Best Service Team Waste Management & Recycling**

East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
Fenland District Council  
Lancashire County Council  
Preston City Council  
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council  
Sunderland City Council  
West Lothian Council

### **Best Service Team Streetscene & Public Realm**

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
North Lincolnshire Council  
Nottingham City Council  
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council  
Vale Royal Borough Council

### **Best Service Team Parks, Grounds & Horticultural**

Bournemouth Borough Council  
Copeland Borough Council  
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Leicester City Council  
North Lincolnshire Council  
Stockton on Tees Borough Council

### **Best Service Team Sports, Leisure & Cultural**

City of Edinburgh Council  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
Glasgow City Council  
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Liverpool City Council  
North West Leicestershire District Council

### **Best Service Team Social Care**

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council  
Derby City Council  
Hull City Council  
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham  
Merseyside Fire and Rescue