

ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS 2020

THE MJ



VIRTUAL  
AWARDS

FRI 2ND OCTOBER 2020

FINALISTS



# WELCOME TO THE MJ AWARDS 2020

Firstly, many thanks to all our awards entrants who have been so patient over the past few months while we put The MJ Awards on hold during lockdown.

We also want to say a special thank you to all local authorities for their amazing efforts during the pandemic, helping their communities and local businesses through this tough time. It's too late to recognise their inspiring services this year, but watch this space for news about The MJ Awards 2021.

Our decision to delay announcing the finalists of our 18 categories was put on hold as we knew so many entrants were busy dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The actual gala night for The MJ Awards 2020 should have taken place in June. Instead, we have decided to turn it into a virtual awards ceremony to take place at 2pm on 2 October 2020.

We will announce the winners in each category in an afternoon to remember – look out for details on how to register which will be coming soon on our websites [awards.themj.co.uk](https://awards.themj.co.uk) or [themj.co.uk](https://themj.co.uk), as well as on social media on our LinkedIn page or twitter @themjcouk or @TheMJ Awards.

We had a huge number of very high quality entries across our 18 different categories, showing the sheer variety of services provided by local government. The entries also displayed the commitment and dedication by the teams to the communities they serve.

Thanks go to the judges for giving their time and in particular to our sponsors without whom the awards would not be possible and congratulations to the finalists they chose, announced in the following pages.

Finally, at our virtual awards ceremony on October 2 we will be unveiling categories for The MJ Awards 2021. Watch out for further details on [awards.themj.co.uk](https://awards.themj.co.uk) and put October 2 into your diaries!



Heather Jameson  
Editor, The MJ



Michael Burton  
Editorial Director  
The MJ Awards

We look forward to you joining us then to celebrate our winners



2020 SPONSORS	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	

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# LOCAL AUTHORITY OF THE YEAR 2020



## Aberdeen City Council

The council has an impressive story to tell in terms of its changing economic context and the bold steps it is taking to deliver an unprecedented transformation of the city through a pioneering capital programme and significant investments in the social and cultural future of its communities.

## Adur and Worthing Councils

Brought together under a longstanding single management structure, these two district councils have an innovative, data-led approach to delivering local services that make a difference to residents with the intention of building happy, healthy, prosperous and connected places using an innovative 'platform' model.

## Bristol City Council

Bristol is a city on the move with a huge place-based agenda. The council's 'One City Approach' is inclusive and is focused on long term, positive outcomes for all residents. It is developing ambitious plans for Bristol through to 2050 whilst continuing to invest prudently in current core services.

## London Borough of Redbridge

One of last year's finalists, the council performs well across all key services. Its submission is well-considered, demonstrates innovation and evidences the council's work with communities to place shape for the future. It is galvanising growth opportunities and continues to proudly put Redbridge on the map.

## Salford City Council

The council is having a positive and consistent impact on the life chances and opportunities for all its residents. It combines a genuine sense of place-based purpose with clear intent to make a difference to all communities – in particular those that benefit most from innovation in health equality, affordable housing and tackling poverty.

## Thurrock Council

Thurrock Council is a previous finalist and has consistently demonstrated its ability to adapt, prosper and grasp socio-economic opportunities. Its leadership of the place agenda is impressive and the council unapologetically aspires to delivering for both businesses and residents.

---

## JUDGES

### Helen Bailey

Chief Executive, London Borough of Sutton

### Martin Esom

Chief Executive, London Borough of Waltham Forest

### Graham Farrant

Chief Executive, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

### Trevor Holden

Managing Director, Broadland and South Norfolk Councils

### Sharon Kemp

Chief Executive, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

### Neil Lupin

Managing Partner, Green Park Interim & Executive Search



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# BEST COMMERCIAL COUNCIL



The public sector  
transformation partner

## Colchester Borough Council

It has produced a broad portfolio of activity including homes, energy and direct services commercialisation which is not only making a commercial return, but also a significant impact on the health and prosperity of the borough.

## Leicestershire County Council

This authority has developed staff commercial skills and a commercial traded services operation covering catering, leisure, accommodation and other assets. The service also supports the wellbeing of the community, by improving the delivery and quality of meals to schools and ongoing accommodation through its Social Care Investment Project.

## Plymouth City Council

The council has created a wide portfolio of activity, including school and community catering, back-office services to public and private sector clients and support to help social enterprises grow. These are driven by community needs, delivering impact for the community as well as a commercial return to the city.

## South Staffordshire District Council

Building upon an established commercial programme, the council is developing a community hub for 23 organisations, including three tiers of local government, CCG, GP surgery, police, voluntary, community and private sector. Providing a platform for cross-sector and cross-tier collaboration, the hub will significantly reduce costs and generate income.

## Staffordshire County Council

The council has demonstrated the importance of transport infrastructure to local economic prosperity. This local authority has turned a funding problem for highways into an opportunity to grow a new and successful business as an engine for growth.

## Wealden District Council

This council has developed a commercial strategy leading to the creation of an entrepreneurial approach. It has provided services to RSLs and local businesses, and has also diversified its portfolio, delivering a surplus.

---

## JUDGES

### Dr Andrew Larnar

Chief Executive at iESE

### John Comber

Chair of Solace in Business and former  
Chief Executive at London Borough of  
Greenwich

### Graham Simmons

Business Consultant at iESE



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Cost

care<sup>3</sup>

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# BEST COUNCIL SERVICES TEAM



## **Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council**

The creation of the new council enabled it to successfully reorganise its leisure services with the result that usage, income and membership have all increased even as the subsidy declines. There is more planned investment in people, technologies, partnerships and the physical infrastructure.

## **Canterbury City Council**

### **Coast Engineering Project**

Canterbury City Council's engineering service is full of unsung heroes who brave all weathers to prevent flooding from the sea and the district's rivers. They have turned themselves into the experts everyone turns to from internal council services and other councils to the Environment Agency.

## **Cheshire West and Chester Council**

The council's assessment and welfare service has multiple expertise within a single team and has delivered not only considerable ongoing savings but more importantly a comprehensive, high quality service for many of its most vulnerable residents.

## **Derbyshire County Council**

This entry shows how a team was assembled from many different services across the council to respond to two unprecedented emergencies in quick succession, the Whaley Bridge reservoir incident and then floods.

## **Harrogate Borough Council**

The town had to host the UK's largest sporting event in 2019 at a time of the heaviest rain on record and tourists arriving from all over the world. The result was an integrated front-line team providing innovative and creative answers to the challenges they faced.

## **Lancaster City Council**

A shabby facility has been transformed into an award-winning leisure centre thanks to dedicated staff and a £5m investment from the council.

## **Portsmouth City Council**

The 44-acre international port is owned and operated by the council and in 2018 over 2,005,056 passengers, 676,275 passenger vehicles and over 242,499 freight units passed through it. Revenue earned by the port is invested in the community in areas including social services, housing and city regeneration.

## **Renfrewshire Council**

### **Clean Up**

The Team Up to Clean Up campaign is a grassroots partnership, building resilience, pride and capacity within Renfrewshire communities through community clean ups. Volunteers are supported with advice, equipment and resources to enable them to organise clean ups and other environmental improvements.

---

## JUDGES

### **Karen Bradford**

Chief Executive, South Kesteven District Council

### **Lindsay Towler**

Head of Business Resources, APSE

### **Paul O'Brien**

Chief Executive, APSE

### **Cllr Mark Pengelly**

National Chair, APSE

**The Association for Public Service Excellence was proud to sponsor the “Best Council Services Team” category at the MJ Awards 2020: Congratulations to all of this year’s finalists!**



APSE is a not-for-profit membership organisation that is dedicated to promoting excellence in the delivery of frontline public services. We are owned by our members and work with more than 300 local authorities across the UK.



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# BEST SOCIAL HOUSING INITIATIVE



## Canterbury City Council

Canterbury has created an impressive collaboration of agencies and funding to take a focused approach to solving issues including 'right sized' accommodation and support to individuals.

## Cardiff City Council

With 9000 on its waiting list the authority clearly has a pressing need to dramatically increase the supply of the affordable housing. However, what was impressive about this submission was its focus on targeting homes for families, independent living and schemes for the elderly.

## Hull City Council

Like many authorities, the realisation that demand will always outstrip supply of affordable homes has led to a 'people centric' tenancy support approach with co-locating multi agency teams.

## Shropshire Council

House2home is a commendable approach demonstrating the authority's focus on matching appropriate homes to meet the needs of occupants with disabilities.

## London Borough of Southwark

This combination of digital agency collaboration with support from MHCLG has led to a tool that could transform the ability of local authorities to manage the affordable housing stock and track and monitor its ongoing use.

## London Borough of Tower Hamlets

This long-running project demonstrates how public sector partnerships with other public sector organisations can unlock the toughest of regeneration project.

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## JUDGES

### Mike De'Ath

Partner, HTA Design

### Ruth Davison

Chief Executive, Islington and Shoreditch Housing Association



# Working with local communities

hta

to create great mixed neighbourhoods

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## **Rushden Close Croydon**

As part of Brick by Brick's ambitious programme of mixed tenure infill housing across the borough on Council-owned unused garage and infill sites.





# CARE AND HEALTH INTEGRATION



## London Borough of Harrow

A new integrated adult community team has been co-located with children's social care and education services to improve outcomes for residents of all ages with disabilities. The project has been jointly managed by the council, the CCG and the NHS provider trust in co-production with Harrow Mencap and Learning Disability self-advocates.

## Hull City Council

Hull's Jean Bishop Integrated Care Centre has introduced a new era of out of hospital care. A re-designed community frailty pathway sees GPs, advanced nurse practitioners, social workers, pharmacists and other specialists working as part of a single system.

## North East Lincolnshire Council

Breaking down organisational silos and putting people at the heart of decision making and service design drove North East Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire CCG to create a powerful and equal union with a joint chief executive, single leadership team and joined-up working.

## Staffordshire County Council

The Provider Improvement Response Team is an integrated service jointly funded by the council and CCGs to work with care home services in urgent need of support. It works collaboratively with providers across the health and social care system with an ethos of supporting the delivery of the Enhancing Health in Care Homes Strategy.

## Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council

The Deal for a Healthier Wigan is truly different not only because of its engaging and interactive style, but because it is not owned by one organisation. It is a truly co-designed approach involving key health and social care partners coming together to help its combined workforce improve the lives of the people of Wigan.

## Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council

The care and support at home service is an exciting opportunity to work with a partnership approach providing a service to people in a new and flexible way, maximising their ability to live independently and safely in their own homes.

---

## JUDGES

**Saffron Cordery**

Deputy Chief Executive, NHS Providers

**Michael Burton**

Editorial Director, The MJ

Congratulations  
to the winner and finalists!



# Reflect and recover

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# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR



## **Chris Naylor**

London Borough of Barking & Dagenham

Chris attracts radical thinking and the council has undergone award winning transformation in the five years that he has been in charge. He has led the delivery of £68m in savings, increased physical infrastructure and affordable housing and has overseen an ambitious and innovative, commercially minded transformation process.

## **Suzanne Wylie**

Belfast City Council

Suzanne embodies dedication, outstanding leadership, determination and commitment to staff, elected members and the people of Belfast, no easy feat considering that for three of her six years at the helm there was no Northern Ireland Executive, meaning the council, as the largest working political elected body in the region stepped into the breach and continued to lead economic, social and political change.

## **Pat Ritchie**

Newcastle City Council

Pat has successfully undertaken a range of senior leadership roles in national and regional and local government. Her impact on the council can be seen not only in the physical transformation of the city but also in its economy, securing major investment into the city. She is an inspirational and engaging leader, empowering her teams with an unparalleled drive for innovation and improvement.

## **Anne Donaghy**

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Anne is widely reputed across Northern Ireland and beyond for her determination, commitment and energy with which she serves the people of the borough. Having merged three separate councils to form Mid and East Antrim in 2015 she quickly set about instilling a 'can do' culture and strived for excellence across all areas of public provision.

## **Alex Parmley**

South Somerset District Council

Alex became CEO at SSDC in October 2016. His achievements include being the lead chief executive working with Government and the LEP to develop the Heart of the South West Local Industrial Strategy, accelerated regeneration and innovative transformation.

## **Ade Adetosoye**

London Borough of Bromley

Ade has spearheaded an ambitious four year Transforming Bromley Programme which has so far identified £6m in savings and efficiencies. He is proving to be an inspirational, enthusiastic and supportive leader. His cultural change agenda to embed the organisations vision and values across all services has been integral to delivering the council's transformation goals.

---

## JUDGES

### **Mark Lloyd**

Chief Executive, Local Government Association

### **Jenny Rowlands**

Chief Executive, London Borough of Camden

### **Daljit Lally**

Chief Executive, Northumberland County Council

### **Dawar Hashmi**

Partner, Local Government & Health Executive Search at Green Park

### **Rachel Shimmin**

Chief Executive, Buckinghamshire Council






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won't get different results.**


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Championing diversity and inclusion, Green Park is changing the face of leadership by helping organisations think differently about talent in the UK's top boardrooms.

We help organisations to attract, identify, develop and retain trusted, inclusive, authentic and, most of all, highly effective leaders from different backgrounds to leverage the power of collective difference. In 2019, Green Park placed a new diverse leader on a board every 8 days. Our goal is to make that a daily occurrence by 2025!

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# CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR



**ODGERS INTERIM**

## **Leigh Whitehouse**

Executive Director of Resources, Surrey County Council

Leigh's leadership has been instrumental in putting the county in the enviable position of stabilised finances with a much stronger sense of good financial management embedded across the organisation.

## **Julie Ogley**

Director of Social Care, Health and Housing, Central Bedfordshire Council

Julie presides over award winning housing and care services that have improved outcomes for residents, and which have delivered savings of £70m. As a corporate director she has played an instrumental part in the council's improvement journey.

## **Paul Masters**

Corporate Director for Economy, Enterprise and Environment, Cornwall Council

Paul has been a chief officer/corporate director for 14 years in Cornwall and has an unrivalled record in delivering major improvement across an extensive range of council services. His contribution to public life in Cornwall has been considerable and benefited the lives of thousands of residents, business and visitors to the county.

## **Margaret Lees**

Executive Director for Corporate and Customer Services, Essex County Council

Margaret is the person the organisation turns to when it has something really important to undertake, dealing with its most sensitive legal issues over the years, ensuring that the reputation of the organisation has been protected and overseeing its preparations for its first LGA corporate peer review in 15 years.

## **Debbie Jones**

Corporate Director of Children's Services, London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Debbie Jones is a leader who has consistently created, encouraged and been a champion of change. Her career demonstrates a commitment to innovation and national and local excellence which spans both the academic and operational spheres.

## **Neil Evans**

Director of Resources and Housing, Leeds City Council

Neil has consistently delivered in different roles over 15 years, making a difference to people, tackling tough issues in the council and the city, being innovative and always bringing good judgement to issues. He is hugely valued by his leadership colleagues, all 99 councillors, local MPs, staff, partners and trade unions.

## **Anna Earnshaw**

Director of Adult Social Services, Northamptonshire County Council

Anna has transformed adult social care in Northamptonshire since her appointment in 2017. Her achievements are even more remarkable given the turbulent journey that Northamptonshire has been on over the last two years. Anna's greatest attribute is her ability to take people with her and get things done.

## **Kelly Angus**

Executive Director of HR/OD and Deputy Chief Executive, Northumberland County Council

Kelly is an outstanding leader providing vital support as part of its executive management team in ensuring the priorities of the council are delivered. As well as deputising for the chief executive, she provides advice on a wide range of issues to both officers and members of the council and partner organisations.

## **JUDGES**

### **Eleanor Kelly**

Chief Executive, London Borough of Southwark

### **Kim Wright**

Chief Executive, London Borough of Lewisham

### **Stuart Love**

Chief Executive, Westminster City Council

### **John Barradell**

Chief Executive and Town Clerk, Corporation of London

### **Jes Ladva**

Partner and Head of Government, Odgers Interim and Odgers Connect



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**ODGERS INTERIM**





# DELIVERING BETTER OUTCOMES



## City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

The Happy, Healthy and at Home strategy is helping more vulnerable people in Bradford to remain independent with better outcomes for individuals and major savings.

## East Riding of Yorkshire Council

The Bridlington Early Intervention project was commissioned by Humberside Police in partnership with East Riding of Yorkshire Council to explore how agencies could work more effectively together in tackling domestic abuse.

## Great Yarmouth Borough Council

The restoration of Great Yarmouth's historic Venetian Waterways and Boating Lake is a project with community involvement at its heart. Led by the council, the volunteers and community stakeholders were critical throughout project planning and hands-on delivery, contributing 2,000 volunteer hours.

## London Borough of Hackney

Hackney Council's Windrush Generations programme in 2019 transformed the Council's engagement and relationship with elders from the African-Caribbean communities. As a result the community felt more valued, celebrated, and connected to the council and its services.

## Shropshire Council

The two carers in a car scheme allows them to monitor elderly residents during the night, enabling them to live in their own homes, and the council is now advising other local authorities on how to set it up.

---

### JUDGES

#### Graeme McDonald

Managing Director, Solace and Solace in Business

#### Julie Howarth

Head of Learning and Events, Solace

#### Mary Weastell

Solace Board Member

#### Jim Savege

Solace Scotland Chair and Board Member

#### Paul Dunphy

Solace Board Member

### COMMENDED

- Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (Transition Education Partnership Service project)





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[solace.org.uk](http://solace.org.uk)





# DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



## Cornwall Council

The Digital Programme in Cornwall is ambitious, requiring strong leadership for a successful delivery across multiple stakeholders. The project has a clear multi-agency strategy with benefits for the community.

## Durham County Council

The council's ambitious digital strategy sets out the future for connecting Durham, and how it will digitally improve services for customers and support its people. The strategy is centred round three core themes, the customer, the organisation and the community.

## Essex County Council

The council is innovative, with modern community engagement so that residents develop solutions and solve problems for themselves. It identifies people active in their online communities, supporting them to get relevant messages out on important issues like mental health.

## Isle of Wight Council

The prepaid card system is clearly innovative with an incredible user adoption rate of 99%. It demonstrates excellent and imaginative working between the council and third party providers. With a clear digital strategy, strong stakeholder management and robust project governance the project has made a big difference to service users.

## Somerset County Council

Three areas of the council, ICT transformation, children's services and support services for education worked together to develop an initiative using avatar robots which was approved, funded, implemented and has already demonstrated a positive impact for young people unable to attend school.

## South Lanarkshire Council

Judges thought this a 'fantastic example of cross organisational working'. Health, social care, and third sector work together with patients, families, and the wider community to deliver improved patient outcomes, reduced waiting times, and more efficient delivery of services.

## Tendring District Council

The authority has improved the customer experience and access to its services with its new customer portal while reducing costs and engaging with other public sector partners.

## Worcestershire County Council

A great example of a wide ranging digital transformation journey, with a holistic approach across the whole council enabling better cross-agency working, and improved services to the citizen. The early wins of this strategy have been well planned and measured.

---

## JUDGES

### Dr Catherine Howe,

Director of Communities at Adur District and Worthing Borough Council

### Huw McKee

Head of Information Technology and Digital Transformation, Conwy Borough Council

### Faith La Grange

Director, Local & Regional Government, Microsoft

### Sam Smith

Head of Digital & IT for 3C Shared Services. Strategic IT Lead, Cambridge County and Peterborough City Councils

### Andrew Rogers

Director, Socitm Advisory





**Socitm is proud to support the  
Digital Transformation finalists  
at the 2020 MJ Awards.**

**Congratulations and  
good luck to all!**

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# INNOVATION IN BUILDING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



## London Borough of Brent

This clearly laid out the issues Brent has faced regarding increasing diversity and inclusion, and the steps taken to deal with the issue. The submission covered its work with communities, members and staff and included clear outcomes.

## London Borough of Croydon

This was a positive and engaging submission, which covered the diversity of Croydon and the need to develop an inclusive and representative workforce. It discussed actions and approaches, and listed progress and outcomes. It also noted a culture board chaired by the chief executive.

## Royal London Borough of Greenwich

A detailed submission on the challenges Greenwich faced in increasing diversity in its senior leadership. It has undertaken independent research with the Runnymede Trust to explore BAME issues in the borough. It also noted that this is a long term commitment and hence a 'work in progress'.

## Northumberland County Council

This was a detailed and positive submission on improving the staff experience through specific network groups. It was closely argued, demonstrating how staff are engaged in broader corporate themes and aims. The panel also liked the reference to the social isolation agenda within what is a large and remote geographic area.

## Westminster City Council

This was a clear and focused submission, which was open about a previous lack of diversity in senior and middle management. It described what they have done to address it, including clear figures and statistics as well as impact and next steps.

---

## JUDGES

### Luke Judd

GatenbySanderson

### Charmaine D'Souza

Director of HR at the GLA

### Kath O'Dwyer

Chief Executive of St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council

### Kim Wright

Chief Executive, London Borough of Lewisham

### Shokat Lal

Executive Director of Core Services, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

## COMMENDED

- Essex County Council
- London Borough of Haringey
- Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council



# Committed<sup>●</sup>

Congratulations to all the finalists for the MJ D&I Innovation Award

**There has never been a more timely moment to introduce this new 'Innovation in D&I' Award. It has been a privilege to witness the ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion in all the entries for this year's award.**

Our purpose, to find and develop leaders that shape a better society, drives everything we do. Promoting diversity and equality through more representative leadership has always been part of our DNA. We firmly stand against racism and inequality and the events of the past few months show starkly the racial equality gaps that still remain. We believe that Black Lives Matter and support this call for those in positions of greater influence to do more. Doing more, and not just saying more, is important to us.

We are very proud to be associated with this important award reflecting the work and innovation across Local Government to create more inclusive cultures and communities. The actions of our shortlisted authorities are milestones on a longer journey.

Greater and faster progress, across society, is needed and there is more for all of us to do. We commit to being an active partner to local government and its partnerships. We champion under-represented groups; since 2019, we have placed over 100 Black, Asian and other minority ethnic leaders in senior roles (13% of appointees); women make up 55%\* of our senior appointments, and the LGBTQ+ community 7%\* of appointments. However, together we can do more.

As with the work of our winning authority – actions are louder than words. Our next priority is to introduce a cross sector talent programme to build future senior Black, Asian and other minority ethnic talent pipelines across public services, extending an existing successful joint initiative programme with the NHS. We will partner with local government to encourage greater innovation and champion new networks to help eliminate barriers. Within GS, we actively seek greater representation from Black and ethnic talent to our leadership team, which will add to the strong gender and LGBTQ+ balance we already have.

**More than anything, we want our collective actions today to be tomorrow's legacy: a fairer society we all take a responsibility to help build. Published on behalf of all at GS.**

To discuss how we can support your individual leadership challenges, please contact Nancy Scott at [nancy.scott@gatenbysanderson.com](mailto:nancy.scott@gatenbysanderson.com).





# INNOVATION IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES



## Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council

The programme showed a creative approach with strong cross disciplinary support to drive innovation and cultural change and the active engagement of young people which shaped and influenced innovation.

## The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime

An innovative approach demonstrating integrated leadership at a strategic level working across local authority areas which delivers evident outcomes for young people and takes a gendered approach to support.

## Renfrewshire Council

A bold, creative and ambitious approach which evidently has improved the outcome lives for service users, by empowering young people and giving them a voice to exercise control.

## Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

A highly innovative and impactful proposal which empowers its users and improves life chances. In addition it shows a clear joined up approach to local services which deliver less for more.

## Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

An innovative and evidence informed approach, utilising the skills and experience of the broad range of agencies including the voluntary working across the council to improve outcomes for service users.

## The London Borough of Waltham Forest

The council's creative and sustainable projects combined cross-disciplinary expertise from senior leadership with strong partnerships across the borough as well as a clear strategic approach throughout the programmes.

---

## JUDGES

### Carol Iddon

Deputy CEO & Managing Director  
Children's Services, Action for Children

### Debbie Tomlinson

Head of Fostering & Adoption, Action for  
Children

### Shania Roberts

Strategic Development Assistant, Action  
for Children

### Harriet Batten

Programme Funding Manager, Action for  
Children

## COMMENDED

- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Glasgow City Council
- North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
- Hampshire County Council
- Westminster City Council & Kensington and Chelsea RLBC (bi-borough children's services)
- Isle of Wight Council
- Plymouth City Council
- Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council



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# INNOVATION IN PROPERTY & ASSET MANAGEMENT



## **Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council**

A great example of a council taking ownership of the future of its town centre, introducing new community and leisure uses at the heart of an enhanced public realm. It is an ambitious project, with a big investment, and provides a great example for others to follow.

## **Gloucestershire County Council**

The refurbishment and recladding of Shire Hall has allowed for technical innovation, including a rethink of the digital offer and extensive video conference. A strong contribution to cost savings and the carbon neutral agenda.

## **London Borough of Haringey**

This project may be small in size but it sends a vast signal being imaginative and innovative, bringing a local landmark historic building back into use for public benefit. The refurbished property is let on a 'community wealth building lease.'

## **Newport City Council**

A complete refurbishment of a 1960s community centre sending a clear message of intent in regard to investment and regeneration into the community of Ringland, delivered by strong partnership working. Judges commented particularly on the public art incorporated into the design.

## **North East Lincolnshire Council (Community Asset Transfers)**

Seventeen transfers of assets have already taken place under this innovative Community Asset Transfer programme, put in place by the council. The project both supports their development trusts, community interest companies and social enterprises and delivers much needed cost savings.

## **North East Lincolnshire Council (South Humber Mitigation)**

A unique planning approach which secures ecological mitigation for protected birds before the delivery of a business park and a strategic highway. A pioneering project which is totally on-trend. The judges were left wanting to know more.

## **Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council**

Tameside has submitted a solid outline of the excellent reuse of town centre amenities. Transforming indoor markets is hard work and this project demonstrates the need for widespread stakeholder engagement, harnessing all the energy available locally.

## **Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council**

The most ambitious arts and cultural exhibition ever held in Wigan shows just what can be done with an empty shopping centre. This has enjoyed 40,000 visits so far! Wigan is to be commended on its (imaginatively entitled) five year 'cultural manifesto.'

### **JUDGES**

**Jackie Sadek**

Chief Executive, UK Regeneration

**Peter Gregory**

President, ACES

### **COMMENDED**

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (PIF)
- Bath & North East Somerset Council
- Stevenage Borough Council
- Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council





## THE ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF ESTATES SURVEYORS AND PROPERTY MANAGERS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR CONGRATULATES FINALISTS IN THE INNOVATION IN PROPERTY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

ACES is the only representative association focusing on the needs of the estates surveyors and property managers working within the public sector. We are a community of professionals committed to excellence in the management of the public sector estate, driven by a strong public service ethos.

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## WELL DONE TO ALL FINALISTS IN THE INNOVATION IN PROPERTY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT CATEGORY OF THE MJ AWARDS!

UK Regeneration (UKR) was created to change the face of regeneration in the UK. We aim both to provide people with the indispensable tools they will need to deliver regeneration in today's political and economic context, and to show the way by leading active regeneration projects on sites around the UK.

UKR is about delivery: demonstrating how to transform places with purpose built mixed tenure homes with a mix of other uses. UKR influences emerging policy; supports practitioners in all aspects of their roles; and gets actively involved in delivering regeneration projects.

We are working with a number of local authorities across the country and we welcome conversations about possible projects we could join in with or lead.

**Contact:** [info@ukregeneration.org.uk](mailto:info@ukregeneration.org.uk)



# LEADERSHIP IN RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY



## Bath and North East Somerset Council

The submission showed strong corporate response and governance, its research priorities were based on good evidence of local drivers and community engagement. Clear priorities and strategy were evident for local renewable energy, sustainable transport, emissions and energy efficiency in buildings.

## Cambridgeshire County Council

The judges noted strong planning work in this submission coupled with evidence of extensive innovation, building on existing investment into carbon reduction schemes. Target setting is ambitious, ideas are strongly evidence-based and embedded in science, including a collaboration with PhD students at Cambridge University.

## Cornwall Council

The judges praised Cornwall council's decision-making process and its commitment to innovation, notably reducing bus fares and halting fossil fuel heating in all new council properties. Community engagement is strong and there was clear evidence of strong leadership across the council.

## Leeds City Council

The council demonstrated strong leadership in innovation and good links between sequestration and adaptation. The ambitious interim (2025) and final target (2030) showed the council's focus on immediate and future steps and there

has been extensive, and ongoing, community engagement. Addressing the climate emergency has been embedded across organisational objectives, governance and decision-making structures.

## Northumberland County Council

The submission showed a real sense of ambition with well-established, council-wide governance and a commitment to climate-conscious choices. It demonstrated an open dialogue with communities to enable robust decision-making and clear communication of goals to facilitate increased economic and social value in establishing fairer access to energy.

## Reading Borough Council

The judges praised the council's innovation with ambitious carbon reduction plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. It demonstrated high levels of community engagement, and robust climate change partnerships. There was clear evidence of early successes across LED street lighting, fleet electrification and increased use of buses.

## West Yorkshire Combined Authority

The entry demonstrated strong evidence of partnership working and good governance. Judges noted clear direction for wider-area activity and delivery and praised excellent community engagement and positive changes to the decision-making process. Clear goals were evidenced and key milestones identified to deliver ambitions in the short, medium and long term.

## JUDGES

### Claire Coutinho

MP for Surrey East

### Jo Wall

Strategic Director, Climate Response,  
Local Partnerships

### Eithne George

Programme Director, Accelerator,  
Cambridge Institute for Sustainability  
Leadership

### Richard Baker

Corporate Director, Buckinghamshire  
Council

## COMMENDED

- Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
- London Borough of Camden
- London Borough of Waltham Forest



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the development of their climate response strategies. These include waste and infrastructure, energy, digital transformation, housing and regeneration, commercialisation, and more.

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# PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT



## Essex County Council

The Essex Sexual Health Service delivers open access to an integrated service including contraception and infection management. Since 2016, it has improved the sexual health of its residents, made cost effective savings and transformed service delivery.

## Halton Borough Council

The council's health improvement team has developed a Workplace Health Project taking primary care and preventative services directly to its target population in their workplace setting. Over the last two years a comprehensive workplace health programme has been systematically rolled out to local businesses across the borough.

## Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council

Recent public health intelligence data identified that the Kirklees South-Asian population showed lower uptake of screening programmes (breast, bowel and cervical) and experience comparatively later diagnosis and poorer outcomes post cancer diagnosis. A new exploratory project was therefore established, with the aim of understanding the barriers to screening.

## Staffordshire County Council

The warmer homes programme is a countywide initiative aiming to tackle fuel poverty in urban areas of Staffordshire. An innovative approach has been adopted, combining measures which will address both fuel poverty and health problems commonly associated with living in cold homes.

## Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

The Victoria Intensive Project was launched in 2017 to work directly with individuals with complex drug and alcohol issues. Embedding a rapid, person focused approach the team have sought to address the wider socio-economic causes of poor health, specifically around lifestyle choice and substance misuse.

## West Yorkshire Trading Standards

In response to the public health challenge of illegal tobacco, the five West Yorkshire councils' public health teams took an innovative approach, collaborating with West Yorkshire Trading Standards to create a bespoke team to tackle this organised criminality linked to health and social impacts.

---

### JUDGES

**Nicola Close**

Chief Executive, ADPH

**Paul Ogden**

Senior Adviser, Local Government Association

### COMMENDED

- Leeds City Council
- East Ayrshire Council

Association of  
Directors of  
Public Health



## **Congratulations to all the finalists in the public health improvement category of the MJ awards!**

*We don't want to go back to normal after this. There are some things about normal I really liked, like seeing my friends and family, going out for a meal once in a while and, yes, going to the hairdresser. But the normal I don't want to go back to is hidden inequalities, hidden poverty, hidden discrimination against groups of people. I want us to use this crisis moment to ensure that what comes next is better.*



Dr Jeanelle De Gruchy, President, Association of Directors of Public Health

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) is the representative body for Directors of Public Health (DsPH) in the UK with the aim of maximising the effectiveness and impact of DsPH as Public Health leaders.

ADPH seeks to improve and protect the health of the population through collating and presenting the views of DsPH; advising on public health policy and legislation; facilitating a support network for DsPH; identifying their development needs; and supporting the development of comprehensive, equitable public health policies.

ADPH has a rich heritage, having its origins more than 160 years ago. It is a collaborative organisation working in partnership with others to maximise the voice for public health.



### **Ella Brady,**

Policy and Projects Officer, Newark and Sherwood District Council

Ella throws herself into the work she does. Whether that is into bushes to help clear litter or in thinking innovatively to contribute to the green agenda in her district. Ella has influenced the thinking and actions of her council for the better.

### **Hayden Collins**

Participation Officer, Southampton City Council

The judges felt that just reading the list of Hayden's accomplishments and awards was enough to shortlist him for this award. But he is clearly a true rising star who has thrown himself into his work and is making a real difference for the children of Southampton, as recognised by Ofsted.

### **Cezara Cosma**

Benefits Processing Team Leader, Colchester Borough Council

Cezara's nomination and description describes her as a brave, remarkable and inspiring individual. She has a clear passion and a determination to make a difference to people's lives. She is a great source of help to her colleagues but also the communities she serves.

### **Lora McCourt**

Community Services Manager, Canterbury City Council

Lora is a values led and focused individual who deserves recognition for the work she does to help deal with homeless in Canterbury. Through her hard work, she has raised funds to set up new projects but she is also recognised as a strong and inspiring leader.

### **Charlotte Middleton**

Activity Coordinator, Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council

Charlotte's story demonstrated her drive and determination to ensure that the care home has the money to deliver great services and she has been innovative in her approach to raising funds.

### **Kelly Anne Sawden**

Education Welfare Officer, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Kelly's story is one of resilience and overcoming adversity. She has used her experiences for the betterment of others, and herself. She is relentless in her ambition to support children with complex education needs and is clearly making a difference to their lives.

### **Katie Sheriff**

Payments Manager, Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Katie's nomination highlighted someone who has gone beyond her job description to ensure she can truly make a difference to colleagues and the residents.

### **Olivia Wittich**

Project Manager, NEXIUS, London Borough of Enfield

Olivia has uplifted hundreds of young people ensuring their education and safety, has helped steer them away from gangs and is highly deserving of this award.

## JUDGES

### **Tony Oakman**

Chief Executive, Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council

### **Adrian Smith**

Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director for Place, Nottingham County Council

### **Nathan Elvery**

Former Chief Executive, West Sussex County Council

### **Sarah Murphy-Brookman**

Director, Resources, Buckinghamshire Council

### **Fiona McAdoo**

Associate Director of OD, London Borough of Camden

## COMMENDED

- Laura Bremner, Senior Health and Active Lifestyles Manager, Fenland District Council
- Hannah Ralph, Chief of Staff, Broadland and South Norfolk Council
- Rebecca Trott, Principal Technical Accountant, Plymouth City Council
- Fiona Whitaker, Service Development Officer, Shropshire Council





**Here's to the leaders of tomorrow.**

**The shapers of things to come.**

**The extra-milers and the  
knock-it-out-the-parkers.**

**The ones who don't believe in 'can't'.**

**Who only know 'can' and 'will'.**

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**who are creating bright futures**

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**Good luck to all the nominees.**

**We'll be toasting your success.**

**TILE HILL**



# SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



## Great Yarmouth Borough Council

A vision for Great Yarmouth to counter inequality, improve housing and investment in the area has been driven by the council's senior leadership team. Strong cross-council project management, an organisational restructure and increased financial rigour have set Great Yarmouth on a remarkable ongoing journey of transformation.

## South Staffordshire District Council

One Team, One Council. That's been the mantra for change at South Staffordshire for the last three years. The senior leadership team at the authority have balanced their budget, increased staff satisfaction, improved resident opinion of the council's work and implemented a complex, but successful, redesign of the top table.

## Isle of Wight Council

The island has many residents over 65 in relative isolation and the senior leadership team at the council have been key in changing perceptions and unleashing the talent on the island. As a team, they have increased communications, fostered a great culture, empowered council staff and made a transformative impact on the island population.

## West Lindsay District Council

Three years ago, West Lindsay Council adopted a model without a chief executive. West Lindsay's senior leadership team has been driving regeneration, community investment and increasing emphasis on financial management, staff engagement and good governance, helping people, businesses and communities to thrive.

## Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council

The council declared a climate emergency on 30 January 2019, and the senior leadership team has been key in the response to devastating local flooding. The council vision is for Calderdale to be a place to live a larger life, where people want to live, work, invest, raise a family. That has meant responding to the threat of climate change, mitigating risks and protecting communities.

---

## JUDGES

### Kim Smith

Chief Executive, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

### Matt Jukes

Chief Executive, Hull City Council

### Ian Thomas

Chief Executive, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

### Joanne Roney

Chief Executive, Manchester City Council

### Julie Towers

Managing Director, Penna

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# TRANSFORMING LIVES



### City of Wolverhampton Council

The entry about helping young care leavers was very clear in what the council has achieved with young people using co-production. Evaluation and looking at impact are good and performance metrics excellent.

### London Borough of Haringey

In supporting young men and gangs to prevent violence Project Futures showed impressive outcomes and co-production. The judges liked how interventions were put in place and how this improved access to primary care appointments.

### Plymouth City Council

A well written entry on a classic community project, Grow, Share and Cook which is fully embedded and well supported and highlighted the links to partners including GP consortia. It is a project that could be replicated around the country.

### Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

An effective model called Shared Lives that struck judges as being very easy to replicate with a good use of technology. There were clear case studies and good safeguarding implementation.

### Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

A really good project to safeguard children and young people at risk of exploitation which has informed more groups beyond the usual scope. Judges were impressed by the scale of the project commenting 'it seems on the money for an issue that many councils are struggling with.'

### Cambridge City Council

The project involved homeless giving points, including tap and go, and nudge theory to prevent giving directly to rough sleepers ensuring the money is used to provide direct grants. It showed excellent evidence of partnership working.

#### JUDGES

**Chris Luck**

Chief Executive, Shaw Trust

**Jacqui Oughton**

Chief Operating Officer, Shaw Trust

**Nick Davies**

Programme Director, Institute for Government

**Paul Raynes**

Delivery and Strategy Director at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

**Clare Maynard**

Head of Commissioning Portfolio - Communities, Older and Vulnerable People at Kent County Council

#### COMMENDED

- Leeds City Council
- Norfolk County Council
- East Riding of Yorkshire
- South East Development Agency
- Somerset County Council
- North Yorkshire County Council



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# WORKFORCE TRANSFORMATION



## Hampshire County Council

This entry showcases the dedication, commitment and focus of the council in improving its social care practice and workforce. A strengths-based approach to improving practice, enabling, empowering and encouraging the workforce has seen Hampshire Children's Service recognised by Ofsted, as 'outstanding' in all areas, an extraordinary achievement.

## Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Funding challenges have led to recognition that the workforce cannot deliver sustainable transformation on its own. The need to engage locally has led to Knowsley Better Together, a whole system approach focused on behaviours, values and redesigned service provision and resulted in Journey Together, an outcome focused workforce experience.

## London Borough of Lewisham

This compelling and inspiring entry takes a whole system approach to transforming the Youth Offending Service in the borough. Levels of youth violence and re-offending meant a whole system approach, which has seen a considerable positive transformation. It has delivered demonstrable improvement in outcomes for young people, the workforce and multi-disciplinary partnerships.

## Lincolnshire County Council

This very successful partnership with Vinci Facilities shows that it is possible to build a common vision and re extend it beyond the original aim. The joint venture set ambitious targets, secured the ongoing commitment of employees in both organisations, built common purpose and enabled both workforces to genuinely work together.

## South Norfolk District Council/ Broadland District Council

This great entry outlines how South Norfolk and Broadlands approach their collaborative journey which resulted in a single leadership team, a stronger voice regionally and nationally, increased growth and funding opportunities and an improved employee value proposition.

## Westminster City Council

This entry describes The Westminster Way, which is the programme implemented to deliver City For All. It's heartfelt focus on employees, their development and the recognition of how looking after our workforce delivers tangible benefits to residents, business and visitors is a roadmap for other organisations to follow.

---

### JUDGES

**Karen Grave**

President, PPMA

**Leatham Green**

Executive Director PPMA

**Tom Hammond**

Managing Director, Hammond Clarke

### COMMENDED

- Isle of Wight County Council
- Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
- Maldon District Council
- South Somerset District Council





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# ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2020

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