



Champions on Ice!

Over 800 of local government's most talented people joined forces at Nottingham Ice Arena to celebrate the APSE Service Awards 2008 which saw Hull City Council named 'Overall Council of the Year for Service Delivery'.

Local Government Minister, John Healey, paid tribute to the finalists commenting that *"Councils have an ever important task of improving services, neighbourhoods and opportunities for their residents, listening to local people along the way. Awards that recognise councils and their staff for their success - such as APSE's Service Awards - help encourage and reward ambition in local government to deliver the best it can be. I congratulate this year's winners on their contribution to their authority and their local area"*.

Paul O'Brien APSE, Chief Executive told guests *"You have much to be proud of in local government. Many councils did not make it to the finals – those of you here tonight show the level of drive and commitment to public services that must be celebrated. By embracing excellence we can continue to drive forward those doorstep public services that improve the daily lives of people living in our communities."*

Ends

The list of winners in each category is as follows:-

Best employee and equality initiative (Kindly sponsored by UNISON)

Winner: Rotherham MBC

Best elected member development initiative (Kindly sponsored by Toltec)

Winner: London Borough of Newham

Best housing and regeneration initiative (Kindly sponsored by Walker Morris)

Winner: Midlothian Council

Best efficiency initiative (Kindly sponsored by Tribal Group)

Winner: Milton Keynes Council

Best healthy living initiative (Kindly sponsored by Fretwell Downing Hospitality)

Winner: Sandwell MBC

Best partnership working (public/private) (Kindly sponsored by Eversheds)

Winner: Glasgow City Council

Best partnership working (public/public) (Kindly sponsored by Eversheds)

Winner: London Borough of Lambeth

Best partnership working (public/ voluntary) (Kindly sponsored by Eversheds)

Winner: Bedfordshire County Council

Best community and neighbourhood initiative (Kindly sponsored by Terberg Matec UK Ltd)

Winner: Strathclyde Fire & Rescue

Best information and communication technology initiative (Kindly sponsored by Consilium Technologies)

Winner: St Helens Borough Council

Best environmental initiative (Kindly sponsored by Carbon Accountable)

Winner: Tayside Contracts

Best service team: Construction and building (Kindly sponsored by Hays Construction & Property)

Winner: Aberdeen City Council

Best service team: Catering (Kindly sponsored by Stellex)

Winner: Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council

Best service team: Building and facilities cleaning (Kindly sponsored by Incorporatewear Ltd)

Winner: Hull City Council

Best service team: Highways, winter maintenance and street lighting (Kindly sponsored by Amey)

Winner: Denbighshire County Council

Best service team: Transport and fleet (Kindly sponsored by Fraikin)

Winner: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Best service team: Waste and refuse management (Kindly sponsored by Heil Europe Ltd)

Winner: Swindon Borough Council

Best service team: Streetscene and public realm (Kindly sponsored by Jark Recruitment Ltd formerly APTUS Personnel)

Winner: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Best service team: Parks, grounds and horticultural (Kindly sponsored by SGM (UK) Ltd)

Winner: Copeland Borough Council

Best service team: Sports, leisure and cultural (Kindly sponsored by IQ Associates)

Winner: Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Best service team: Social care (Kindly sponsored by UNISON)

Winner: Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

The winner of 'Overall Council of the Year in Service Delivery' sponsored by Enterprise is Hull City Council

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Notes to Editors

1. The APSE Service Awards 2008 followed the APSE Annual Seminar held over two days in Nottingham, which was opened by DCLG Minister John Healey.
2. APSE is the Association for Public Service Excellence, a not for profit body specialising in support to councils delivering front line local government services.
3. APSE works with over 300 local authorities throughout the UK and operates a network of best practice for local government operating on a tripartite basis with officers, elected members and trade unions.
4. APSE also operates the UK's largest voluntary benchmarking club for local councils, delivers lifelong learning and development training and master

classes and is a not for profit ethical consultancy assisting councils in delivering Best Value.

5. To arrange for interview or to access jpeg images from the event please contact Mo Baines on mbaines@apse.org.uk or telephone 0161 772 1810 or mobile 07971 843515.

Mo Baines

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