

# Two Citations for Monmouthshire Council in Prestigious National Awards



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Press release

Monmouthshire Council received two citations in the 2008 Exemplar Awards for Local Government. The awards focus on the national databases used by Local Authorities to bring about business transformation and improved service delivery. Presented annually the Exemplar Awards are sponsored by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and Intelligent Addressing.

Monmouthshire Council entered two categories in this year's Exemplar Awards finishing runner up in both. The first award was for the 'Most Creative use of the NSG' (National Street Gazetteer). The second was for the best integration of the NSG and the NLPG (National Land and Property Gazetteer). Monmouthshire has adopted a strategy to build a single integrated gazetteer which will underlie highway, address and location based information, to encompass many aspects of service delivery by the authority and its partner organisations. Building quality into this key corporate dataset is a foundation for all future e-government and business transformation. Monmouthshire's Local Street Gazetteer is in use by the business to power the highway teams operational services such as highway maintenance, highway asset management, and waste management. Additional functions such as street lighting and traffic management are working to link to this data.

These improvements are seen as an enabler to making a sea change in the authority's service delivery methods and infrastructure. This is required to meet Government guidelines for eGovernment, and provides distributed services, to support the demands of working from home by making access to data location independent. A single integrated gazetteer highways, address and location based information and is anticipated to encompass every aspect of service delivery by the authority and its partner organisations. Among those which utilise it on a daily basis are development and building control, street works, highways maintenance, the authority website and staff web mapping for address searches. Additional areas such as social care, housing services, electoral roll, revenues and benefits, environmental health, corporate land

and property terrier, and education are also developing links to the system. The system also underpins the Council's website which encourages further engagement by the public.

John Hayes. Director at the Improvement and Development Agency said as he presented the award "Monmouthshire has an over arching vision for its business process transformation and fully understands what it will take to achieve. By integrating their property and street gazetteers they are able to make significant changes to their business processes much more quickly and effectively."

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**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.

### **NSG**

Required under the New Roads and Street Works Act, the National Street Gazetteer (NSG) is a comprehensive list of over 1 million named and un-named streets, footpaths and thoroughfares, the definitive source for anyone with an interest in streets and their usage. There are over 300 organisations, utilities such as gas, water and electricity, BT, plus cable and communications companies, named as 'Statutory Undertakers' approved by the Department of Transport to download this data, which conforms to the BS7666 Standard. The NSG is a government initiative to create an unambiguous referencing system, using Unique Street Reference Numbers (USRNs) with which to identify any length of highway or road in England and Wales. Set up initially to improve highway maintenance, by the New Roads and Street Works Act, the NSG enables Utility companies and local councils to coordinate and know where and when to dig their holes. Under legislation each highway authority is required to create and maintain its own local street gazetteer (LSG) and additional street data (ASD), which is then compiled into one master index, the NSG, for access by others via the NSG online hub, managed by Intelligent Addressing.

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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