Annual Report Winners announced

On Tuesday 27th October PATROL announced the winners of the Annual Report Awards.

Producing an annual report makes councils eligible to enter the Patrolling Annual Report by Councils Awards.

Dorset County Council received its award this week at the scenic Thomas Paine Park in the heart of Bath North East and Somerset County Council received an award for the most outstanding creative report.

The shortlisted councils included:
- Bath and North East Somerset Council
- Brighton & Hove City Council
- Cornwall County Council
- Dorset County Council
- Isle of Wight Council
- Lewisham and Greenwich Borough Council
- Wiltshire City Council
- Winchester City Council

Speaking about their win Councillor James Mannes said: "It’s a privilege to be able to recognise those local authorities who have generously sought to publish information about their traffic management projects to raise public awareness and understanding of civil parking enforcement. Dorset County Council’s win for its best report and Bath North East and Somerset’s win for the most concise report are a testament to their dedication to providing open and localised information about their services.”

At the same event PATROL launched its first Toolkit, designed to help the public understand why their council may be undertaking a parking enforcement and the essential services it supports.

The Toolkit enables local authorities to produce annual reports that inform and engage their residents and businesses, making information available about their car parks and their services are funded.

Councillor James Mannes, Chair of the PATROL Joint Committee, said: "We recognise the different challenges facing local authorities when it comes to producing an annual report, with pressures on resources greater than ever. However, we would like authorities to see reporting as an opportunity rather than an onerous task as we now have evidence that producing a report can actually result in efficiency savings as well as allowing authorities to open up a valuable dialogue with their communities. There are no hard and fast rules about what councils should include in their reports — except the basics laid out by Government in the Statutory Guidance and Transparency Code. However, we think authorities can go further than this and see the report as an opportunity to inform and engage their communities, reduce misconceptions and ultimately make better use of their resources.

The new Toolkit will make it easier for local authorities to demonstrate their commitment to being open and transparent, reduce their parking enforcement conflict and help to change public attitudes towards the service as a whole.”