

# Nottingham City Council wins prestigious national award



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Press release

Nottingham City Council has received a prestigious national award for the way it uses and shares information to assess flood risk and plan regeneration.

The 2008 Exemplar Award for the 'Best Use of the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) data by a partner', recognises the way the Council is using its property data to help planning decisions to be made about flood risk and regeneration around an area that was once heavily used by water-intensive and highly polluting industries. The annual Exemplar Awards for Local Government are presented by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and Intelligent Addressing.

The River Leen and its tributary Day Brook were central to the industrial expansion of the City of Nottingham and many businesses historically were established along its length to take advantage of the river's water supply. Today many of these industries have closed, leaving behind disused land often contaminated by a history of bleaching, dyeing and other chemical processes. A project was set up between Nottingham City Council, the Environment Agency and Nottingham Regeneration Limited to address the challenges of regenerating such areas.

The River Leen and Day Brook Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) project aims to steer development away from areas of highest risk and investigate solutions to flood risk.

The project received the award for its innovative use of property data held in the Council's NLPG and other systems, such as whether the property was commercial or residential, whether the property was council owned or not and whether large employers were in the area. The data also revealed vulnerable commercial properties such as hospitals, health centres, and critical buildings such as electricity sub stations. Other vulnerable residential properties were identified, including those occupied by citizens claiming benefit with children under ten or those over the age of 60. This means that decisions affecting the assessment, risk mitigation and possible future

regeneration of an area are based on the most up to date and accurate and detailed property information.

John Hayes, Director at the Improvement and Development Agency, said as he presented the award: “This is a great example of NLPG data being used to unlock information from other back office systems and then making it available to inform real decision making. The accuracy and level of information detail gathered via the NLPG for properties within the flood areas is impressive and its value to the Environment Agency, planners, Local Development Framework officers, heads of resilience, area committees, emergency services and emergency planning officers cannot be underestimated.”

"Councillor Alan Clark, the city council's portfolio holder for neighbourhood regeneration, stated that this was an excellent example of Nottingham City Council working in partnership with the Environment Agency and Nottingham Regeneration Limited in order to ensure a sustainable approach to the future of new and existing communities.”

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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.

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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**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.

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