

Council's quick step to the top with Flavia!

Some early festive cheer was brought to local authorities with Strictly Come Dancing star, Flavia Cacace, presenting winners of the APSE performance networks awards 2009. Hosted in Blackpool the awards recognised the best and most improved performers in local government front line services.

Speaking to the finalists at the awards Ms Cacace said *'As a professional dancer I know that in order to achieve and sustain the highest levels of performance you need to have dedication and commitment and a willingness to constantly learn and improve. These are all qualities that you need in competition and are qualities that all of you here tonight bring to your own working lives to make sure that the public receive the best possible public services'*

Councillor Shaun Gallagher, APSE's national chair said *'Winning a performance networks award is a real credit to the work of those managers and front line staff who are often the unsung heroes behind services such as school meals, bins and parks but they are often overlooked. I congratulate everyone of these winning councils'*

The awards are for 'best performer' and 'most improved performer' which recognise and encourage continuous improvement in cost, quality and customer satisfaction across eleven different front line services provided by local councils.

Mark Bramah, APSE assistant chief executive, said *'The public sector faces an austere future so getting best value for the public pound means constantly getting the best performance from our front line public services. What these awards show is that in front line local council services there is a genuine commitment to providing high quality at the best price. The awards are strictly about performance and we have judged these councils to be amongst the very best in front line service delivery'*

Ends

Down load press quality jpegs of Flavia Cacace and the winners at www.apse.org.uk for national, local and regional press use

Winners and categories

Building Cleaning kindly sponsored by Polymorph Ltd

- Best performer: St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
- Most improved performer: Southampton City Council

Building Maintenance kindly sponsored by Trukrax Vehicle Racking Systems

- Best performer: Clackmannanshire Council
- Most improved performer: Falkirk Council

Civic, Cultural and Community Venues kindly sponsored by Toltec

- Best performer: Aberavon Community Centre, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Most improved performer: Ditton Community Centre, Halton Borough Council

Education Catering kindly sponsored by Fretwell-Downing Hospitality

- Best performer: SK Solutions Ltd, a Stockport Council Company
- Most improved performer: London Borough of Greenwich

Highways and Winter Maintenance kindly sponsored by APSE best value consultancy

- Best performer: Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
- Most improved performer: Argyll and Bute Council

Parks, Open Spaces and Horticultural Services kindly sponsored by SGM UK Ltd

- Best performer: Copeland Borough Council
- Most improved performer: Midlothian Council

Refuse Collection kindly sponsored by Vision Techniques (UK) Ltd

- Best performer: Peterborough City Council
- Most improved performer – Wolverhampton City Council

Sports and Leisure Facility Management kindly sponsored by Walker Morris

- Best performer: Dunes Leisure Centre, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
- Most improved performer: Waterstone Crook Sports Centre, Fife Council

Street Cleansing kindly sponsored by APTUS public sector

- Best performer: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Most improved performer: North East Derbyshire Council

Street Lighting kindly sponsored by IQ Associates

- Best performer: Denbighshire County Council
- Most improved performer: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Transport Operations and Vehicle Maintenance kindly sponsored by Triscan Systems Ltd

- Best performer: South Gloucestershire Council
- Most improved performer: Southampton City Council

List of finalists over all categories

Building Cleaning

Best performer

- Hartlepool Borough Council
- London Borough of Greenwich
- Southampton City Council
- St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Warrington Borough Council

Most improved performer

- East Dunbartonshire Council
- Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
- Moray Council
- Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
- Southampton City Council
- St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
- Staffordshire County Council

Building Maintenance

Best performer

- Aberdeenshire Council
- A1 Housing Ltd, Bassetlaw District Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Clackmannanshire Council
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
- Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- West Dunbartonshire Council

Most improved performer

- A1 Housing Ltd, Bassetlaw District Council
- Clackmannanshire Council
- Derbyshire County Council
- Falkirk Council
- Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
- Midlothian Council
- City and County of Swansea

Civic, Cultural and Community Venues

Best performer

- Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council, Albert Halls
- Cardiff Council, City Hall
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Aberavon Community Centre
- North East Lincolnshire Council, Freeman Street Resource and Community Centre
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Tanhouse Community Centre
- Sunderland City Council, Easington Lane Access Point

Most improved performer

- Halton Borough Council, Grangeway Community Centre
- Halton Borough Council, Ditton Community Centre
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Aberavon Community Centre
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Baglan Community Centre
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Mozart Drive Community Centre
- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Tanhouse Community Centre
- Warrington Borough Council, Sandy Lane Centre
- Warrington Borough Council, West Culcheth Day Centre

Education Catering

Best performer

- Bridgend County Borough Council
- Denbighshire County Council
- Gwynedd Council
- Manchester City Council
- Solutions SK – A Stockport Council Company
- Telford and Wrekin Council

Most improved performer

- Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council
- Inverclyde Council
- London Borough of Greenwich
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Solutions SK – A Stockport Council Company
- Telford and Wrekin Council

Highways and Winter Maintenance

Best performer

- Argyll and Bute Council
- Dorset County Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
- Middlesbrough Council
- Midlothian Council
- North Ayrshire Council

Most improved performer

- Argyll and Bute Council
- Inverclyde Council
- Middlesbrough Council

- Moray Council
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council

Parks, Open Spaces and Horticultural Services

Best performer

- Bradford Metropolitan District Council
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Copeland Borough Council
- Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Fife Council
- Halton Borough Council
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust

Most improved performer

- Chelmsford Borough Council
- East Dunbartonshire Council
- Halton Borough Council
- Midlothian Council
- St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
- West Dunbartonshire Council
- Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust

Refuse Collection

Best performer

- Carlisle City Council
- Chorley Borough Council
- East Lothian Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council

- North Lincolnshire Council
- Peterborough City Council

Most improved performer

- Denbighshire County Council
- City of Edinburgh Council
- Glasgow City Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council
- Peterborough City Council
- Southampton City Council
- Wolverhampton City Council

Sports and Leisure Facility management

Best performer

- Chelmsford Borough Council, South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre
- Cheshire and District Sports and Recreation Trust, Northgate Arena
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Haltemprice Leisure Centre
- Newark and Sherwood District Council, Grove Leisure Centre
- North Lincolnshire Council, Ancholme Leisure Centre
- North West Leicestershire District Council, Hermitage Leisure Centre
- Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, Dunes Leisure Centre

Most improved performer

- Copeland Borough Council, Whitehaven Sports Centre
- Fife Council, Waterstone Crook Sports Centre
- North West Leicestershire District Council, Hermitage Leisure Centre
- Reading Borough Council, Highdown Sports Centre
- Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, Dunes Leisure Centre
- Somerset County Council, Shepton Mallet Leisure Centre
- Wolverhampton City Council, Aldersley Leisure Village

Street Cleansing

Best performer

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Carlisle City Council
- Chorley Borough Council
- Denbighshire County Council
- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Most improved performer

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Bridgend County Borough Council
- Clackmannanshire Council
- Denbighshire County Council
- Glasgow City Council
- North East Derbyshire District Council

Street Lighting

Best performer

- Denbighshire County Council
- Dumfries and Galloway Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Fife Council
- Flintshire County Council
- Hartlepool Borough Council

Most improved performer

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Durham County Council

- Derbyshire County Council
- East Ayrshire Council
- Flintshire County Council
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Transport Operations and Vehicle Maintenance

Best performer

- Conwy County Borough Council
- East Renfrewshire Council
- City of Edinburgh Council
- London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- South Gloucestershire Council
- South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
- Southampton City Council

Most improved performer

- Bassetlaw District Council
- Fife Council
- Lancaster City Council
- Southampton City Council
- Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Notes to editor

APSE is the Association for Public Service Excellence and works with over 250 local councils throughout the UK

APSE performance networks is the UK's largest voluntary data benchmarking service for local government front line services

APSE performance networks recognises the best and most improved performers in front line local council services

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