

Best in class head for Cardiff

Local authorities throughout the UK were today celebrating being named 'best in class' having reached the finals of the Association for Public Service Excellence awards 2009.

The prestigious awards attracted 400 entries from authorities throughout the UK. Finalists impressed a panel of judges made up of industry experts and professionals who ranked entrants on how the local authority teams have performed on public service improvements and delivered tangible benefits to local communities.

Commenting on the finalists Councillor Arwyn Woolcock, APSE's national chair said *"Whilst the national debate on public services has moved towards future funding issues we must not forget the success stories behind our doorstep public services, delivered by local councils. These services are often the primary contact citizens have with public services, making a huge difference to their daily lives. The commitment of councils to continuously improve these services is a testament not only to the individual councils involved but to the service delivery teams"*.

Congratulating the short listed local authorities APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien said *"A place in the finals is well deserved for those councils that have committed to excellence in public service delivery. The last twelve months has proved difficult for councils facing a recessionary environment but the progressive approach to public service delivery, found within the finalists, will help ensure councils continue to improve the front line services that really matter to the public"*

The winners of the APSE Service Awards will be announced at Cardiff International Arena on the 10 September 2009 at the rise of the [APSE Annual Seminar 2009](#)

The finalists are:-

Best Employee and Equality Initiative

Sponsored by UNISON

- City and County of Swansea
- City of Edinburgh Council
- Cumbria County Council
- Falkirk Council
- London Borough of Lambeth
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Strabane District Council

Best Elected Member Development Initiative

- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Havant Borough Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Safer Walsall Partnership
- Stockton on Tees Borough Council
- Warrington Borough Council

Best Housing and Regeneration Initiative

Sponsored by Walker Morris

- Braintree District Council
- Carmarthenshire County Council
- Flintshire County Council
- Gateshead Council
- Harlow Gateway Partnership
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Best Efficiency Initiative

Sponsored by Tribal

- Bassetlaw District Council
- Carmarthenshire County Council
- Falkirk Council
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- South Lanarkshire Council
- West Lothian Council

Best Healthy Living Initiative

- Aberdeen City Council
- Blackburn with Darwen Council
- Corby Borough Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Inverclyde Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Manchester City Council
- NPHS (Wrexham)

Best Partnership Working (Public / Private)

Sponsored by Eversheds

- Braintree District Council
- Carmarthenshire County Council
- City of Edinburgh Council
- Cleveland Police
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- RBT/ Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Sandwell Homes
- South Lanarkshire Council

Best Partnership Working (Public / Public)

Sponsored by Eversheds

- Blackburn with Darwen Council
- Coventry City Council
- Cumbria County Council
- Hartlepool Borough Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Newry and Mourne District Council
- Stockport Council
- Tell Us Once (Multi Authority)

Best Partnership Working (Public / Voluntary)

- City of Edinburgh Council
- Denbighshire County Council
- Inverclyde Council
- London Borough of Sutton
- Preston City Council
- Renfrewshire Council
- South Lanarkshire Council
- Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

Best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative

- Fife Council
- Gateshead Council
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- London Borough of Hillingdon
- London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- Renfrewshire Council
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Best Information and Communication Technology Initiative

Sponsored by Consilium Technologies

- Aberdeen City Council
- City and County of Swansea
- Glasgow City Council
- Gravesham Borough Council
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- London Borough of Lambeth
- RBT/ Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Best Environmental Initiative

- Chorley Council
- City of Edinburgh Council
- Down District Council
- Exeter City Council
- Preston City Council
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
- West Lothian Council
- Wirral Borough Council

Best Service Team: Construction and Building

Sponsored by Hays

- City and County of Swansea
- Darlington Borough Council
- Derbyshire County Council
- Falkirk Council
- Fife Council
- Liverpool City Council
- South Lanarkshire Council

Best Service Team: Catering

Sponsored by Stellex

- Clackmannanshire Council
- Dorset County Council
- East Renfrewshire Council
- Midlothian Council
- Solutions SK
- Stockton on Tees Borough Council
- Wigan Council

Best Service Team: Building / Facilities Cleaning

- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Hull City Council
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Leeds City Council
- Liverpool City Council
- Milton Keynes Council
- Salford City Council
- Wigan Council

Best Service Team: Highways, Winter Maintenance and Street Lighting

Sponsored by Lanes Group Plc

- Argyll and Bute Council
- Denbighshire County Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Flintshire County Council
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- Wrexham County Borough Council

Best Service Team: Transport and Fleet

Sponsored by Northgate Plc

- Carmarthenshire County Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Gateshead Council
- Glasgow City Council
- Islington Council
- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- Southampton City Council
- Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Best Service Team: Waste and Refuse Management

Sponsored by Heil Europe

- Belfast City Council
- Carmarthenshire County Council
- City and County of Swansea
- East Ayrshire Council
- East Lindsey District Council
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Preston City Council
- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

Best Service Team: Streetscene and Public Realm

- Gateshead Council (Your Gateshead! Our Mission)
- Gateshead Council (The Integrated Neighbourhood Warden Service)
- Islington Council
- Leeds City Council
- Milton Keynes Council
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Best Service Team: Parks, Grounds and Horticultural

Sponsored by SGM (UK) Ltd

- Fife Council
- Halton Borough Council
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Nottingham City Council
- Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
- Three Rivers District Council
- Wrexham County Borough Council

Best Service Team: Sports, Leisure and Cultural

Sponsored by APTUS Public Sector

- Cannock Chase Council
- Clackmannanshire Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Gateshead Council
- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Liverpool City Council
- Northampton Borough Council
- Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council

Best Service Team: Social Care

Sponsored by UNISON

- Aberdeen City Council
- Derbyshire County Council
- Hull City Council
- Lancashire County Council
- Renfrewshire Council (Flexi-Care Project)
- Renfrewshire Council (Renfrewshire Care 24)
- Sandwell Homes
- Stoke on Trent Council

Council of the Year in Service Delivery

- Braintree District Council
- City and County of Swansea
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Falkirk Council
- Fife Council
- Milton Keynes Council
- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
- South Lanarkshire Council

The overall sponsor for the APSE service awards 2009 is AMEY PLC



Ends

Notes to editors

The awards attracted over 400 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

Winners will be announced at a special awards ceremony to be held at Cardiff International Arena on the **10 September 2009**

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

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