

National Awards

2006/7

verve
communications

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Entering and winning awards is an important way of enhancing your reputation and raising or maintaining a positive profile. It focuses everyone's attention on achievement and excellence, is good for morale and, most importantly, is good for local services by acting as a catalyst for further improvements.

Awards are also an excellent way of evidencing your success in developing and delivering high quality public services – evidence that will not only help you promote those services to local people, but also help you highlight your authority's performance for its CPA assessment.

There are literally hundreds of different awards and recognition or accreditation schemes that are available to local government. This document provides information about a number of such schemes that different parts of your authority should be eligible to enter for. Although it is not comprehensive, it does include most of the major awards available.

Aside from the various competitions listed in this document, most professional groups and associations also run their own schemes, usually to coincide with annual conferences, etc. In addition to the winners of award categories, many schemes also offer various certificates of commendation too. Therefore without too much difficulty it is possible to spot a hundred or so potential awards to go for.

The following information gives a broad outline of the awards available and what the latest categories are for each of them (as some vary year to year). Information is also provided on what the general timescales are in terms of deadlines, judging dates and final awards.

Although most awards for 2006 have now closed, some are still open and this is made clear in the supporting information. Links to awards' websites and other useful information is also provided to help you decide which award might be of interest to you.

Entering is relatively simple, but the application form is clearly crucial. Careful attention to detail ought to guarantee serious consideration for any award application, so check carefully for key details such as deadlines.

The most important element of your entry is however your story – how you achieved your success. But how you tell that story is vital too, and can be the difference between being shortlisted for an award, or not. This is where Verve Communications can help. With a proven track record of helping many councils become winners, we believe we can help you too.

Verve Communications: About us



Verve Communications is a values-led communications agency that provides a wide array of communications and marketing services for a range of clients - combining public sector ethos with private sector edge.

Verve has significant experience of meeting the needs of local authorities. We like to see ourselves as an extension of our clients, bringing additional skills and experience to complement the in-house team. We enjoy working in partnership and will always go the extra mile to deliver outstanding, rather than just acceptable, results.

We are in the business of changing people's lives - we always start our work from the customer's perspective and are outcome-driven in all we do. Sometimes this means acting as a critical friend with our clients, helping them to see things from the outside in.

We understand how to use new communications technologies to engage the audience in fresh and innovative ways. With our sister company, Channel 20-20, which specialises in design, broadcast and events, we are able to offer a wide range of professional multi-media expertise, irrespective of the size of the job or the audience.

The services Verve can provide include:

- Undertaking perception and reputation audits
- Developing outcome focussed communication strategies
- Delivering full service support to ensure strategies are implemented
- Providing strategic consultancy advice through to interim teams
- Helping organisations introduce new brands, positioning and building values
- Developing widespread consultation and engagement approaches and assisting with delivery
- Working to raise interest or investment in a new project
- Internal communications – especially in support of cultural and organisational change
- Community engagement and consultation on a wide range of locality led or thematic issues
- Issue based PR
- Strategic press and media relations

Working with Verve means you can be assured of the quality of our work and the delivery of promised outcomes. What sets us apart from many others is that we deliver, no matter what. Most of our work comes from personal recommendations and repeat business. We're happy to be judged by our results and you can feel free to contact any of our clients to test out our credentials. More information about Verve, what we can offer and our clients can be found here:

<http://www.vervecommunications.co.uk/>

Channel 20-20 works in partnership with Verve Communications, developing concepts, branding and creative materials to support Verve's consultancy and media services.

We have a long standing pedigree in local government and the public sector as a whole. Over many years we have produced a huge number of materials to inform and excite audiences be they employees, local people or partners.

The right creative concept executed across multiple communication platforms – video, on-line, in print, at events – can be a persuasive tool, whether as part of an awards submission or across general communication campaigns.

Our work spans:

Video/TV:

- DVDs for communications, awards, marketing or training campaigns
- Modules for web downloads/podcasting
- Community TV

Design:

- Campaign concepts and materials (posters, flyers etc)
- Advertising
- Banners and signage
- Branding and brand guidelines

New media:

- Web, intranet and CDROM design & programming for on-line learning, campaign microsites or overall council sites
- Web TV channels to support community television
- Podcasting
- E-newsletters, html and viral web marketing

Media handling:

- Media training for senior officers and members
- B-roll footage for broadcast use
- Media campaign packs

Live events:

- End to end event management from venue location to registration
- AV technical support
- Creative presentation writing and production

For more information and to look at examples of our work, visit www.channel2020.co.uk

Beacon Council status

The Beacon Council scheme was launched in 1999, and is open to all best value authorities in England, including police and national parks. Run by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) the scheme aims to recognise and promote excellence in the provision of services and cross cutting issues within local authorities.

Each year Ministers select about ten service areas reflecting issues which are important to local communities, and key to central government's agenda also.

For further information on the scheme go to:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1135596>

Authorities can apply on their own or in partnership with others. Normally 40 to 50 authorities are awarded Beacon Status each year.

In order to be selected as a beacon, authorities must be able to show:

- Excellence in a beacon theme
- Good general performance
- Plans for effective dissemination

To show excellence in a theme, applicants should provide evidence of:

- Vision and strategy
- Consultation with the public and stakeholders
- Partnerships
- Actions
- Outcomes
- User/Community Satisfaction

Round nine of the scheme will be launched in 2007 and an application brochure will be available at the launch. The new themes for which authorities will be able to apply are outlined below. Further details about the themes and the date of the launch will be available from the DCLG website in due course.

Themes for 2007:

- Better, Brighter Futures (14-19 reform)
- Better Public Places: Liveability, Cleaner, Safer, Greener
- Chances for Life: Improving life chances for looked after children/corporate parenting
- Dignity In Care
- Empowering Communities, Transforming Services
- Improving Accessibility
- Partnerships and Agreements: LSP's and community engagement
- Reducing Health Inequalities
- Reducing Re-offending
- Tackling Climate Change

For background information, a copy of the 2006 themes and the Round 8 brochure can be found here: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1135612>

Applicants are also encouraged to visit the Improvement and Development Agency's (IDeA) website, to look at past applications, and to speak to other authorities who have applied for beacon status in the past.

Investors in People (IiP)

Investors in People (IiP) is a national award which was developed by a partnership of leading business and other national bodies to recognise the commitment of an organisation to realise its business objectives through the development of its employees.

A whole Council, department, or a section of a department is eligible to apply. There are three principal areas examined by the assessor to determine how closely an organisation matches against national standards. For each of these areas there are assessment indicators, which the assessor will apply in order to see how closely an organisation matches the standard.

Although the scheme is a national one, applicants are assessed locally and the recommendations of the local assessment are forwarded for national accreditation. The applicant should have a written business plan which sets out business goals and targets, considers how employees will contribute to achieving the plan and specifies how development needs in particular will be assessed and met.

Potential applicants are awarded a certificate indicating their commitment to becoming an Investor in People. On satisfactory completion of the assessment, the certificate is awarded at regional gatherings and achievers are presented with a plaque they are able to display on their premises and each member of staff is eligible to wear an IiP lapel badge.

Further information on IiP can be found here:

<http://www.iipuk.co.uk/IIP/Web/About+Investors+in+People/default.htm>

The IiP standard provides a framework which can apply to any organisation and is designed to help an organisation succeed by supporting and motivating its staff effectively.

The key principles of the IiP Standard are:

- Developing strategies to improve the performance of the organisation: An Investor in People develops effective strategies to improve the performance of the organisation through its people.
- Taking action to improve the performance of the organisation: An Investor in People takes effective action to improve the performance of the organisation through its people
- Evaluating the impact on the performance of the organisation: An Investor in People can demonstrate the impact of its investment in people on the performance of the organisation

An overview of the IiP standard, with information about the indicators and evidence required for each of its key principles can be found here:

<http://www.iipuk.co.uk/NR/rdonlyres/ecfomd3en3e7xkjeejygrxw4uiqmmiomn2hhh yzxmg6d6vpgnudhrejzid2wyou2x6v7swwv24jfh3xuqbjwd7rpka/Overview.pdf>

Investors in People Champions

Twenty-four organisations are now IiP Champions – those that have been outstanding in promoting the values and principles of IiP. These Champions will encourage other employers to start and keep working with the Standard by sharing their best practice and offering support and guidance. More information on the activities of IiP Champions can be found at

<http://81.171.193.26/champions/>

ISO 9000

The ISO 9000 series is a number of internationally recognised business management standards for quality management and quality assurance. For most local government services the appropriate standard is ISO 9001:2000 (which since 2000, encompasses the now obsolete ISO9002 and ISO9003).

ISO 9000 identifies the issues that need to be considered by any business in order to ensure it delivers the highest quality service to its customers. This includes making sure systems and processes are efficient and effective, that staff are adequately trained and supported, and that there are appropriate procedures in place to rectify any mistakes and ensure they don't recur.

ISO 9000 doesn't just help an organisation improve working practices, but once gained is an independent assessment of quality assurance. The standard is split into five main clauses which include specific responsibilities:

- System Documentation
- Management Responsibility
- Resource Management
- Control of Process
- Measurement, Analysis and Improvement

Accreditation is via an audit undertaken by an independent and ISO-recognised quality auditor. Having obtained accreditation, organisations are able to use the appropriate logo and designation on their printed materials.

Further details on the ISO Standard can be found here: www.iso-9000.co.uk

Other useful information can be found here: www.bsi-global.com or www.iqa.org

Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards

First introduced in 1996, the LGC Awards aim to celebrate excellence, and 'reward teams for the difference they are making in their communities'. Winners have come from all over the country, and have ranged from Birmingham City Council, the biggest local authority in Britain, to Alnwick DC, the third smallest.

Normally the closing date is October with the awards made in March. Entry is free. The closing date for the 2007 LGC Awards is **11 October 2006** and the awards will be announced in London on 12 March 2007.

There are 16 categories to choose from and applicants should identify their principal achievements from October to September and illustrate how their team's work fits into overall council objectives, with convincing evidence of success. The bulk of the report should concentrate on tangible and measurable achievements and applicants must be prepared to submit evidence to support any claims made, if asked to by the judges.

The categories for 2007 are as follows:

- **Council of the Year**
- **Most improved council**
- **Children's services**
- **Community involvement**
- **Efficiency & modernisation**
- **Environment**
- **Finance**
- **Innovation award**
- **IT & e-Government**
- **Legal**
- **LSP**
- **Management Team**
- **People Management**
- **Procurement**
- **Public / Private Partnership**
- **Regeneration**

Entries will only be accepted electronically. For more details on the awards and the categories for 2007, visit the LGC website at:

http://www.lgcawards.com/home.asp?m_pid=0&m_nid=9390

For entry queries and general information contact:

Kelly Hughes on 020 7874 0307, email: kelly.hughes@emap.com

or

Claire Snarey on 020 7874 0336, email: claire.snarey@emap.com

Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Management Challenge



The LGC Management Challenge is aimed at those aspiring to senior management positions within local government, and is designed to help them develop vital skills and test their performance against a number of key competencies.

Normally teams of 4 - 6 people from different authorities compete with each other in a simulated exercise over the course of a day. The training exercise is specifically to help participants develop their strategic management skills in a realistic environment.

Each team will receive feedback from their own observer and the LGC assessors. This team of assessors measures and helps to develop the following key competencies:

- Interpersonal skills, both within the organisation and with outsiders
- Political awareness, skills and sensitivity
- Initiative, creativity and self-motivation
- Focusing on achievement
- Strategic planning, prioritisation and action
- Diagnosis and analysis of strategic problems and opportunities
- Team building and partnership working
- Negotiating, influencing and presentation skills

The LGC Management Challenge is normally held in Birmingham every October, and the event is followed by a dinner and an awards ceremony.

Although the closing date has now passed for 2006, the 2006 entry fee was £1985 (+vat) per team. Applicants are advised to check the LGC website for details about the fees for 2007 once they are published in due course. Further information about this event can be found here: <http://www.lgcnet.com/lgc%20events/Challenge06.pdf>

The Municipal Journal (MJ)

Achievement Awards

Introduced in 2004, The MJ Achievement Awards aim to celebrate excellent local government services and the staff that provide them.

There were 14 categories for the 2006 awards, covering the key services and themes across local government. These were:

- **Best Achieving Council**
- **Best Achievement in Children's Services**
- **Community Leadership Achievement of the Year**
- **Effective Top Team Leadership Achievement of the Year**
- **Efficiency Achievement of the Year**
- **Employee Well-being Achievement of the Year**
- **E-Procurement Achievement of the Year**
- **Legal Achievement of the Year**
- **Member Development Achievement of the Year**
- **Pay and Workforce Achievement of the Year**
- **Public Private Partnership Achievement of the Year**
- **Public Protection Achievement of the Year**
- **Reducing Health Inequalities Achievement of the Year**
- **Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector Achievement of the Year**

All submissions should be written and take up no more than 2,000 words. These should describe the achievement, and in particular support the entry with proof of its success and of customer feedback. Each entry should be accompanied with a 100 word executive summary.

Supporting evidence of a council's success - such as inspection reports, Charter Marks, feedback from local groups, surveys or other external validations will also be taken into account.

Each is judged by an expert panel and is sponsored by a major public or private sector organisation. The deadline for each year's awards is normally January with winners announced at a ceremony in London in July.

Applicants are advised to check the MJ pages on the Municipal Year Book website for details of the categories for the 2007 awards, and the application form – both of which should be published in due course.

Further information about the awards can be found here:

<http://www.municipalyearbook.co.uk/index.asp?pageid=370>

Public Finance – Public Servants of the Year

The Public Finance - Public Servants of the Year awards, aim to generate pride in public services and celebrate the successes. Individuals, teams and projects can enter from any public service - and can be from people working at any level – executive or non executive, and whether directly employed by a public body, or employed by a public or private body delivering a public service.

Judges are looking for evidence of improvement and positive change in the quality of a service. Entry deadlines are normally at the end of November and finalists are notified in March. Winners are announced in May at a ceremony in London.

For the 2006 awards the categories were as follows. Information on the 2007 awards will be published in due course (see below).

Categories for individuals:

- * Breaking New Ground — the innovator award
- * Inspiring Success — the turn-round management and leadership award
- * Raising the Standard — the frontline worker award

Categories for projects:

- * Creative Solutions — the award for better regulation
- * Improving Working Lives — the award for putting people first
- * Unlocking the Potential — the award for enterprise
- * Working Together — the award for progress through partnership

Categories for teams:

- * Central Government
- * Education
- * Health
- * Housing
- * Local Government
- * Uniformed Services

All finalists are also eligible for the:

Outstanding Public Servant of the Year Award,

and the,

Outstanding Public Service Team of the Year Award.

Further details, and to register for information about the 2007 awards when it is published can be found here: <http://www.publicservants.org.uk/>

OPM, Public Management Leadership Prize

The annual prize for Public Management Leadership, is awarded by the Office for Public Management (OPM) - an independent, not for profit public interest company, which aims to develop management practice and thinking in the delivery of public services and in the exercise of corporate responsibility.

The prize aims to recognise outstanding achievement in the management of public and not for profit sector organisations, and is awarded to a person, a team or an organisation.

Judges will assess to what extent management actions have resulted in:

- Creative approaches to managing change and innovation in public service
- Improved outcomes for service users and communities
- High levels of partnership working – particularly through engagement of multiple stakeholders
- Encouraging learning and the transfer of good practice

Nominations (including self-nominations) for the prize are welcome from any individual with the consent of the nominee. Nominations should not exceed 2,000 words (supplementary information may be submitted) and include the following information:

- a completed nomination form
- objectives of the management being nominated
- time period of management action
- description of management action, including its relationship to organisational purpose, relevance to strategic direction and effects of operational performance.

Nominations should be submitted in early March, to OPM. Short listed applicants will be invited to attend for interview in early May, at which they will have an opportunity to make a presentation, and be asked questions on their application.

The prize is awarded at OPM's annual summer conference at their offices in London, usually held in June.

Further details can be obtained from OPM, 252b Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8XG. Tel: 020 7239 7800, fax: 020 7837 5800; website: <http://www.opm.co.uk/default.htm>

Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) Awards

The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) is a local government organisation with members throughout the UK. The APSE Awards, supported by The Municipal Journal, are run for local authorities and their public sector partners, to encourage and recognise best practice, innovation and excellent service to local communities.

The 8 main categories of award are:

1. Best Quality Employment and Equality Initiative
2. Innovation and I.T. in Service Delivery
3. Partnership Working
4. Best Community Initiative
5. Employee Involvement in Best Value
6. Best Sustainability/Environmental Initiative
7. Internal Service Team of the Year (individual categories): -
 - Construction and Building Maintenance
 - Roads and Highway Maintenance and Management
 - Transport Services and Vehicle Maintenance
 - Waste Management, Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing
 - Parks/Grounds Maintenance and Horticultural Services
 - Sports & Leisure Management
 - Catering Services
 - Building Cleaning
 - Housing Management
 - Social Care Services
8. Overall Service Team of the Year
(selected from the successful submissions entered for the category above)

Authorities are able to enter more than one category and must submit a 1500 word submission per category. This submission should contain a 1 page executive summary, background to the initiative, details of improvements and future targets.

The judges will also take into account any visible benchmarks of achievement, such as auditor's reports, achievement of an liP or ISO 9000 etc.

The usual timeframe for notifications of interest is by late March, with a final closing date for submissions in April. Winners are normally announced at the Association's Annual Dinner in September.

Further information about APSE and the awards can be found here:

www.apse.org.uk or contact Laura McShane at: lmcshane@apse.org.uk

The British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA) is one of the UK's leading organisations promoting urban regeneration and has a wide variety of members across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

BURA operates four main awards.

Best Practice in Regeneration Award

Established in 1992, the award is made to the entry that judges consider demonstrates the best partnership between the public, private and community sectors. Nominations can be made by any person or organisation, including those concerned directly with a nominated scheme or project.

The closing date for this award is normally in early July and winners receive their awards at a ceremony in November. Further details about the awards can be found on the BURA website. Applicants are advised to visit the BURA website <http://bura.org.uk/main/content.htm> to check details of the awards for 2007 when they are published in due course. Further information about this award and the criteria for 2006 can be found here: http://bura.org.uk/awards/award2006/bbp_info.pdf

Deputy Prime Minister's Award for Sustainable Communities

Launched in 2003, this award recognises projects and initiatives that contribute to making towns and cities better places in which to live and work. The award will pay tribute to those people whose commitment and enthusiasm are making a significant contribution, through innovative schemes or ways of working, towards the building of thriving and successful communities and showcase successes and highlight aspects of good practice.

Nominations are invited for projects and initiatives of all types and sizes, and any person, including those directly connected with the project or the initiative, may submit an entry.

All projects and initiatives must demonstrate active involvement of the community including business and/or residents, and should be advanced to a state where there is a record of success with demonstrable results.

Entries must also meet some, or all, of the following **criteria**:

- **Social and cultural** – creating vibrant, harmonious and inclusive communities
- **Governance** - creating effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership
- **Environmental** - creating places for people to live in an environmentally friendly way
- Housing and the built environment - creating a good quality built and natural environment
- **Transport and connectivity** - creating good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services
- **Economy** - creating a flourishing and diverse local economy
- **Services** - Creating a full range of appropriate, accessible public, private, community and voluntary services

Nominations for the 2006 award are open from Summer 2006 and details will be published on the BURA website or available from awards@bura.org.uk
The awards are normally presented at the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit, held in late January / early February.

BURA Charitable Trust Award for Community Regeneration

These awards promote outstanding examples of community regeneration and are open to any regeneration scheme or project in the United Kingdom. Any individual or organisation may enter a project whether from the community; business or any other sector, including those directly connected with a particular project.

The Awards fall into two categories.

Category A is for projects or schemes with a turnover of less than £30,000 and

Category B is for projects or schemes with a turnover in excess of £30,000.

In addition to completing an application form, applicants should supply a brief summary of the scheme (to include aims, objectives, current and future activities) and details of how the scheme fulfils the criteria.

Nominations for 2006 open in early Summer, and winners receive their awards at a high profile ceremony in December.

Further information about the award and how to get an application form can be found here: <http://bura.org.uk/main/content.htm>

The Waterways Renaissance Awards

A revival is taking place for Britain's canals and rivers and the awards aim to recognise best practice in waterway improvements in 7 categories that cover a wide-ranging variety of improvements.

All projects/schemes must meet the following criteria:

- Be located on, or immediately adjacent to, a navigable inland waterway in the UK
- Be innovative and inspiring, providing the catalyst for other projects or schemes
- Meet the objectives of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic
- Enhance the use and enjoyment of the waterway
- Demonstrate active participation by an appropriate range of partners
- Demonstrate a proven track record of success

Nominations can be submitted for more than one category and supporting information is required for each category nominated. Nomination forms, and supporting information should be submitted. Following judging, those short-listed may deliver a short presentation at the awards ceremony.

Details about the 2007 awards are due to be published on the BURA website at the end of July. Categories for 2006 included:

- **Area-based regeneration**
- **Community**
- **Design and construction**
- **Education and learning historic environment**
- **Natural environment recreation and tourism**

All finalists will also be considered for the overarching Special Award for Excellence in Partnership.

Applicants are advised to check the BURA website where further details and nomination packs will be available in due course at:

<http://firsthand.bura.org.uk/Default.aspx> Alternatively, call The Waterways Trust on 01452 318 220 or BURA on 020 7539 4033 or email awards@thewaterwaystrust.org.uk or awards@bura.org.uk

Information about all of these awards can also be found at www.bura.org.uk or at the Department for Communities and Local Government at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/>

Civic Trust Awards

The Civic Trust Awards scheme has been established for 45 years and is the largest and most comprehensive environmental design awards scheme in Europe. Promoting progressive improvements in the quality of urban life, the awards are unique as they don't just celebrate good design, but recognise design that makes a major contribution to its surroundings.

The aim of the Awards is to encourage the very best in the built environment, acknowledging outstanding work in a range of fields including architecture, landscape, planning and urban design. They operate on a two-year cycle: one year for projects built in the UK's major cities and metropolitan areas, and the next year for the countryside and country towns.

The 2007 awards will be the rural round, and will call entries in from all of the shires and market towns in across the UK. Although most entries come from architects, anyone is eligible to enter, and local authorities, housing associations, trusts, charities and individuals regularly submit schemes.

There are four categories of award:

Awards: given to projects that make an outstanding contribution to the quality and appearance of the environment.

Commendations: given to projects that make a valuable contribution to the quality and appearance of the environment.

Mentions: are given to projects of cultural, social, cultural or economic benefit to the local community.

Sponsored Award: All entries are automatically considered for Civic Trust Awards, and entrants can ask for their project to be considered for a Sponsored Award for projects that are outstanding in particular ways.

Entries for the 2007 round will be invited from Summer 2006. Winners will be announced in the Spring of 2007. Applications can now be made online, please contact Lorriane Scanlon on 0151 231 6907 or e-mail lscanlon@civictrust.org.uk to register your details for online applications.

Further information about the awards and examples of former winners can be found here: <http://www.civictrust.org.uk/awards/awards.shtml>

ENCAMS – Cleaner, Safer, Greener Network



ENCAMS' (Environmental Campaigns) new programme – the Cleaner, Safer, Greener Network (CSGN) was launched on 1st June 2005. This network aims to help all types of land manager - whether they are a local authority, housing association or parish council, to improve the environmental quality of their land and tackle any local environmental problems and anti-social behaviour more effectively.

Improve efficiency

Following the introduction of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act last year, the CSGN helps members make full use of the legislation, improve the efficiency of environmental services and local environmental management. The Act also includes important issues such as the Gershon Review, which also sets out ways land managers can make their services more efficient.

Members' benefits

Members of the network get many benefits such as:

- access to the latest environmental news and information;
- on-going support from ENCAMS;
- opportunities for networking;
- discounted training courses;
- invitations to attend all sorts of events including seminars, conferences and field trips both in the UK and abroad.

If you are interested in the Cleaner Safer Greener Network and would like some more information please send an email to csg-enquiries@encams.org.

ENCAMS, Elizabeth House, The Pier, Wigan WN3 4EX, tel: 01942 612 635;

fax: 01942 824 778

Email: andrea.cox@encams.org website: <http://www.encams.org>

Organised by the Royal Horticultural Society, Britain in Bloom started back in 1963 and is now the largest horticultural campaign in Europe, involving people from many different communities across the UK taking an active interest in caring for their local environment.

The aim of the competition is to regenerate local environments by the imaginative planting of trees and shrubs, flowers and landscaping, and by dealing with local environmental issues, such as, litter, graffiti and vandalism.

The competition is held at a regional and national level, with the UK divided into 12 English regions plus Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey. Judging usually takes place in two stages, over a period of two years.

The first stage of judging is the local competition. Entries are received by local authorities, town or parish councils or by voluntary local 'Bloom' committees depending upon the area. Judging of the first stage takes place in June/July and winners are announced during local presentations between August and November.

On completion of the first stage of judging, entries are then selected by the committee that represents their nation/region for the second stage, which is UK-wide judging. To ensure that effort is sustained over time, this second stage of judging takes place in August the year after they qualify. For example, entries selected in 2004 were judged in 2005. Winners of the UK judging are announced at a prestigious ceremony in September/ October.

Britain in Bloom has 10 entry categories, based on the population of each entry. There is also an emphasis on the importance of getting the whole community involved. Co-operation between local authority, business and the commercial sector, the private sector, voluntary groups and individuals is vital.

Categories:

- Large City (population of 200,001 and over)
- City (100,001-200,000)
- Large Town/Small City (35,001-100,000)
- Large Town/Small City (12,001-35,000)
- Town (6,001-12,000)
- Small Town (2,501-6,000)
- Large Village (1,001-2,500)
- Village (301-1,000)
- Small Village (under 300)
- Urban Community
- Urban Regeneration
- Coastal

Further details about the competition can be found by calling the RHS on 0845 260 5000, e-mailing info@rhs.org.uk, or on the RHS website at, <http://www.rhs.org.uk/britaininbloom/structure.asp>

Green Apple Awards

The Green Apple Awards are organised by the Green Organisation – an independent, non-political, non-profit environment group. Now in their twelfth year, the awards are an annual international campaign to recognise, reward and promote environmental best practice, and are free to enter.

Supported by The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, The Chartered Institute of Wastes Management, the Environment Agency and The Municipal Journal amongst others, there are two main awards for Environmental Best Practice, and for the Built Environment and Architectural Heritage.

Environmental Best Practice

Open to everyone - companies, councils and communities - any project deemed to have benefited the environment can be entered. There are four main sectors: local authorities, companies and industry, wastes management and international, and a variety of categories specified within each sector. Councils are also able to enter categories specified in other sectors if appropriate – for example the wastes management category, which is located in the company/industry sector. There are also categories for different types of local authority – i.e. district or county, to ensure fair comparisons can be made. Councils can enter as many categories as they wish to – but there can only be one entry per department.

The closing date for entries is usually at the end of June and the awards are made in November. More details about these awards and a copy of the entry form can be found here:

http://www.thegreenorganisation.info/FormEBP2006_0.asp

Built Environment and Architectural Heritage.

Launched in 2000, the International Green Apple Awards for the Built Environment and Architectural Heritage aim to recognise positive contributions to the built environment, or anyone or any organisation that has worked to preserve architectural heritage. There is a wide variety of categories for new-build as well as older constructions - including tourist attractions, pubs, monuments and street scenes. Applicants can enter up to three different projects for consideration.

The closing date for entries is normally at the end of January, with the awards made in the spring. More details about these awards and a copy of the entry form can be found here: <http://www.thegreenorganisation.info/Form1.asp>

For more information about the awards in general contact Roger Wolens on 01604 810507, email roger@themillbarn.free-online.co.uk, or go to: <http://www.thegreenorganisation.info/>

Government Computing BT Awards for Innovation

The Government Computing BT Awards for Innovation aim to recognise the people and projects behind the best in UK public sector technology and are run by Government Computing magazine (published by the ICT company Kable) and sponsored by BT.

Entrants are asked to supply:

- A summary – up to 200 words summarising why the project or person nominated should win the prize. The text should be self-contained, for publication, in the event of the entry being short-listed.
- The challenge – 150 words describing the goals of the project
- The solution – 150 words about how the project was implemented and integrated
- The achievement – 150 words on the user friendliness, the practical economies or contributions, the financial savings or contributions, the benefits to the customer, or other relevant details.

Judges will be looking for clear evidence of:

- Innovation in the use of information age systems
- Clear improvement in quality service
- Value for money
- Readiness to share information with other public services

There are 7 categories and suitable projects may be nominated for more than one category:

- **the best project – government to government**
- **the best project – government to citizen**
- **the best project – government to business**
- **the best project within an organisation**
- **the best project in delivering efficiency**
- **the shared services award**
- **innovators of the year**

Deadline for entries is usually in January and awards are made in April.

As the Kable website is currently being redeveloped, for further details about the scheme contact Government Computing, Kable Ltd, on 020 7608 0900.

CILIP and its Special Interest Groups run a programme of annual awards which recognise and reward good practice, whether it is promoting library and information services to users, developing a major database, setting up a brand new information service or training and developing staff. They also aim to recognise the achievements of those working at all levels of the profession from library assistants to senior managers and academics.

The Awards are about promoting excellence, whether it's within the library and information sector or in sectors with a close affinity such as publishing. They are a way of highlighting quality and sharing the best the profession has to offer, bringing it to a wider audience within our sector and to the wider community.

All UK public, academic, school or special libraries are entitled to enter, but with only one entry per category. The judges look for:

- excellence, imagination, innovation and visual effectiveness in the promotion of library or information services
- a presentation of an entry to complement the standard of the entry itself;
- supporting information clearly presented, giving all of the information requested on the full application form.

More information can be found about the variety of awards listed below, here: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/aboutcilip/medalsandawards>

Awards include:


The PPRG Marketing Excellence Awards: Rewarding excellence & innovation in libraries

Categories :

- The Creative Print Campaign
- Media Innovation Award
- Integrated Marketing Award

The closing date for entries is normally July with winners notified by August. The awards are made at a gala dinner normally in November.

For further background information on the awards and details on the criteria applications are advised to download the entry form here:

[PPRG Marketing Excellence Awards entry form 2006 \(73KB\)](#) 

Further information is also available on the CILIP website -

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/pprg/index.html#s2>.

The PR & Publicity Awards are organised by the PPRG in partnership with Coutts Information Services Ltd.

Contact Linda Smith, PPRG Chairperson

Email: linda.smith@ntu.ac.uk Tel: 0115 848 2256

The Jason Farradane Award

This award is for outstanding work in the information field. Examples of such work include:

- the development of an innovative product or service
- activities that have raised awareness of the value of information and the information profession within the workplace
- work that has raised the profile of the information profession amongst a wider community, and which can or has become a role model for others.

The deadline for nominations is normally in September with the awards presented during the annual Online Information Meeting in London in late November. Further details can be found here: <http://www.ukeig.org.uk/awards/farradane.html>

Libraries Change Lives Award

The CILIP/LiS Libraries Change Lives Award is run by CILIP and its Community Services Group and aims to highlight and reward good practice in any innovative library/information related project that:

- Brings people together
- Involves communities
- Encourages reading
- Encourages learning
- Shares information
- Demonstrates imagination and innovation
- Has the potential to be developed and adapted elsewhere

Entries are welcome from any sector of the library and information world and can be reading projects, learning projects, or projects that promote information. They must be shown to have affected people's lives for the better, whoever those people might be.

The deadline for entries is normally December with awards made in April. Further details about the awards and criteria can be found here:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/aboutcilip/medalsandawards/LibrariesChangeLives>

The Robinson Medal

The Robinson Medal is awarded for excellence and innovation in library administration. It is specifically aimed at attracting submissions from people working at para-professional level in the library and information field. Applicants can nominate themselves or a colleague.

The Robinson Medal is one of the ways that CILIP recognises the contribution of and promotes the value of para-professional staff. It is administered by CILIP and its Affiliated Member's national committee.

The closing date is normally March and winners are normally in November.

Diversity Awards – Celebrating Diversity in Libraries

Library and information services have a crucial role to play in breaking down the barriers that prevent all citizens from accessing the information and the resources that they need. These awards aim to recognise outstanding achievement in the promotion of diversity through library and information services.

There are two main diversity awards available:

- The Organisational Change Award

This award is for a library and information service that has promoted diversity within its organisation, either through changes in institutional practice, the development of organisation-wide structures to overcome exclusion and discrimination, or the combating of institutional barriers to career progression and development for staff from diversity communities.

- The Personal Achievement Award

This award is to recognise outstanding achievement in the promotion of the principles of diversity, equal opportunities and social inclusion through the provision and promotion of library and information services.

The closing date for both diversity awards is normally in February and they have previously been announced in July at the Umbrella Conference, run by the CILIP Diversity Group.

Further information is available from Karen.Berry@coventry.gov.uk, or from the CILIP website at:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/diversity/awards>

Personal Development Award

Jointly promoted by CILIP, Online Information and Information World Review, the Award recognises the achievement of CILIP members from all sectors who have recently gained Chartered status by demonstrating their personal and professional commitment to continuing professional development.

More information on this award can be found at:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/aboutcilip/medalsandawards/PersonalDevelopment>

or contact Tim Buckley Owen, Head of Membership, Marketing & Media.

Tel: 020 7255 0652. Email: tim.buckleyowen@cilip.org.uk

Personnel Today Awards

The Personnel Today Awards are an annual event organised by the Personnel Today group, to recognise and celebrate the very best practice in personnel management.

Any company or organisation can enter a maximum of two award categories and entry is free. Entries from private and public sector organisations of all shapes and sizes are welcome, but entries must be from UK based HR teams/individuals only. Entries must be submitted by the employer organisation.

There are 12 categories:

- **HR Impact Award**
- **Award for Talent Management**
- **Employer Branding Award**
- **HR Director of the Year Award**
- **Award for HR Collaboration**
- **Award for Excellence in Outsourcing and Shared Services**
- **Award for Innovation in Recruitment and Retention**
- **Award for Best HR Strategy in Line with Business**
- **Award for Excellence in Graduate Recruitment**
- **Award for Managing Health at Work**
- **Award for Excellence in Training**
- **Award for Excellence in HR Through Technology**

The closing date is normally in June, with shortlisting in August. Shortlisted teams are invited to a pre-awards reception in September and get two free places at the awards ceremony which is normally held in November in London.

All category winners will automatically compete for the overall Personnel Today Award, which is judged by a separate panel of HR specialists.

Further details about the criteria for each of the categories, and the awards can be found on the Personnel Today website at: <http://www.personneltoday.com>

Or contact, Caroline Berry, project manager on 020 8652 3832 or e-mail: caroline.berry@rbi.co.uk

The People Management Award

This award is presented jointly by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and People Management magazine, and is sponsored by BT.

The People Management Award aims to recognise and reward best practice in people management and to highlight the vital contribution people make to the overall performance and profitability of an organisation, regardless of its size, turnover or type of business.

There are three main category of award, together with an overall award. The categories are:

- **Transformation of the HR function**
- **Business impact through learning and development**
- **Improving business performance through engaging staff**

Judges look for two key factors:

- How a people management programme or initiative overcame a particular business issue or problem
- The direct impact this had on overall business performance, whether in terms of growth, profitability or meeting specific objectives.

Particular attention will be paid to originality and innovation.

The Awards are launched each year in January and entries must be submitted by the end of April. Judging takes place in September, with the award ceremony held normally in October.

Further details about the award and details of the criteria can be found here:

<http://www.cipd.co.uk/about/awards/people> or call 020 8263 3246.

National Training Awards

Launched in 1987, the National Training Awards are run by UK Skills - an independent organisation which champions skills and learning for work through competitions, awards and events.

The awards are aimed at those who have decided to improve their chances of success through learning new skills. Entry is open to organisations of any kind based in the UK, and entries are invited from organisations and individuals who have achieved lasting excellence and success through training.

The NTA does not have categories and there are no fixed numbers of winners. Winners are selected on the basis of their own merits, but entries usually reflect four main types:

- Employers
- Training providers and training specialists
- Partnerships of organisations
- Individuals working on their own behalf.

Entrants must show significant benefits achieved through planned and focused learning, with winning entries tending to demonstrate a highly imaginative approach to training. Entrants will be invited to attend free support workshops running throughout the UK to help focus on their entries, with the offer of follow-up mentoring.

Local authorities have been well represented among winners since the scheme begun. Applicants can get further information on the judging process and tips on achieving the winning formula by attending one of the workshops.

Details can be obtained from the NTA hotline on 0800 917 7337 or by e-mailing info@nationaltrainingawards.com.

Further information about the awards can also be found on the website at: <http://www.nationaltrainingawards.com/>

Entry to these awards is restricted to members of the Institute of Public Relations and members are circulated with details of the scheme in the November of each year. Local authorities are regularly finalists, and have been winners in the past.

The awards are divided into three sections: campaign awards, special awards, and team and individual awards. Entries must be submitted by the end of the following February and the awards ceremony is held in July.

Although not all the award categories are relevant to local authorities, those for which they are eligible to enter are:

- **Corporate Communications**
- **Internal Communications**
- **Consumer Relationships (arts, sport, leisure and tourism)**
- **Consumer Relationships (other than arts, sport, leisure and tourism)**
- **Corporate Social Responsibility**
- **Public Affairs**
- **Not for Profit**
- **Public Sector**
- **Planning, Research and Evaluation**
- **Integrated Campaigns**
- **Media Relations**
- **Crisis Communications**
- **Broadcast**
- **Healthcare**

In addition there are several special awards. Of those, the ones which are open to local authorities are:

- **External Newspaper or Magazine** (electronic magazines or newsletters are not eligible for this category)
- **Internal Newspaper or Magazine** (electronic magazines or newsletters are not eligible for this category)
- **Annual Report**
- **Website**

There are also team and individual awards. The two which a local authority could enter are:

- **Outstanding Young Communicator**
- **Outstanding in-house public relations team in the public sector**

Further information about the awards, entrance fees and examples of previous winners can be found at: <http://www.ipr.org.uk/excellence/index.htm> or e-mail, excellence@cipr.co.uk or call 020 7766 3333.

Excellence in Communication Awards

The Local Government Section of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations runs these awards, but entries are not restricted to IPR members.

The number and scope of categories changes each year and there are slight differences in the requirements for entry. The closing date is the end of June and the winners are announced at a dinner on the final evening of the Local Government IPR Group's annual conference in September.

All work needs to be produced in the twelve months prior to the July of the competition. Judges assess entries on creativity, innovation, appeal to audiences, value for money, effectiveness and success measured against objectives.

For most entries there is a £60 (plus VAT) entry fee for each category entered. Recent categories were:

- **Best leaflet or publication (other than civic newspaper/magazine)**
- **Media relations**
- **Best consultation campaign**
- **Internal communications**
- **PR on a shoestring**
- **Successful partnerships**
- **Best use of e-media**
- **Best civic magazine or newspaper (60k plus circulation)**
- **Best civic magazine or newspaper (under 60K circulation)**
- **Best campaign**
- **New best use of design or photography**
- **Young communicator award**
- **Communicators of the Year**

For further details about the Local Government Excellence in Communications Awards please contact Revelation Communications on 01483 889925, email justine@revelationcom.co.uk or visit the website at: <http://www.ipr.org.uk/lgg/excellence06/index.htm>

Communicators in Business Awards

The Communicators in Business Awards, are run by the British Association of Communicators in Business (CiB). The awards aim to promote the best in business communications and the competition is open to business communicators from all countries – CiB members and non-members.

The awards cover a wide variety of communication - including all types of publications from newspapers to annual reports, websites, printing, photography and design.

The awards are judged in three stages, by more than 60 judges, who are industry professionals from various fields of communication. The deadline for receipt of entries is in January of each year. Judging normally takes place in March when the results are published, and winners are presented with their trophies in May. Entries cost £95 each for CiB members and £125 for non-members.

There are 14 different classes of awards, most of which are divided into several categories, (for example, the internal newspaper class is divided according to how many issues are published per year).

Awards broadly fall into the following categories, (applicants are however advised to view the CiB website where more detailed information is available on the various classes and categories):

- **Internal Newspapers**
- **Internal magazines**
- **Internal newsmagazines**
- **Internal newsletters**
- **External publications** (newspaper, newsletter, magazine, etc)
- **Annual Report and Accounts**
- **Special issue of a regular communication**
- **Corporate or Promotional brochure**
- **Multi lingual publication**
- **New publication**
- **Electronic communications** (best intranet, website, etc)
- **Website content and design** (best writing, design, navigability, etc)
- **Video, audio for internal audiences**
- **Video, audio for external audiences**
- **Design** (newspaper, newsletter, newsmagazine, brochure, etc)
- **Printed articles** (features, news stories)
- **Photography and illustration**
- **Printing** (newspaper, magazine, brochure)

The CiB also run the **Communications Excellence Awards**, which aim to recognise excellent examples of internal and external communication strategies which, 'engage, enthuse, inspire, inform or excite an organisation's people or its clients'.

There are 12 categories including:

Best merger or change campaign,

Best CSR programme or campaign in support of vision and values

Best communication strategies for customers or members.

There is also an award for those who believe they are trailblazers in the internal communications industry, which is open to internal communications teams, or agencies.

The closing date for these awards is normally in July and the winners are announced at an awards lunch in November.

Further details, entry packs and examples of previous winners, for **both** of these awards can be found on the CiB website at: <http://www.cib.uk.com/index.shtml>, or by calling the CiB on: 01908 313755.

E-Commerce awards

The E-Commerce Awards have been running since 1998, and aim to recognise those organisations that have shown excellence in their use of the internet and other information and communications technology.

Run by the Department of Trade and Industry, and InterForum, (a not for profit membership organisation that helps British businesses to trade electronically), the E-Commerce Awards are sponsored by BT and The Sunday Times Enterprise Network.

The awards are free to enter and open to UK businesses (limited or otherwise), public bodies, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations based in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man. They are run on a regional basis and awarded in the following categories:

- **Best Sales & Marketing online**
- **Best Customer Care online**
- **Best Integrated Business**
- **Best use of Broadband**
- **Best use of Teleworking**
- **Best use of Mobile & Wireless Technology**

The winners of each category in each of the 12 regions will then be entered for the national finals to decide the national winner in each category. From these candidates, the national e-champion for the year will be selected.

Awards open for entries at the end of March and the closing date is at the end of July. Regional finals normally take place in September, with the national awards dinner held in London in October.

National ICT Innovators Awards

The DTI and InterForum also run the National ICT Innovators Awards, which recognise best practice in the development of ICT by UK business and public sector communities. The awards are open to all sizes of organisations from SME's to large enterprise and the public sector, and can be for individuals and or project teams. Categories include one technology and six market sectors and are as follows:

- **Safe On-line Transactions**
- **Health**
- **Transport**
- **Education and Learning**
- **Export**
- **The Environment**
- **E-Government (Public Sector)**

The deadline for entries is usually at end of July, with the awards also made at the main gala dinner in London in October.

For further details on either award programme, go to:

http://www.ecommerce-awards.co.uk/about_us/index.html,
or email: info@ecommerce-awards.co.uk

Launched in 2004, The Guardian Public Services Awards, aim to recognise and reward outstanding teams working within all levels and areas of the public services.

Both users and providers of services are able to nominate teams that have made a real difference. Winners are selected by a panel of expert judges, but one award is selected by service users / members of the public.

The team awards are in two main sections: Service Delivery, and Innovation and Progress. These sections are divided into several categories which are selected by the judges each year and so are likely to vary.

In 2006 the categories selected by the judges were as follows:

Service Delivery:

- Children's services
- Complex needs
- Long term conditions
- Care of older people
- Housing
- Transport

Innovation and Progress:

- Local leadership
- Transformation
- Finance and procurement
- Customer service
- Joined-up government
- Diversity and equality

Further details about the criteria for the 2006 awards can be found in the entry pack, at:
http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Society/documents/2006/05/25/FINAL_PSA_entrypack2006.pdf

From the category winners, one overall winner is then selected as the team deemed to have made an 'outstanding contribution in terms of innovation and outcomes'.

There is also a special award for Good Citizenship, which recognises volunteering and other work which has contributed to the community. This is open to teams working in either the public or private sector.

Finally there is the Public Servant of the Year Award, which is voted for by service users or members of the public, and is for an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the delivery of a particular service.

Entrants must be part of a team delivering public services in the UK, but that team can be part of a public, private, statutory, voluntary or community body.

The work or project entered can be of any size as it is the approach taken that is judged and not the scale of success, but it must have taken place during the year prior to the closing date in July. So for the 2006 competition, the work must have taken place between 15 July 2005 and 14 July 2006.

The awards are presented at a ceremony in central London in November.

Further information can be found here:

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/publicservicesawards/story/0,,1768391,00.html>

The Plain English Awards

The Plain English Campaign (PEC) is an independent organisation established to promote clear language. The campaign has a high profile and is widely accepted by public and private sector organisations alike as providing a valuable service in aiding better communication.

Annual awards are made each year in six categories, to reward good examples of English language, and to expose poor ones. Not all categories are open to local authorities, but they can enter the Plain English Award or The Plain English Web Award.

The Plain English Award

The Plain English Award is an open category award, and any document can be entered from any organisation. Judges look for documents that are accessible and free of jargon, enabling the audience to read and understand the contents the first time they read it. Judges also look for clear design and layout that enhances and supports the message that needs to be conveyed. The only documents that cannot be entered are those that PEC staff have previously been involved with or consulted on.

Applicants can enter their own documents, or they can be nominated by someone else. To enter a document, a copy should be sent to: Plain English Awards, Plain English Campaign, PO Box 3, New Mills, High Peak, SK22 4QP.

The Plain English Web Award

This is an annual award, given to what the judges deem is the clearest website. It is open to any website other than those that PEC staff have been involved with, or one which already has been awarded an 'Internet Crystal Mark' by the PEC.

Judges look for a site that:

- uses plain English writing;
- is attractive, but not at the expense of clarity;
- makes it easy for the reader to find their way around; and
- makes it easy for the reader to get the information they are looking for.

Applicants can nominate their own site or someone else's by e-mailing the PEC at: info@plainenglish.co.uk.

The closing date for both awards is normally at the end of September and the awards are presented at a ceremony held in December.

Further information about these awards can be found on the PEC website at: <http://www.plainenglish.co.uk/awards.html>

Run by Public Technology.net magazine, the e-Government National Awards aim to highlight and celebrate the best in UK e-Government, and are supported by the Cabinet Office e-Government Unit, the Office of Government Commerce, the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and the Society of IT Management (SOCITM), and principally sponsored by KPMG.

The awards are open to deliverers of e-government services in the UK, including local and central government, non-departmental public bodies and non-governmental organisations.

There are 11 categories:

1) Central e-Government excellence: Citizen-focused online services

(Using e-Government services to deliver proven citizen-focused services).

2) Central e-Government excellence: Take-up

(Delivering high & growing take-up of an e-enabled service through effective service delivery & marketing).

3) Central e-Government excellence: Team

(Proven team-working or partnership activity which has delivered more than the sum of the parts).

4) e-Government excellence: Leadership & Professionalism – sponsored by KPMG.

(Leading e-Government strategies and professional development which contribute to achieving positive transformation).

5) e-Government excellence: Shared Services

(Proven shared services which have delivered effective services and efficiency gains).

6) Local e-Government excellence: Take-up

(Ensuring high & growing take-up of an e-enabled service through effective service delivery & marketing).

7) Local e-Government excellence: Team

(Proven team-working or partnership activity which has delivered more than the sum of the parts).

8) Local e-Government excellence: Strategy

(Delivering local e-Government strategies for local circumstances).

9) Local e-Government excellence: Efficiency

(Using electronic service delivery to improve the customer experience & improve local authority efficiency).

10) e-Government excellence: Education

(Public sector online or electronic educational services which transform learning).

11) e-Government excellence: Other public sector body

(Non Governmental, Non-Departmental Public Body or voluntary sector organisation which

Entry to the awards is free, and nominations for the 2006 awards opened on **4th July 2006** and will close at 9am, Monday **9th October 2006**.

All nominations must be made online via the awards e-Nomination system which can be found on the awards website (see link below).

Judging takes place in October and November 2006, and the Awards will be presented at a dinner on 17th January 2007 in London. Further information about the awards, criteria and a copy of the online nomination form can be found here:

<http://www.e-governmentawards.co.uk/index.php>.

Or call Chris Histed (CEO) on 020 8977 1883 or 07808 905 314.

Now in its eleventh year, the Human Resources Excellence Awards are run by Haymarket Events (publishers of Human Resources magazine) to profile the very best HR strategies, initiatives and achievements in the UK. There are thirteen categories to enter covering all aspects of HR activity.

Categories for 2006 were:

- Best HR contribution to business strategy
- Best executive development programme
- Excellence in change management
- Best use of technology to transform HR delivery
- Most effective benefits programme
- Most effective use of flexibility in the workplace
- HR Excellence in the public or voluntary sector
- HR Excellence in diversity
- Most effective use of resources for an interim project
- Best HR contribution to merger and acquisition integration
- Best learning and development strategy
- Most effective use of internal communications
- Excellence in achieving a healthy and effective workforce
- HR Excellence in Recruitment & Retention

Two further awards are announced at the awards ceremony and are not open for general entry. These are:

HR Director of the Year – the person who is considered to have made the most effective contribution to development of HR strategy over the previous Year, which is decided by a poll conducted on the Human Resources magazine web site at www.hrmagazine.co.uk

Overall Excellence Award – an award for the entry which is viewed by the judges as the most outstanding for that year.

The closing date for the HR Excellence Awards is normally at the end of March and a list of the finalists is published in the June issue of Human Resources. Awards are presented at an awards ceremony in London in July.

Entrance costs £295 plus VAT per category entered (as of 2006).

Further details about the criteria, a copy of the 2006 entry form and details of previous winners are available here:

<http://www.haymarketevents.com/awards/?fuseaction=eventIntro&eventID=1924>,
or contact Nicky Lusignani on
020 8267 4312 or email nicky.lusignani@haynet.com.

Recruitment Communications Awards

The Recruitment Communications Awards, were previously organised by SOCPO, (the Society of Personnel Officers) which was relaunched in March 2006 as the Public Sector Peoples Managers' Association (PPMA).

The awards recognised excellent examples of recruitment and advertising campaigns, and recruitment initiatives that promoted diversity in the workplace.

Although PPMA do intend to continue the awards, currently there is no information available regarding the categories for the 2007 awards.

Those potentially interested in applying are advised to check the PPMA website in the autumn (2006) for further details. This can be found here:

<http://www.ppma.org.uk/pages/default.aspx>