



## Building for the future

A young plasterer from West Lothian Council was celebrating this week after being named the APSE Scotland Building and Housing Apprentice of the Year.

21 year old Robbie Blake, scooped the prestigious award after fierce competition from leading local authorities throughout Scotland at a glittering awards ceremony, held at the Peebles Hydro Hotel, on the 21 February 2008. Sponsored by Hays Construction the awards recognise those councils that have invested in training and apprenticeship schemes, in the construction sector.

APSE's Scotland's Chair, Cllr Frank Anderson said " **Robbie is typical of the calibre of young people who are keen to prove to society that there are excellent career prospects within local authorities**" he added " **It is particularly pleasing that after a tough selection process Robbie has been named as apprentice of the year. It is a fitting tribute for this young man who is truly is a role model for apprentices across Scotland**".

Paul O'Brien, APSE's Chief Executive added " **Councils like West Lothian that have taken the time to invest in apprenticeships will be rewarded with a well trained and skilled workforce**" adding " **Whilst the construction industry is still suffering from skills shortages the public sector is leading the way in reinvigorating apprenticeships**".

### Finalists included:

Michael Gilroy, City of Edinburgh Council (Joiner)

Darren Hammond, Clackmannanshire Council (Joiner)

Scott Wright, East Ayrshire Council (Plasterer)

David Hunter, Falkirk Council (Plumber)

Douglas Ferguson, Fife Council (Gas Technician)

Kieron Guthrie, North Ayrshire Council (Plumber)

Len McDonald, North Ayrshire Council (Electrician)

Natalie Laird, North Lanarkshire Council (Plasterer)

William Turnbull, South Lanarkshire Council (Joiner)

Shaun Doherty, West Dunbartonshire Council (Plumber)

Robbie Blake, West Lothian Council (Plasterer)

## **Ends**

## **Notes to Editors**

1. APSE is the Association for Public Service Excellence working with over 250 local authorities throughout the UK

2. APSE Scotland is the Scottish division of APSE looking after the interest of Scotland local authorities

3. APSE provides networking support, advice, and information to local authorities throughout the UK and helps to develop continuous improvement in local government.

4. To arrange for interview or for more details please contact Mo Baines on [mbaines@apse.org.uk](mailto:mbaines@apse.org.uk) or telephone 0161 772 1810 or 07971 843515