

Wannop, Kirsty

From: McGeeney, Joanne
Sent: 06 October 2009 09:42
To: Wannop, Kirsty
Subject: FW: STOCKTON COUNCIL SCOOPS TWO AWARDS

From: Kelsey, Laura
Sent: 23 September 2009 16:05
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23 September 2009 09/387

STOCKTON COUNCIL SCOOPS TWO AWARDS

TWO teams from Stockton Council have won national public sector awards.

Stockton Council's Democratic Services and Catering team scooped the APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) Service Awards, which are dedicated to awarding excellence in front-line local government public services.

The Council's Democratic Services won the 'Best Elected Member Development Initiative' for their bespoke online 'Members Support System' for Councillors, beating off five finalists to claim the prize.

And Stockton Council's Catering team also proved to be a winner, taking home the 'Best Service Team: Catering' award. This recognised a successful year's work which saw an increase in pupils choosing school meals, improved and more diverse menu choices, educating children about the benefits of healthy food and much more. The team were told by judges that they were heads above other Councils nominated for the prize due to their unusual submission which used a fun, upbeat ABBA theme to compliment the achievements and challenges the team faces.

Councillor Ken Lupton, Leader of Stockton Borough Council, said: "I'm pleased, and proud, that two of our teams came top of their categories and came home with awards which recognises their hard work. Congratulations, and many thanks, to those involved."

The awards ceremony was held at Cardiff International Arena on Thursday, September 10 2009.

ENDS

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The 'Members Support System' offers support to Councillors 24 hours a day, seven days a week and allows them to identify and self assess their own learning and training needs online. Completed assessments are sent to Council officers who can then direct Members to the appropriate training or

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resources. The e-system also allows Members to access a library of training resources remotely.

APSE is a not for profit local government organisation working with over 300 local authorities, police, fire and civil defence authorities throughout the UK.

The judging panels look for examples of best practice, innovation and evidence of service improvements and better outcomes for the service users.

To view more information about APSE visit www.apse.org.uk

For further information on this release, please call Laura Kelsey, Assistant Press Officer for Stockton Council, on (01642) 528804.

The Audit Commission has named Stockton as one of the highest performing councils for each of the past six years in its Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), awarding the maximum 4-star rating. The Council has also achieved the highest possible ratings for every section of its 'Use of Resources' – which includes value for money – in 2008.