

London Borough of Lewisham receive prestigious national award



*Your unique key to definitive
Land & property addressing*

Press release

The London Borough of Lewisham has won a prestigious national award in recognition of the improvements it has made to its local land and property data, seen as a crucial to modern business transformation and service delivery. The 2008 Exemplar Award for the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) 'Most improved' category recognises Lewisham's progress in this area. The annual Exemplar Awards for Local Government are presented by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and Intelligent Addressing.

The NLPG is the master address dataset for England and Wales and the central hub for the 376 address creating Local Authorities and their Local Land and Property Gazetteers (LLPGs). Based on unique property reference numbers (UPRNs) the underlying principle of these gazetteers is to provide a single definitive address database for all departments and systems across a local authority in order to cut costs, to improve efficiency and service delivery.

This year the award was judged on the performance of a local authority since 1st March 2008 in relation to the objectives set out for the NLPG for 2007 to 2008. The judges took account of the relative improvements and consistency of updating, specifically daily updating, an analysis of geographic positional accuracy and property classification improvements, the level of linkage achieved to Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates and the speed of anomaly resolution.

John Hayes, Director at the Improvement and Development Agency, said as he presented the award "This award is presented to the Local Authority which has taken the biggest strides to improving its Local Land and Property Gazetteer. The wider NLPG is one of the most successful of all eGovernment initiatives and the evidence is on show for all to see at this conference today. It plays a vital role in helping local government transformation and improving efficiency and in supporting the machinery delivering policy and services to the citizen. I congratulate the London Borough of Lewisham for the progress it has made this year."

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Notes to Editors:

The NLPG was initiated in 1999 to become the master address dataset for England and Wales and the central hub for the 376 address creating Local Authorities and their Local Land and Property Gazetteers (LLPGs). Based on unique property reference numbers (UPRNs) the underlying principle of these gazetteers is to provide a single definitive address database for all departments and systems across a local authority in order to cut costs, improve efficiency and service delivery.

The dataset enables various local authority departments – from revenue collection and environmental health, to social security, the electoral roll and education – to now offer true 'joined up' government. The benefits also go beyond service delivery. Fraud prevention, tax collection and disaster planning all benefit from the fact that each property is given a 'Unique Property Reference Number' which transcends (property) numbers, names, descriptions (such as 'The Nursing Home') and postcodes. UPRNs are assigned for the full life of the plot and/or building.

The project was given a significant boost in 2005 with the introduction of the Mapping Services Agreement, which committed all Local Authorities to bringing their gazetteers up to standard and to start submitting regular updates to the NLPG hub for use by national and regional organisations. Collaboration with DNA-S (Definitive National Addressing for Scotland) who use the same BS7666 processes and database schemas means that the a British addressing infrastructure is now a reality.

Intelligent Addressing is a specialist private sector consultancy (an SME) employing recognised experts in addressing. It was originally set up to help develop the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) on behalf of local government and now manages the NLPG and NSG central data hubs under the terms of the Mapping Services Agreement (MSA) with local government.

The **Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)** The IDeA works in partnership with all councils, to enhance the performance of the best, accelerate the speed of improvement of the rest, and develop the sector as a whole. IDeA has brokered the Mapping Services Agreement (MSA) with Intelligent Addressing to develop the NLPG and NSG, through the Local Government Information House (LGIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Agency.

Working in partnership with the local government community developing national infrastructure projects that enable councils to deliver local services more effectively, LGIH acts as an intermediary between the public and the private sector enabling it to negotiate with private companies on behalf of local authorities in order to provide key parts of a technical infrastructure for improved service delivery.

The NLPG is a joint venture between the Information House and Intelligent Addressing Limited.

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