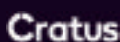


# ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2022

THE **MJ**

## Finalists Brochure

#MJAwards Friday 24th June, Park Plaza | Westminster | London



## Welcome

A huge thanks goes to all the wonderful council teams up and down the country for their amazing work helping their communities through the past difficult year – and the proof of their commitment lies in the following pages where over a hundred examples of dedication and innovation have been selected by judges from the hundreds of entries sent in for The MJ Awards 2022.

Our judges had a tough task choosing the finalists in our 18 categories from such an array of high quality entries. They all show how council teams rose magnificently to the challenge of helping their communities and maintaining services through the difficult second year of the pandemic and they rightly merit recognition. For winning an MJ Award not only promotes a local authority's achievements, but it also provides staff the praise they deserve.

From the lists of finalists in our 18 categories judges will then pick their winners. These will be announced at our gala luncheon celebration on Friday June 24, 2022 at the Park Plaza Hotel, Westminster, London – which will be an afternoon to remember so make sure you are there!

Details of how to book places can be found here: <https://awards.themj.co.uk/live/en/page/book-a-table>

Thanks go to our sponsors, without whom the awards would not be possible, to our judges for their time, to the finalists they chose and to all those local authority teams who entered our awards – and have done such a magnificent job in the past year!



Heather Jameson  
Editor, The MJ



Michael Burton  
Editorial Director  
The MJ Awards

We look forward to seeing you on June 24

# Recover Rebuild Recognise

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ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS 2022

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# Local Authority of the Year

## Caerphilly County Borough Council

The council has firmly put its challenging past behind it and is a highly credible partner. It is focused both on continuing to innovate and develop on behalf of its residents and also as an employer of choice. The submission evidences a council that continues to innovate while also rising to the challenge of providing a stable future for residents.

## North Kesteven District Council

In an era when district councils are continually looking to increase their spheres of influence, North Kesteven stands out as a high performing, strong and stable council with excellent vision. It is grasping the nettle on climate change and other critical factors such as housing delivery.

## North Lanarkshire Council

The sense of community partnership and engagement coupled with strong leadership and a shared vision for its residents makes North Lanarkshire Council's submission stand out. It presents a strong narrative for its town centres and its wider community ambition as well as a strong narrative on key issues such as inequalities.

## Telford & Wrekin Council

A finalist for this award in 2021, Telford & Wrekin Council has a strong record across its core services as well as a clear and ambitious vision for both its staff and its residents. The council is a respected and trusted partner and it demonstrates resilience and a focus on achievements for its residents.

## London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Tower Hamlets' journey in recent years has been hugely impressive. The council's submission demonstrates a clear and transparent approach to place leadership in addition to core services that consistently perform well. It is a convening partner that continues to deliver for its residents in often tricky circumstances.

## Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council

Wigan is building on the principles of The Deal, refreshing the narrative through to 2030. It continues to progress initiatives on a number of fronts, making a positive difference to its communities through economic development, regeneration and other key services. It is addressing important factors such as social inequality and climate change.

---

## JUDGES

**Deborah Cadman**, Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council

**Tracey Lee**, Chief Executive, Plymouth City Council

**Neil Lupin**, Managing Partner, Green Park

**Paul Martin**, Interim Chief Executive, London Borough of Ealing

**Joanne Roney**, Chief Executive, Manchester City Council

**Jenny Rowlands**, Chief Executive, London Borough of Camden

**Rachael Shimmin**, Chief Executive, Buckinghamshire Council



**Congratulations to  
the 2022 MJ Award  
Finalists.**

We are proud to have sponsored the prestigious MJ Local Authority of the Year award for ten years running.



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**52%**  
female

**41%**  
ethnic minority





# Best Council Services Team

## London Borough of Enfield

A fantastic example of transforming a service, providing a modern catering service to children with a focus on climate change and nutrition. Providing fresh, locally sourced food and a higher take up than the national average this service showcases how huge improvements can be made to have far reaching benefits.

## London Borough of Hillingdon

During the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19 the council's waste team managed to improve its response to flytipping and improve work with the volunteer sector. In addition, the service managed to improve a clinical waste service and reduce its carbon footprint by improving their recycling rates, in addition to improving in cab technology. A great example of how positive change can still be made during the most challenging times.

## Kent County Council

Reconnect Kent is a great way to re-engage children post pandemic, engaging them with many services including educational activities and fun days. An excellent way to support the mental health of young people following a traumatic pandemic.

## Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council

A great concept, changing to a 'food court' style service for school meals, achieving a 90% take up of the free school meals! Changing to a wider range of foods, cuisines and increased healthy options the Kirklees school meals service has also managed to contribute towards the council's climate change commitments reducing food waste, packaging and single use

items. The service has also increased revenue while investing heavily in the digitalisation of the service.

## Lancaster City Council

The community involvement and leisure team are a great example of how a multi-skilled team can provide a great service with pride. Providing more support to residents and increased access to the customer service team, the council has transformed the way it works to make residents their priority.

## Newcastle City Council

A fantastic project using digital technology to support people with care and support needs. A great initiative which required a wide range of stakeholders to work together to improve lives. Utilising technology in the home they have been able to reduce falls in the home and improved the care people receive.

## London Borough of Redbridge

Redbridge's planning service managed to turn around a struggling service into an efficient, effective and highly regarded team, implementing innovative initiatives, which increased customer satisfaction, resident and member engagement and service delivery.

## City of Wolverhampton Council

A brilliant transformation, well managed with great cost savings. By bringing all assisted travel provisions together into a new travel unit, the City of Wolverhampton Council have made substantial savings whilst offering a better quality service to those who are vulnerable.

## JUDGES

**Chris Cuforth**, APSE National Secretary and Major Works Group Leader, Swansea City Council

**Cllr Andrea Lewis**, APSE National Chair and Deputy Leader, Swansea City Council

**Paul O'Brien**, Chief Executive, APSE

**Lindsay Towler**, Head of Business Resources, APSE



**The Association for Public Service Excellence is proud to sponsor the “Best Council Services Team” category at the MJ Awards 2022: Congratulations to all of this year’s finalists!**



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## Best EV Charging Project

### Dundee City Council

The council provides a comprehensive and innovative EV charging infrastructure to support its climate action plan. This includes three rapid charging hubs, three multi-storey charging hubs, on-street chargers and pop-up chargers. Dundee is currently home to one of the largest EV council fleets and electric taxi fleets in the UK.

### Durham County Council

Durham's SOSCI Project (Scaling On-Street Charging Infrastructure) has made a huge impact on the development of electric vehicle infrastructure in rural and urban areas in the North. It is focused on how residents can charge electric vehicles when they do not have a driveway or garage.

### Royal London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

The council has introduced an innovative new pricing system for resident parking permits. The system provides substantial discounts for users of electric vehicles and adds a surcharge based on CO2 emissions to petrol and diesel cars. This system has led to a rapid increase in the number of electric vehicles in the borough.

### North Northamptonshire Council

The council's on-street EV charging project ensures residents without off-street parking can charge EVs on-street, where otherwise the market would not deliver. The project removes a

key barrier to widespread EV uptake, enables equal access to charging infrastructure, and contributes towards the council's air quality and carbon neutrality goals.

### South Lanarkshire Council and North Lanarkshire Council

Project PACE is a major transport decarbonisation project targeting areas and communities where the commercial market has not yet delivered. PACE piloted the benefits of having a distribution network operator (DNO) involved in the various stages of deploying universally accessible public EV charger infrastructure, including costs and delivery timescales.

### London Borough of Waltham Forest

A comprehensive EV charging point strategy that focuses resources to deliver the best possible outcomes for the community. It forms part of a continued commitment to make sustainable transport more accessible for residents and visitors, with the aim of improving air quality, reducing congestion, and creating healthy streets.

### JUDGES

**Gary Cook**, Deputy Director and Joint Head of the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles, Department for Transport

**Robin Heap**, CEO, Zest

**Kate Laing**, Senior Manager, Zero Emission Areas, Transport & Urban Planning, C40 Cities

**Caroline Low CBE**, Director, Transport Decarbonisation, Department for Transport

**Dr Josey Wardle**, Innovation Lead, ZEV Infrastructure, Land & Maritime Transport Team, Innovate UK







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## Best Social Housing

### Blackpool Council

A well written submission that sets out a clear context for the project which had a positive approach to improving the lives of residents. Creating warm homes that are cheaper to heat is an important thing to celebrate in these difficult times. The project has made a dramatic improvement to the thermal efficiency of the buildings and a significant increase in quality of life for the residents living in them.

### Carmarthenshire County Council

This is a good submission with good outcomes. It has achieved its aim to allow young people to have the experience of living in rented accommodation, while having the support and training that will enable them to go on and hold their own successful tenancies. The success of the project has come from the exceptional partnership working and the ability to remain flexible and adaptable.

### Derbyshire Dales District Council

Working with small social housing providers to deliver new homes, renovate and retrofit hard to treat homes this project delivers a corporate priority of the council to enable and deliver affordable housing. Since the stock transfer the council has put considerable resources in to the delivery of new affordable homes. It has sought to maximise provision of new homes through smaller providers such as almshouse trusts and community land trusts.

### London Borough of Enfield

The Housing Gateway for People with Disabilities is an initiative to stop vulnerable people falling through the net and has led to an innovative approach that has generated significant savings while improving the lives of clients. Faced with the challenge of sourcing appropriate housing for people with severe learning disabilities for whom traditional housing options had been exhausted the council joined health, service users and their carers to pool funding and explore a new approach which resulted in outstanding outcomes.

### Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council

A good holistic approach to retrofit based on scalability and skilling up with collaboration between residents and a 'Living Lab' approach to gather data to inform future projects. This approach was innovative, original and at times challenging. A collaboration of experts, officers and the community which has revitalised an estate. It has afforded the opportunity to upskill officers and create green jobs and delivered strategic objectives around carbon reduction and fuel poverty.

### Reading Borough Council

This modular homes scheme for rough sleepers is delivering 40 homes. It is a significant project using modular temporary move on homes for the homeless. The link with a leading charity, St Mungo's, and their recovery centre, offering extensive support is an exciting development. The council is also engaging with other local authorities to replicate this approach.

### London Borough of Southwark

This council has demonstrated a consistent ambition to deliver homes and regeneration over the past decade. There is strong political leadership has delivered social rented homes from developers and a commitment to quality. The programme is resourced by a blended finance mix of HRA revenue, right to buy receipts and GLA funding, and had an ambitious target to provide 2,500 new council homes by May 2022.

### City of Wolverhampton Council

The Wolverhampton House project meets the challenge of the transition into adulthood and independence for any young person. For care leavers it can be especially challenging. The partners in this project are taking an innovative approach to ensure that journey is a successful one. It supports care leavers to choose and refurbish their own home while helping them to live independently. This is an exciting approach to a difficult problem.

### JUDGES

**Ruth Davison**, Chief Executive at Islington & Shoreditch Housing Association

**Mike De'Ath**, Partner, HTA

**Richard Harbord**, Past President, IRRV

**David Magor**, Chief Executive, IRRV

**Alistair Townsend**, President, IRRV

### COMMENDED:

**Derby City Council**

**South Norfolk and Broadland Councils**

# Introducing the IRRV

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With over 3,000 members, the IRRV is the professional body for people working in the fields of local revenues and benefits administration, and both public and private sector valuation. The Institute offers a range of qualifications covering its professional fields. It is a nationally approved awarding body for its vocational and examination-based qualifications.

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## Care and Health Integration

### **Carmarthenshire County Council**

Working alongside key partners within health and social care from across west Wales, Carmarthenshire CC has designed and implemented an innovative and large-scale programme focused on supporting prevention and wellbeing through a technological and digital approach called Delta CONNECT. The initiative seeks to transform the way social care is delivered.

### **Essex County Council**

The Connect programme has sought to join-up health and care across Essex so older adults get the best ongoing care in the best setting. Its ways of working are better for staff and makes the best use of resources. It was jointly designed, led, and governed by the whole the health and care system. This involved multiple organisations forming single design, delivery, and leadership teams aligned on a common goal.

### **North Lanarkshire Council**

This initiative shows how North and South Lanarkshire Councils and NHS Lanarkshire worked collaboratively throughout the pandemic to improve outcomes for people in care homes. This includes examples of good practice, supporting good healthcare for people in care homes.

### **South Norfolk and Broadland Council**

The South Norfolk Council Help Hub epitomises effective partnership working between council and NHS services. The model promotes smooth interfaces not just between statutory care and NHS service but across a range of provision by VCSE partners and the wider range of district services. This is key to addressing the wider determinants of health that impact upon residents.

### **St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council**

Since its formation in 2018, the St Helens Cares partnership, the council's place-based approach to joining up care and health for residents, has successfully worked together to improve outcomes for people and this has been evident in its on-going collaboration between care, health and other public services during the pandemic.

### **Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council**

Tameside council's Home and Community Support Team identified areas where they were able to work with service users and external partners, taking a collaborative, person-centred and technology driven approach to facilitate improvement, ease pressure on local care providers and improve outcomes for service users.

### **Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council**

Last September 2021, Wigan borough welcomed its first intake of 150 Afghan evacuees to Wigan. A partnership team, led by the council, was immediately stepped up to provide wrap-around health and care support for residents. This support has now been on-going for many months and a huge amount has been achieved. The team truly embodies what it means to work in Wigan and exemplifies the best of local government.

### JUDGES

**Saffron Cordery**, Deputy Chief Executive, NHS Providers  
**Tom Stannard**, Chief Executive, Salford City Council



**NHS Providers is  
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Care and Health  
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## Chief Executive of the Year

### **Karen Bradford, South Kesteven District Council**

She was described as 'a legend in her own lifetime,' by the chief executive leading the corporate peer challenge because of her unrelenting ambition for the council and the district, outstanding bravery in identifying, tackling and solving problems, and total commitment to creating a 'one team' culture and enabling all staff to achieve their potential. Karen is an authentic leader, practicing what she preaches.

### **Monica Fogarty, Warwickshire County Council**

Monica's leadership is outstanding. She moves with pace, precision, determination and commitment while her passion and compassion consistently inspire and motivate. What sets Monica apart is her ability to deliver a huge programme of work to an exceptional standard, while responding to a crisis. Having recently completed an organisational-wide restructure, Monica faced the task of leading the Council with a new operating model, against the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic, two Ofsted inspections, a Special Educational Needs (SEND) inspection, a fire and rescue inspection and the closure of a care home for vulnerable elderly residents.

### **Ian Fytche, North Kesteven District Council**

Ian Fytche is the engaging and visionary chief executive of North Kesteven DC, identified as 'strong, stable, financially-secure' and well-run by a 'strong, competent team'. With Ian at the helm, it has made impressive progress in community leadership, economic development and regeneration. A leading investor and innovator in social housing, employment opportunity, arts and leisure, it is advancing bold ambition for climate action and promoting the health of its communities.

### **Eleanor Kelly, London Borough of Southwark**

Eleanor has delivered brilliantly for Southwark and services are in a better place for her leadership. Eleanor's commitment goes beyond Southwark working on the London COVID response and the national vaccine programme. She has gone the extra miles to protect and keep safe the community and understands first-hand the experience those most at risk face in getting through each day. She has laid the pathways for the next generation of local government superstars.

### **Stuart Love, Westminster City Council**

Stuart Love, a formidable leader with wisdom, insights, depth of knowledge and generosity of spirit for growing talent. His ability to understand complex organisational structures, theories and challenges and translate that into meaningful concepts that staff can relate to and are willing to join him in the pursuit of creating a City for All is credit to his compassionate leadership. He has demonstrated excellent leadership and commitment as set out in the submission attached.

### **Barry Quirk, Royal London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea**

Barry Quirk, with decades of service to local authorities, stepped in to handle the worst peacetime disaster in London's history, and the worst domestic fire in the UK's history. He changed an organisation beyond recognition in the five years. He is public service, integrity, and honesty, personified.

## JUDGES

**Ade Adetosoye**, London Borough of Bromley

**Alison Griffin**, London Councils

**Joanne Roney**, Manchester City Council

**Kate Kennally**, Cornwall Council

**Alison McKenzie-Folan**, Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council

**Carolyn Downs**, London Borough of Brent





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# Cratus

## Community Hero

### Derby City Council

Tracey Cunningham, the council's Safespace Community Paramedic, has gone above and beyond her duty as a paramedic and played an integral role in helping the city become national leaders in vaccinating the homeless. Tracey displayed strong attributes of resilience and compassion to build the trust of her community.

### Gedling Borough Council

The Richard Herrod Centre acted as the heart of this community during the pandemic, showing how adaptable and resilient the council-led community centre can be. Furthermore, it has shown how officers and partners working together can help across a wide range of public health issues.

### Great Yarmouth Borough Council

The council created a network of 88 community champions that understand language needs during the dissemination of COVID-19 information. Through holding doorstep, virtual and community event conversations they went the extra mile to ensure they provided an inclusive community.

### New Forest District Council

A dedicated councillor since 2007, Cllr Neville Penman tirelessly serves his community across a diverse number of projects. This includes raising £50,000 for Forest Park special school to build a sensory garden and campaigning for a direct bus service to the Southampton General Hospital to improve accessibility on public transport.

### Slough Borough Council

An exceptional display of an individual recognising the needs of her community during a time of crisis, Kam Birde worked and volunteered with a call centre supporting vulnerable people. Kam delivered food, prescriptions and stewarded the mass vaccination centre to keep her community safe.

### South Gloucestershire Council

The HandyVan team is a maintenance service for elderly and vulnerable residents initially suspended during the early lockdowns. Instead of staying home, this team adapted to support the council's COVID response with practical operation and logistics, including delivering IT equipment to staff working from home and signage to COVID test centres.

### South Norfolk & Broadland Council

A heart-warming story of the unsung COVID-19 essential workers who continued every day of the pandemic despite the obvious risks. The women and men who empty our bins and often go under appreciated everyday continued in their work from the Ketteringham Depot to ensure their community kept clean and never missed a round.

### JUDGES

**Nick Kilby**, Chief Executive, Cratus

**Charlotte Platten**, Head of Advisory Programme, Cratus

**Chris Roberts**, Senior Associate, Cratus

**Andrew Taylor**, Director of Planning, Countryside

**Sophie Timms**, Corporate Affairs Director, Kier Group



# Cratus is Proud to sponsor the Community Heroes Award

We are passionate about improving the public sector. By enabling politicians and officers to become high performing teams, we help councils deliver for their communities what was promised by those who form the political Leadership, supported by robust scrutiny, good governance and great communications.

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- Strategic Growth Review Programme
- Integrated Care Reviews

## The Cratus Associates



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Ian  
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Stephen  
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Steve  
Quartermain, CBE



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# Cratus

Our World is Local





## Corporate Director of the Year

### **Polly Cziok**

#### **Strategic Director Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development, London Borough of Hackney**

Engaging communities through this heightened period of emergency and uncertainty and instilling hope for a positive future requires skilled community engagement. Polly's work in tackling these challenges and in parallel seeing the opportunity was notable. Particularly impressive is the use of data and evidence in understanding cultural requirements across communities.

### **Victoria Eaton**

#### **Director of Public Health, Leeds City Council**

Given the demands on public health in a large scale, leading urban environment coupled with starting the role in Feb 2020, Victoria has demonstrated a calm, collegiate and authoritative leadership approach. Proving highly effective in the phases of pandemic response, re-response and a bold renewal vision ensuing thereafter.

### **Matt Lamb**

#### **Director of Planning & Growth, Newark and Sherwood District Council**

The demands on economic growth and planning have been significant through this period and Matt's work navigating these challenges in supporting local communities along with leading on response is impressive. Winning significant funding bids in parallel and in turn harnessing the commitment of stakeholders, businesses and communities were also noted.

### **Nigel Minns**

#### **Strategic Director for People, Warwickshire County Council**

The combined people directorate streams of public health, children, adults and commissioning in a large county provide considerable challenges. Nigel's work in leading across these key areas and seeing performance metrics improve are worthy of note. This then positioned the county well for continuous improvement, supported through a cross-section of stakeholder endorsements.

### **Matt Pope**

#### **Director of Adult Services, Wokingham Borough Council**

Leading adult services through a pandemic and in parallel tackling significant financial pressures plus driving transformation were all evident in Matt's nomination. Performance improvements across key metrics were noted as well as a commitment to innovation programmes with life-changing impact. Partnership working also featured alongside a key focus on communities.

## JUDGES

**Jacqui Gedman**, Chief Executive, Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council

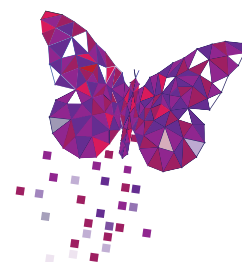
**Andrew Kerr**, Chief Executive, Edinburgh City Council

**Jes Ladva**, Odgers Interim

**Geoff Raw**, Chief Executive, Brighton & Hove Council

**Claire Symonds**, Chief Executive, London Borough of Redbridge

**Will Tuckley**, Chief Executive, London Borough of Tower Hamlets





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## Delivering Better Outcomes

### Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council

An innovative multi-agency initiative, a breakthrough in co-designed neighbourhood focused working. that brings partners together with funding, resources, and an appetite for change. It is a great example of real co-design and partnership working and the enthusiasm of both those delivering and receiving the projects is very apparent.

### London Borough of Brent

Brent Community Hubs was created from an outcome-based review with residents and service users resulting in the council working with voluntary sector organisations and residents to deliver a localised support service in the most deprived areas of the borough. It is an early intervention partnership approach at a community level.

### East Hertfordshire District Council

Centred on a play area, people from all walks of life gather to unleash their creativity and joy. It started with the council's plans to turn a common into a destination park for the district. It progressed with a hugely successful crowd funding campaign, and ended with not just a new facility, but council-community relations on an all-time high and a new community engagement and funding model for the council and others to follow.

### London Borough of Enfield

By providing a conduit between schools and external agencies and by guaranteeing an agile approach and high-quality interventions the Enfield Nexus project has shown that delivering excellent outcomes is possible. NEXUS has saved the local

authority financially but more importantly the community from the trauma of permanent exclusion and all the attendant impact that can have on individuals, their families and future life chances.

### London Borough of Hounslow

Community Solutions is a new, transformational model, the cornerstone of a preventative approach for Hounslow and focuses on independent living. It provides support and advice to residents online, via telephone and in-person at community locations across the borough. It has been developed alongside the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector and other key partners.

### Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

The Mid and East Antrim Loneliness Network launched in December 2019 aiming to support people to live well within cohesive and well-connected communities. Innovative achievements include: seven 'Chatty Benches', four 'Chatty Cafes', eight 'Connected Chatty Walks', 60 android tablets distributed, a social media and bus campaign highlighting loneliness issues and a webinar discussing loneliness in children and young people.

### Staffordshire Moorlands District Council/ High Peak Borough Council

Pick-Fit is aimed at residents of both councils and is available to over 87,000 households across the two counties. It's a project which is directed at improving two key socio-economic factors: helping with resident's physical and mental wellbeing and improving the environment they live in.

### JUDGES

**Helen Archer-Lock**, Managing Director, Recruitment Division, Commercial Services Group

**Amanda Beer**, Corporate Director of People & Communications, Kent County Council

**Kevin O'Keefe**, Chief Executive, Dudley Borough Council

**Robin Porter**, Chief Executive, Luton Borough Council

**Carolyn Williamson**, Chief Executive, Hampshire County Council

**Leigh Whitehouse**, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Resources, Surrey County Council

### COMMENDED

**Oxfordshire County Council**

**Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council**

**Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council**



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## MCLEAN PARTNERSHIP

# Digital Transformation

### London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

ComSol (Community Solutions) was set up in 2017 to provide a 'front door' for residents. This was supported by a corporate insight hub which brought together data scientists, behavioural scientists and service designers and then in 2018 partnered with EY and Xantura to design 'One View'. Innovation at its best, tackling strategic 'wicked issues' by data driven, multi-disciplinary teams, taking a holistic approach to the problems.

### Carmarthenshire County Council

The Delta Connect programme demonstrates cross sector working across west Wales and has the service user/customer at its centre, reaching 4000 people focussed on wellbeing. The submission is illustrated with some good case studies. Good on metrics. Now in its second year of delivery, the programme has continued to evolve to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable are met.

### Durham County Council

A well laid-out submission outlining a specific programme, Tech to Tackle Litter. There was evidence of understanding a multifaceted problem with an engaged multidisciplinary team to solve. Success was underpinned by culture change while project outcomes and impact were also clear. Although focussed on one service, this approach could be used across multiple services and drive organisational digital transformation.

### London Borough of Hounslow

Professionally laid out submission with much detail on context and well-illustrated, a preventative community solutions model with evidence of user/customer centred design. Overall, it shows the increasing digital maturity of the organisation by adopting agile methodologies.

### Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Well put together submission highlighting a programme clear on both the purposes and challenges- very simply to introduce a digital education and health plan for 1,700 children. Evidence of a good understanding of the problem and a clear strategy set with service improvement through the use of sector technology.

### Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

Overall, this geo-spatial capability really brings to life the power of data to support place-based services and insight. Responsive decision making and procurement demonstrated in the submission. Good use and sharing of data. Outline of long terms benefit mentioned for building control, and holidays, activities and food programme.

## JUDGES

**Bayo Dosunmo**, Deputy Chief Executive, London Borough of Lambeth

**Emma Moore**, Chief Operating Officer, City of London Corporation.

**Geoff Raw**, Chief Executive, Brighton and Hove City Council

**Jonathan Swain**, Senior Partner, The McLean Partnership







Congratulations to all  
the finalists for this year's  
Digital Transformation Award!

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MCLEAN  
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# Innovation in Building Diversity and Inclusion

## Birmingham City Council

This is a very impressive submission from the council's Shelforce, particularly in terms of the business transformation required in employing disabled people, the really positive and lasting impact and the great return on investment data showing objectives with clear measurable impact. Shelforce was able to reinvent itself to be self-sufficient and sustainable and offer young disabled people employment opportunities as well as opportunities to progress once in work.

## London Borough of Redbridge

An example of positive and practical engagement of the community in redesigning council facilities. It provided a good illustration and evidence of embedding equality, diversity and inclusion through acceptance via collaboration, demonstrating community benefit and measurable impact, particularly around inclusive and representative co design and collaboration, using community hubs and a range of tools and data to address multiple issues.

## South Lanarkshire Council

A very positive initiative aimed at gypsy/traveller communities that used genuinely innovative approaches and is a great example of supporting harder-to-reach communities. It seems to have had a lasting impact on a range of fronts including community engagement and empowerment, digital skills, and fuel poverty while the learning can be transferred to other marginalised groups.

## London Borough of Wandsworth

Accessibility is a challenge that many will face at one time in their lives so having units that can be multiple purposed and functional creates a more inclusive environment for multi occupant use. This is a relatively simple solution which is both preventative and delivers great impact in providing accessibility. The innovation is very much in its simplicity, applicability, and impact. The entry embodies the principle of inclusivity at the outset as opposed to as an afterthought Cost savings are realised, and quality is enhanced.

## Worcestershire County Council

At a time when there are significant skills shortages across the country digital inclusion and skills development will provide an essential contribution to helping organisations to be inclusive and support tackling some of these skills gaps. This project, SCULPT for Accessibility, provides digital accessibility in a user-friendly way, challenging preconceptions and sharing of good practice on digital/accessibility etiquette, with the opportunity for broader dissemination across sectors. The benefits to the community are significant and the sustainability of the approach is what also makes it innovative.

## JUDGES

**Juliette Alban-Metcalf**, Chief Executive, Real World Group (Ltd)

**Charlotte Croffie**, Partner, Local Government, GatenbySanderson

**Mark Hodgkinson**, Chief Executive, Scope, Co-chair, Disability Charities Consortium

**Tony Osude**, Commercial and Marketing Director, CIPD (business, commercial and international)





# INCL

# US

# IVE

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Sanderson**

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# Innovation in Children's and Adults' Services

## Birmingham City Council

Launched during the pandemic and drawing on the skills, creativity and experience of professionals from all sectors to deliver a unique model of support, Birmingham's Preparation for Adult service supports young people before they reach crisis. The entry showed wide partnership engagement.

## Hertfordshire County Council

An outstanding whole-system innovation in services for children and their families, that has led to significant reductions in the need for children to be in care but, more importantly, has changed the relationships that families have with social workers and safeguarding partners.

## Lincolnshire County Council

This entry was very professionally constructed, outlined co-production up front and showed good use of qualitative data. It addressed the tricky call centre issue and took a whole system approach. Technology was seen as part of a wider solution and there was good evidence of impact financially and on residents.

## Manchester City Council

Manchester's New Arrivals Team (NAT) was established as a response to the growing number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) presenting in the city. Through the NAT, UASC and 'care leavers' in Manchester benefit from a robust partnership team with a coordinated multi-agency offer. Emotional health and wellbeing work was impressive.

## London Borough of Newham

The Newham Multi Agency Collaborative (Newham MAC) was

established in 2021 to enable children and young people to access support before their needs escalate. A partnership of 47 organisations from across the borough have coordinated a pathway to connect over 200 children and young people to the creative arts. A good use of available community resource was demonstrated.

## Salford City Council

Strong leadership was evident in this entry with impressive use of co-production, demonstrating the quantitative and qualitative impact and financial cost. Health investment is a real strength.

## Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

An ambitious and stable senior leadership team is dedicated to the delivery of what's right for children. Ofsted's recent inspection recognised outcomes for children and their families have been improving. Children's services are now 'good' and independently praised for 'exceptional practice' after 12 years of required improvement.

## Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council

Led by the council, Power2 helps those at affected by or at risk of exploitation by providing a wide range of intensive support tailored to an individual's needs. Power2 represents a fresh approach built on collaboration and the development of strong relationships and trust with the young person. As well as delivering far better outcomes for young people, it is driving substantial savings and reducing demand on services for the long-term.

## JUDGES

**Graham Farrant**, Chief Executive, BCP Council

**Monica Fogerty**, Chief Executive, Warwickshire CC

**Jane Parfremment**, Chief Executive, Staff College

**Charlotte Ramsden OBE**, President, Association of Directors of Children's Services

**Simon Ray**, Director, Hampton's Resourcing



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## Leadership in Responding to Climate Emergency

### Cheshire West and Chester Council

The council is strong on partnership working and engagement with industry and business, important with the strongly industrial nature of some of this area. The council's ambition permeates and cascades through the organisation, across all service areas and is founded on a programme of e-learning on carbon literacy for all staff.

### London Borough of Enfield/London Borough of Waltham Forest, supported by London Councils

London Councils has ground-breaking plans to achieve an average of EPC B across all 3.8 million residential properties in London by 2030, involving local authorities, housing associations, contractors and other partners. The plans are huge, data-led and collaborative, and could be an exemplar for others to replicate.

### Essex County Council

The judges were impressed by the excellent leadership and support for the other local authorities in Essex CC's area. It has a focus on sustainable land use, resonating with the key risks identified in the UK's third climate change risk assessment. The road map for area wide net-zero is very clearly set out with ambitious interim milestones and the council shows a clear focus on Scope 3 emissions.

### Manchester City Council

Manchester is a respected and ambitious leader in responding to climate change, with a well-established programme of delivery that is communicated to residents across the city. In 2021 it recruited three new climate change neighbourhood officers to immerse climate action into ward plans, reflecting how climate response priorities are embedded into decision making.

### South Cambridgeshire District Council

South Cambridgeshire has a clear plan with ambitious targets and innovative projects for reducing emissions and reaching net-zero, with political leadership prioritising its climate ambitions. This is embedded across the council, as organisations bidding for large council contracts must submit plans on how to achieve their own, and their supply chain's, net-zero emissions.

### Wokingham Borough Council

Wokingham presented a strong, honest submission that demonstrates the benefit of clear leadership to go from a standing start to effective engagement and development of the action plan. The authority has made swift and decisive progress from a historic base which did not prioritise or resourcing climate or sustainability issues, to it being a core and driving organisational objective.

### JUDGES

**Hannah Bartram**, Chief Executive Officer, ADEPT  
**Clr Bev Craig**, Leader, Manchester City Council  
**Simon McWhirter**, Director of Communications, Policy & Places, UKGBC  
**Rachel Toresen-Owuor**, Programme Director, Climate Response, Local Partnerships  
**Jo Wall**, Strategic Director, Climate Response, Local Partnerships

### COMMENDED

**Avon Fire & Rescue Service**  
**Blackpool Council**







# Proud sponsors of “Leadership in responding to the Climate Emergency”

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Our experts provide trusted, professional support and advice across multiple disciplines to support councils in the

development of their climate response strategies. These include waste and the circular economy, infrastructure, building retrofit, energy, housing and regeneration, commercialisation, and more.

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# Place Based Approaches to Health Equity

## Basildon Borough Council

This local delivery pilot has been running since 2017, using whole system approaches to health improvement in communities with strong local partnerships. Focused on physical activity it has strong reach into different areas including education, workplace, environments, social prescribing. Local micro-grants create local capacity, the pilot bringing further resource and capacity.

## Newcastle City Council

Team Vaccine worked with data on inequalities, across health care sectors to focus on communities known to be disadvantaged with poor access, drawing in a wide range with trusted contributions across time such as libraries with a whole system workforce approach. The project was elected by NHS England for their innovative practice including the engagement of community champions.

## London Borough of Newham

50 Steps to a Healthier Borough engaged a large number of stakeholders developing a focused team using the evidence base to determine a collective endeavour heavily focused on social determinants. It involved the creation of a strategy with 12 priority areas from health in all policies to housing. Although in the early stages its one-year progress report was published last year, including indicators showing a clear sense of momentum.

## North Lanarkshire Council

The entry described the creation of an outdoor learning environment for young people during COVID-19. Although focused on education challenges created by COVID-19, the initiative has innovative approaches to outdoor learning, co-creation of a new learning environment, recycled materials and inspirational linkages between community, young people and schools.

## North Somerset Council

The council's joint health and wellbeing strategy showed an embedded approach to population health improvement aiming for sustainability, working across a whole locality and its infrastructures. It draws on an approach developed from public health learning including community co-working, and clear leadership. The submission is very clear and well presented with strong visual content.

## JUDGES

**Chair: Carol Brayne CBE**, Professor of Public Health Medicine in the Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge, Director of Cambridge Public Health

**Ravi Gurumurthy**, Governor, the Health Foundation, Chief Executive, Nesta, Chair, Behavioural Insights Team

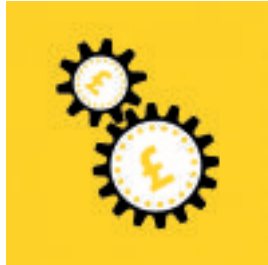
**Jonathan McShane**, Chair of Trustees, Terrence Higgins Trust

**Katherine Merrifield**, Assistant Director in Healthy Lives, the Health Foundation

**Gwen Nightingale**, Assistant Director in Healthy Lives, the Health Foundation



# How do...



money and resources



work



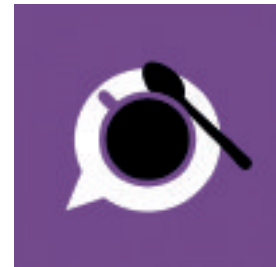
transport



housing



neighbourhoods  
and surroundings



family, friends and  
community

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# TILE HILL

## Rising Star

### **Grace Couch** Swale Borough Council

Grace has made a real impact at Swale in a short space of time. From securing funding for new initiatives, working with the lead cabinet member and organising steering groups with key partners, she has already made a huge contribution to the council's climate change agenda and will go far.

### **Emily Doorbar** Staffordshire County Council

Emily made a huge contribution to protecting the health and wellbeing of the people of Staffordshire during the pandemic. She has led several service improvement initiatives to place the council amongst the highest ranking in the West Midlands. Emily has been recognised for numerous national awards, demonstrating her commitment to public service.

### **Simon Mitchell** Oxfordshire County Council

Simon's work is extremely important in the community. He started his career in crown and county court before moving into local government. He took on a role that didn't technically require much initiative, but Simon took it on himself to bring extra value and make significant and lasting improvements.

### **Matthew Pinning** Ashfield District Council

Matthew has shown tremendous amounts of perseverance, overcoming a number of obstacles and being so determined to succeed. He really has taken a truly devastating situation and turned it into an opportunity to develop and grow, using his experience to encourage others who are facing difficult times.

### **Martin Russell** London Borough of Barking & Dagenham

Martin is very passionate about arts and culture, which he has used to inspire and improve outcomes for the most vulnerable young people. His approach to his role as culture and wellbeing lead has been fantastic. He has led on various initiatives that have all been successful.

### **Kieran Simpson** City of Wolverhampton Council

Kieran successfully spearheaded the council's ambitions to become a Rainbow City, giving this agenda direction and leadership through his own initiative and authenticity. He's shown that he is able to make difficult decisions and has good relationship building skills, having successfully engaged the whole workforce in changing the organisation's culture.

### **Claire Skipper** Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Claire shows true dedication to her role in supporting the public. She has been a bedrock of support to her colleagues throughout the pandemic, creating and championing a health and wellbeing programme. She also volunteers her spare time to support the most vulnerable, including young people, the homeless and ex-offenders.

### **Kirsty Thakur** Hertfordshire County Council

Kirsty has gone above and beyond as head of community and people wellbeing services, having worked in various roles with Hertfordshire and progressing to head of service. She recently worked across departments to provide a coordinated response to support newly arrived Afghan refugees, whilst also working tirelessly on the COVID response.

## JUDGES

**Helen Anderson**, Senior Consultant, Tile Hill  
**Aruj Haider**, Chief Digital and Innovation Officer, Westminster City Council  
**Nik Shah**, Senior Consultant, Tile Hill  
**Jayne Traverse**, Executive Director of Place, Cheshire East Council  
**Rebecca Wilshire**, Director of Children's Social Care/Deputy Chief Executive, Doncaster Children's Services Trust

## COMMENDED

**Javeria Ali** – Wokingham Borough Council  
**Ceren Clulow** – Nottinghamshire County Council  
**Florry Duddles** – Nottinghamshire County Council  
**Paige Kerry** – North East Derbyshire District Council  
**Nadia Khan** – City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council  
**Dan McClure** – South Cambridgeshire District Council  
**Nathan Thompson** – Lewisham Council  
**Leah Wallage-Coyne** – Telford & Wrekin Council





# **We're committed to seeking out the best leadership talent in the public sector, no matter where they are in their journey.**

We're beyond proud to continue our sponsorship of such an important category and help Rising Stars get the recognition and acknowledgement they deserve.

In fact, we've taken our commitment beyond the applause of the night thanks to the creation of our Rise & Shine initiative. A platform that actively engages with, develops and offers valuable leadership networking opportunities to those creating brighter futures for local authorities, everywhere. And, with the standard of this year's nominees being so high, we know it'll be a night full of incredible stars, no matter what the result. Good luck to all the nominees.

TILE  LL





## Senior Leadership Team

### **Chorley Council and South Ribble Borough Council**

This SLT came across well as they have committed to investing in their local communities to create a healthy, fair, and sustainable borough. They have shown clear evidence of great leadership strategy and vision, thereby empowering individuals with their action plans. Moreover, there is acknowledgement on the need for more improvement.

### **Milton Keynes Council**

This SLT has been a choice for all as it shows great team vision and effort. The council showed how bold decisions have helped address pressing issues facing the council, showing evidence that their leadership has delivered improved outcomes to the lives of its users.

### **Portsmouth City Council**

This SLT has showed great leadership with its integrated approach and place-based arrangements which have guided their work locally. They have showed evidence of effective leadership and management which has cascaded throughout their organisation and made great efforts to improve outcomes for its people.

### **Telford and Wrekin Council**

This SLR have demonstrated in their work a clear leadership strategy with a common vision, especially during the pandemic. They have been a driving force in elevating the local authority to great standards. They have also shown a clear vision and collaborative way of working have delivered excellent performance across social care, regeneration, the climate change agenda and many other areas.

### **West Lindsey District Council**

Two years ago the council adopted a new senior leadership model. Within months it was faced with COVID! This SLT displayed exceptional leadership as it continued to deliver on key projects, empowering individuals and making an impact with consultation and policy changes.

### **Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council**

This SLT's response to the pandemic was led by creativity and exemplified how strong local government, and true partnership working, together met the biggest health and social challenge we have faced. Now the council is taking on its community wealth building approach, addressing climate change, and tackling inequality. Great leadership, characterised by trust and positivity, has been shown.

## JUDGES

**Niall Bolger**, Chief Executive, London Borough of Hounslow  
**Councillor Andreas Kirsch**, Royal London Borough of Kingston upon Thames  
**Becky Shaw**, Chief Executive, East Sussex County Council  
**Caroline Simpson**, Chief Executive, Stockport MBC  
**Ian Thomas**, Chief Executive, Royal London Borough of Kingston upon Thames  
**Liz Watts**, Chief Executive, South Cambridgeshire District Council  
**Rob Whiteman**, Chief Executive Officer, CIPFA



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## Transforming Lives

### **Amargh, Bambridge and Craigavon Borough Council**

A longstanding healthy activity project that has brought people with different life experiences together and delivered improved outcomes and better learning for all.

### **Hull City Council**

By reframing the issue, Hull have created a safe and cost effective environment of children and solved multiple problems in a new (yet old) way.

### **Middlesbrough Council**

Using an accelerated digital approach with minimal initial investment, agencies have responded effectively to long COVID's widespread challenge and its long-term consequences.

### **Norfolk County Council**

The targeted youth support service used a new challenging model based on individual relationships which has changed the lives of those involved and established a positive model for working in the future.

### **Nottingham City Council/ Nottinghamshire County Council**

The Future Impact Team used external funding to galvanise activity and improve support to a specific vulnerable group with promising results.

### JUDGES

- Frances Craven**, formerly Chief Executive of Sandwell Children's Trust  
**Doreen Forrester-Brown**, Director of Law and Governance, London Borough of Southwark  
**Julie Howarth**, Director of Engagement, Solace  
**Graeme McDonald**, Managing Director of Solace and Solace in Business  
**Paul Najsarek**, formerly Chief Executive of London Borough of Ealing and Solace Policy Lead Spokesperson for Health and Social Care







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## Workforce Transformation

### Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Some years ago the decision was taken to demolish four ageing leisure facilities in the Craigavon area and build a new state of the art leisure facility, South Lake Leisure Centre. It is the largest capital project (£35m+) undertaken by the council and among the largest in Northern Ireland. The project has proved successful with staff helping to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community.

### London Boroughs of Sutton and Kingston-upon-Thames

Kingston and Sutton councils employ over 2,400 staff. In order to make real changes to working practices, policies and procedures they have worked with staff to harness their collective power and drive changes across both organisations and with the communities that we serve.

### Wakefield City Council

From high levels of sickness and churn, plus 31% of social workers being agency in 2018. Wakefield's children's services has changed in three years to vacancy levels below national averages and 93% of social workers recommending it as a place to work. With an Ofsted rating that has moved from Inadequate Good with Outstanding leadership it is an incredible transformation.

### London Borough of Waltham Forest

Waltham Forest's innovative workforce transformation programme is working in partnership with staff to create engaged, diverse and ambitious teams led by inspirational managers within a shared culture focused on developing the best possible services to the community.

### Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council

Some 21 months, 50 new children's social workers, with another 16 on the way and a 55% reduction in social worker turnover. The transformation of children's social care workforce has been at scale and pace, achieved against a national picture of increased vacancies across children's social care and high turnover and in the middle of global pandemic.

### Worcestershire County Council

SCULPT is a whole organisation approach to train and upskill the workforce to promote accessibility awareness and basic digital skills, so everybody across the workforce, no matter what level of IT skills can apply the very basic principles of digital accessibility into all documents and content they produce.

### JUDGES

**Tom Black**, Managing Director, Hammond Clarke  
**Tracey Connage**, Director of HR & OD, Harrow Council  
**Steve Davies**, Head of London Regional Employers Organisation  
**Anthony Francis**, Director of Client Engagement, Hammond Clarke  
**Gordon McFarlane**, Assistant Director – Corporate Services, Leicestershire County Council  
**Caroline Nugent**, HR & OD Director, Financial Ombudsman Service

### COMMENDED

**London Borough of Barking & Dagenham**  
**Torbay Council**  
**Newark & Sherwood District Council**



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