# ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2022

# Winners Brochure

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



### **Congratulations to all our winners**

What a fantastic job local authority teams have all done during the past year judging by the amazing number and variety of entries they submitted to The MJ Local Government Achievement Awards 2022! And what a wonderful gala celebration luncheon we enjoyed at the Park Plaza Hotel, Westminster, London on June 24 when one of the most experienced foreign correspondents and anchor man to the BBC News Channel, Clive Myrie, announced the winners of our 18 categories to an audience of 900 guests.

Over the following pages you will find the names of the winners and highly commended in the local authority teams selected by our panels of independent judges.

Congratulations goes to all the council teams for doing such an amazing job – and a big thanks as well for telling us and the world about their achievements.

Our judges had a really challenging task picking the winners from such high quality entries and the results can be found over the following pages. Thanks again go to our judges, our sponsors who make these awards possible and most of all the local authority teams for delivering such amazing services to their communities. See you next year!



Michael Burton Editorial Director The MJ Awards



Heather Jameson Editor, The MJ



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#### Congratulations to the 2022 MJ Award Winners.

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

### The world has changed. Fortunately, change is what we do.

With ever-increasing public demands, the need for strong leadership and innovative, inclusive thinking across Local Government is more crucial than ever.

Green Park is an industry pioneer in building diverse senior leadership teams and more equitable workplace cultures. Born out of change, we have spent 15 years building networks that put us at the heart of a broader community. So, when it comes to meeting the demands of today's and tomorrow's changing marketplace, Green Park delivers outcome-focused, inclusive leadership solutions against the sector's executive resourcing and talent pipelining objectives. Award-winning Provider of Interim Management & Executive Search Solutions, our appointments across Local Government are:

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### Local Authority of the Year

### WINNER Telford and Wrekin Council



Clive Myrie, Cllr Carolyn Healy, Cllr Lee Carter, Cllr Paul Watling, Cllr Shirley Reynolds, Simon Wellman, Jo Britton, Cllr Shaun Davis, Cllr Richard Overton, Dean Sargeant, Jonathan Rowe, Cllr Eileen Callear, Felicity Mercer, Sue Wilson, Sarah Dillon, Neil Lupin (Green Park).

With a broad range of excellent core services, Telford and Wrekin Council is a place shaper with a positive approach to its partnerships. It also has a dynamic and robust focus on its residents. A sense of empowerment is felt across its staff community, with inclusive leadership at the heart of decision making. Indeed, staff cite 'making a difference to communities' as their number one reason for working there. While the council is a leader in areas such as children's services, it's 'hyper local' approach to service delivery also enables it to quickly make a positive difference in very targeted areas.

#### 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

# Leaders Leading by Example

It is time to recognise the leaders who have demonstrated in their work the essence of leadership, humility, resilience, and commitment to public services.

As proud sponsors and judges of The MJ Chief Executive of the Year award, we are always searching for chief executives who can empower and inspire.







# **O**Penna

#### JUDGES

Ade Adetosoye, Chief Executive, London Borough of Bromley Alison Griffin, Chief Executive, London Councils Joanne Roney, Chief Executive, Manchester City Council Kate Kennally, Chief Executive, Cornwall Council Alison McKenzie-Folan, Chief Executive, Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, London Borough of Brent

### **Chief Executive of the Year**

WINNER Monica Fogarty Chief Executive, Warwickshire County Council



Clive Myrie, Monica Fogarty, Dawar Hashmi (Penna).

Under Monica's leadership, Warwickshire CC has shown excellent performance, innovative approach, and visionary thinking. Monica has had a phenomenal year in which she has advanced the objectives of the council with agile working and financial resilience, whilst maintaining the best and highest standards of quality for residents and service users. Monica is the very essence of leadership, resilience, and commitment to public services making her a clear standout for this award.

The Association for Public Service Excellence was 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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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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- Training

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### **Best Council Services Team**

### WINNER London Borough of Redbridge



Bethany McCay, Suzanne Lansley, Clive Myrie, Brett Leahy, Paul O'Brien (APSE).

The London Borough of Redbridge showcases how to deliver a 21st century service to communities. Its planning team has embraced a joined up approach with phenomenal outcomes, providing improvements across the authority and proving that an excellent planning department can have a major impact on the lives and the surroundings of the whole area.

#### JUDGES

Chris Cutforth, 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

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council



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### **Best EV Charging Project**

### WINNER Durham County Council



Tracy Millmore

Mark Wilkes



Durham CC's Scaling On-Street Charging Infrastructure project sows seeds to democratise charging infrastructure, serving both the city's terraced streets and rural areas with low EV adoption. The project has been characterised by extensive community engagement, social innovations and full integration with the council's wider carbon reduction strategy.

#### JUDGES

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

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Dundee City Council

### **Introducing the IRRV**

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.

A key aim of the Institute is to support its members' professional and personal development and the sharing of best practice. We keep our members informed of current issues through our **magazines**, **publications** and a **comprehensive website**.

Our conferences and meetings offer opportunities for networking with other professionals from the UK and overseas whilst our Forum Service continues to attract new organisations each year; the current membership now exceeding 200.

We seek to influence the course of legislative and professional matters through dialogue with government bodies and other professional organisations and through commissioning and conducting original research. This is led by the Institute's three Faculty Boards; Local Taxation and Revenues, Benefits and Valuation.

The IRRV offers marketing solutions to help you meet your business objectives. Allying your business objectives with IRRV assures that you enjoy all the benefits of association with the right events and products, targeted at the right audience, with a promotional programme that reinforces your marketing strategy.

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IRRV, 167 - 169 Great Portland Street, 5th Floor, London W1W 5PF





#### JUDGES

Mike De'Ath, Partner, HTA Richard Harbord, Past President, IRRV David Magor, Chief Executive, IRRV Alistair Townsend, President, IRRV

### Best Social Housing Initiative

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED: London Borough of Southwark

### WINNER Carmarthenshire County Council



Carly Thomas, Louise Walters, Jayne Samuel, Kathryn Pink, Kelly Wood, Angela Bowen, Gareth Williams, Kay Morgans, Scott Gould, Clive Myrie, Alistair Townsend (IRRV).

The judges were impressed by Carmarthenshire's commitment to the wellbeing of the growing number of your people who were presenting as homeless. The council has created a project, with support from the Welsh Government, which creates a safe and sustainable transition that prepares young people for independent living and into sustained longer term secured homes. The activate participation of the young people in the project and in its presentation to the judging panel was outstanding.





**NHS Confederation** 

Congratulations to the winner of the Care and Health Integration award, and all other winners at the MJ awards

> Close working between trusts and their local authority partners has never been more important and we will continue to support and celebrate successful collaboration.

> > We have joined forces with the Local Government Association and the NHS Confederation to deliver a range of free, bespoke support for local health and care systems through the Leading Integration Peer Support Programme.

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> > > > Learn more about our workshops, peer reviews and events at nhsproviders.org/peersupport



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### **Care & Health Integration**

#### JUDGES

Adam Brimelow, Director of Communications, NHS Providers Tom Stannard, Chief Executive, Salford City Council

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (Home and Community Support Team)

### WINNER Essex County Council



Clive Myrie, Matthew Barnett, Matt Williamson, Meghan Maguire, Russell White, Sarah Collins, Gerdalize Dutoit, Michael Plant, Peter Fairley, James Jamieson (LGA).

Essex CC's initiative Connect: Transforming Health and Care Services in Essex had a really clear breadth of partnerships involving a number of big providers in a complex landscape. It showed good evidence of cost avoidance and impressive outcomes on the size and scale of cohorts of people it supported in the community. In particular, it showed impressive evidence of the numbers of people who had avoided admissions to hospital as a result of their interventions and partnership work. This was an ambitious well-executed programme, carefully developed on the basis of rigorous diagnostic work and pilots.

# Congratulations to todays winners!

#### 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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- Mentoring for Councillors & Officers in new Leadership roles.
- Strategic Growth Review Programme
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Our World is Local



### Cratus

### **Community Heroes**

WINNER Tracy Cunningham, Derby City Council



Clive Myrie, Tracy Cunningham, Charlotte Platten (Cratus).

Tracy Cunningham, the council's Safespace Community Paramedic is this year's Community Hero. The judges felt that she went above and beyond her duties as a paramedic to help the city become national leaders in vaccinating the homeless. Tracy challenges both her community and the council to deliver real, lasting impact.

#### 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

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED:

South Norfolk & Broadland Councils (Ketteringham Depot) Great Yarmouth Borough Council (Community Champions)

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### Corporate Director of the Year

WINNER Nigel Minns,

Nigel Minns, Strategic Director for People, Warwickshire County Council



Clive Myrie, Nigel Minns, Jes Ladva (Odgers Interim).

A worthy winner in an incredibly competitive field, Nigel showed effective leadership across complex and demanding service areas as well as contributing corporately. His inspiring leadership style was delivered with humility and ambition for all. A focus on outcomes and rigorous use of data to validate them shone through.

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

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Victoria Eaton, Director of Public Health, Leeds City Council



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topic or something

that fills you with

dread?





ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2022

### **Delivering Better Outcomes**

### WINNER London Borough of Enfield



Clive Myrie, Su Geyik, James Carrick, Ian Davis, Olivia Wittich, Peter Nathan, Tammy Day, Mervin Cato, Helen Archer-Lock (Commercial Services Group).

The Enfield Nexus project clearly demonstrates what can be achieved through the collaboration, coordination and empowerment of partners and communities to deliver better outcomes. The submission and presentation were great examples of being galvanized by an issue, applying talent and drive and then building on the momentum created to reach a significant number of young people.

#### 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

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and High Peak Borough Council London Borough of Brent



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

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#### MCLEAN Partnership

### **Digital Transformation**

### WINNER Carmarthenshire County Council



Clive Myrie, Sarah Vaughan, Carla Dix, Jonathan Swain (McLean Partnership).

In an exceptionally strong field, the judges were impressed with not only the ambition and scale of Delta Connect, the council's health and social care digital transformation programme but also the passion and commitment of those who have delivered it – and continue to do so. Judges called it 'truly impressive.'

#### 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

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Durham County Council (Tech to Tackle Litter)

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE FINALISTS, & TO THE RUNNERS **UP, & ALL THOSE WHO ENTER** O ALL THEIR FAMILIES & A HEIR COLLEAGUES & TO 1 HERS & THEIR A LIES **&** TEAC NE ELSE WH FRYN INFI VF IF P F

We support everyone involved in Diversity & Inclusion.



Proud sponsors of the Innovation in Building Diversity & Inclusion Award



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2022

### Innovation in Building Diversity and Inclusion

### WINNER South Lanarkshire Council



Clive Myrie, Tommy Bennett, Pamela Newey, Jonathan Read, Nancy Scott (Gatenby Sanderson).

This entry provided insight into the discrimination and disadvantage faced by the gypsy/ traveller community. It highlighted how working together with the local authority while respecting and appreciating cultural differences and ways of engagement supported self-advocacy, digital literacy, skill development, improved living conditions, broader engagement and reciprocal knowledge transfer and learning. This stood out as a real human story that can be mapped and replicated across different E&D areas promoting inclusion and social justice.

JUDGES Juliette Alban-Metcalfe, 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)

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Worcestershire County Council



Hampton's Resourcing is proud to be sponsoring this years MJ Awards, Innovation in Children's and Adult Services award.

This is a category close to our hearts as the UK's only Specialist Social Care Executive Recruitment Company.

Best of luck to all the nominees and we can't wait to see you all in person soon.

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#### Hampton's Resourcing

#### JUDGES

Graham Farrant, Chief Executive, BCP Council Monica Fogerty, Chief Executive, Warwickshire CC Jane Parfrement, Chief Executive, Staff College Simon Ray, Director, Hampton's Resourcing Jacky Tiotto, Chief Executive Officer, Cafcass

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Manchester City Council (New Arrivals)

### Innovation in Children's and Adults' Services

### **WINNER** City of Wolverhampton Council



Clive Myrie, Cllr Ian Brookfield, Cllr Beverley Momenabadi, Osarende Iyawe, Rachel King, Hannah Bates, Alison Hinds, Kellie Hines, Simon Ray (Hampton's Resourcing).

Wolverhampton's unique voluntary coalition is delivering outstanding outcomes for young people suffering from trauma and its innovative approach with its initiative Power2 is emotional and heart-warming. Its pilot scheme has really developed and consistently grown over the last 12 months and has continued to demonstrate real value and inspiration. Wolverhampton showed a dedicated level of passion, commitment and creativity in how it engages with young people. Judges said: 'We need to bottle this innovation for the whole of the sector.'



# Congratulations to all winners and finalists of The MJ Awards 2022 from Local Partnerships

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Local Partnerships is proud to be part of the public sector family. We are a joint venture between the Local Government Association, HM Treasury and the Welsh Government. We work solely for the benefit of the public sector.

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.

We bring public and private sector experience that provides **confidence**, **capability** and **capacity**, helping councils and combined authorities set sustainable targets and achieve net-zero.

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### Leadership in Responding to the Climate Emergency

WINNER

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



Clive Myrie, Dominic Millen, Kate Hand, John Coker, Eloise Shepherd, Ian Davis, Cllr Ahsan Khan, Jamie Carswell, Joanne Drew, Alex Sewell, Caroline Hampton-White (Local Partnerships).

Domestic retrofit at scale and pace is crucial and one of the most challenging issues in tackling climate emergency as the varying nature of tenure, property types and marginal financial returns form a complex jigsaw. London Councils' combined working, delivering technical and financial solutions, is genuinely ground-breaking and provides potential solutions to a much wider range of councils.

#### JUDGES

Hannah Bartram, Chief Executive Officer, ADEPT Cllr Bev Craig, Leader, Manchester City Council Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Simon McWhirter, Director of Communications, Policy & Places, UKGBC Jo Wall, Strategic Director, Climate Response, Local Partnerships

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Wokingham Borough Council

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work



transport



housing



neighbourhoods and surroundings



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#### 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

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Newcastle City Council North Lanarkshire Council

### Place Based Approach to Health Equity

### WINNER London Borough of Newham



Clive Myrie, Dr Rima Vaid, Jo Bibby (The Health Foundation), John Rooke, Colin Ansell, Dr Muhammad Naqvi, Jason Strelitz, Andy Gold, Carly Clarke, Lizzie Owen, Cllr Sarah Ruiz, Hafsa Elmi, Cllr Carleene Lee-Phakoe, Audrey Johnson, Adeola Agbebiyi, Cllr Neil Wilson.

Newham impressed us with its leadership endorsement, community co-production, and multiple stakeholder involvement. In Well Newham: 50 Steps to a Healthier Borough it demonstrated a cascaded model of aligned goals and indicators, with practical action and clear accountability throughout. It is manifestly a collective endeavour focused on local wider determinants. The one-year progress report reinforces this sense of momentum, energy and enthusiasm.

# Celebrating the people we can all look up to.

There are **Rising Stars** in every local authority, ready to be noticed, praised and supported. That's why we're proud to continue our involvement and sponsorship of such an important category. There's no better time to recognise and celebrate the sector's future leaders and their incredible efforts, achievements and selfless commitment. All of this year's nominees have demonstrated outstanding qualities during difficult and challenging times. They've raised standards and made the sector stronger. They've taken initiative and transformed bold ambitions into reality. They're not just doing a job, they're working to improve society - a purpose we proudly share. Congratulations to all the finalists, may your careers take you to even further heights.



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### TILE H¥LL

### **Rising Star**

WINNER Grace Couch Climate and Ecological Emergency Project Officer, Swale Borough Council



Clive Myrie, Grace Couch, Helen Anderson (Tile Hill).

Grace has already made a huge impact at Swale. From securing external funding for new initiatives, leading awareness events and organising partner steering groups, she has made an enormous contribution to the council's climate change agenda. Grace is a local government rising star of the future and will truly go far.

#### JUDGES

Helen Anderson, Senior Consultant, Tile Hill Nik Shah, Associate Director, Tile Hill Neil Taylor, Experienced Interim Director of Place Rebecca Wilshire, Director of Children's Social Care/Deputy Chief Executive, Doncaster Children's Services Trust

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Emily Doorbar, Customer Services Manager, Staffordshire County Council Kristy Thakur, Head of Community and People Wellbeing Services, Hertfordshire County Council

# We're all winners here

Today we're celebrating the best in local government. From the top table team to those just starting out, there's a treasure of talent across authorities.

As proud sponsors and judges of The MJ Senior Leadership Team of the Year award, we're always on the lookout for inspiring leadership talent.









### **Senior Leadership Team**

### WINNER Chorley Council and South Ribble Borough Council



Clive Myrie, Louise Mattinson, Chris Sinnott, Gary Hall, Vicky Willett, Jonathan Noad, Jennifer Mullin, Julie Towers (Penna).

The energy and clear passion demonstrated by the joint Chorley and South Ribble team, and delivery of a really impressive set of outcomes against a context of significant challenge for not one but two sovereign authorities made them a clear winner. Everyone in both councils should be really proud of their achievements and the well-deserved external accolades they have received.

**JUDGES** 

Council

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

Rob Whiteman, Chief Executive Officer, CIPFA



#### 11th October

A brand new one-day event designed to nurture emerging sector talent. The day will offer skills-building workshops, case studies and leadership insights, alongside networking opportunities with current sector leaders

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### **Transforming Lives**

### WINNER Nottinghamshire County Council/ Nottingham City Council



Clive Myrie, Esther Murray, Deana Goode, Ian Thomas (Solace).

The Future Impact Team runs an exceptional project supporting an important community of individuals to find a way into work and better engagement with their wider community. It has fantastic outcomes which can provide lessons to others wanting to transform people's lives.

#### 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



#### PPMA are proud sponsors of The MJ "Workforce Transformation" Award

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### **Workforce Transformation**

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



Clive Myrie, Asim Chaudhry, Owen Brice, Kelly Saini Badwal, Richard Simpson, Neisha Porter, Sandra Farquharson, Helen May, Dawn Matthews, Adenike Fafolu, Deborah Harrington, Caroline Cole, Sarah Ireland, Lucy Jones, Gordon McFarlane (PPMA).

The councils impressed the panel with their presentation and clear evidence of improvement. Both councils have worked jointly and collaboratively to tackle inequalities. They have improved representation of women and black, Asian and minority ethnic staff at senior levels and they have improved workforce and community engagement with a range of events and meetings.

#### JUDGES

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 Debbie Williams, Employment Advisor, London Councils

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Worcestershire County Council Wakefield City Council



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**EVENTS** 

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### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

### Dr Barry Quirk



Clive Myrie, Barry Quirk, Heather Jameson (The MJ).

Dr Barry Quirk has had a long and distinguished career in local government, spanning 40 years and several London boroughs. His local government career began in Tower Hamlets LBC housing department, working with the homeless – a role that was to have a lasting impression on him.

Dr Quirk served as a councillor in Southwark from 1982-1986, gaining an insight into the political side of local government. He joined Lewisham LBC, rising through the ranks to become chief executive in November 1993, a post he held until 2017.

During his time in the South London borough he took on the role of Government efficiency tsar, and has been one of leading thinkers of the sector, often reimagining the shape of public services, not just in the UK but also through international connections in the USA, Australia and elsewhere. Where Dr Quirk has led, the sector has followed.

But his greatest achievements have people at their heart, including pushing for a second inquest into the New Cross fire, a tragedy in 1981 in which 13 young black people died.

It was another tragedy that has brought what is perhaps his finest hour. Five years ago, in the aftermath of the worst peacetime disaster in London's history – the Grenfell Tower fire – he was seconded to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, before taking over as full time chief executive.

Since taking on the post he has overhauled the council's governance, values, policy, priorities and management structure. In short, he has transformed the way the council operates and the way it interacts with and serves its communities.

He has worked closely with the bereaved and the survivors of the Grenfell tragedy, often on a one-to-one basis.

He has created a culture of improvement and adaptability, and led the council's COVID response and supported refugees from Afghanistan following the 2021 airlift from Kabul.

Dr Quirk's dedication to local government, academia and to the communities he has served is exemplary. He is public service, integrity and honesty personified.



































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