

PATROL

Thursday 9 May –

STATEMENT:

PATROL PARC Awards shortlist announced

The shortlist for this year's Parking Annual Reports by Councils (PARC) Awards has been announced.

The PARC Awards recognise Annual Reports on local authority parking services and traffic management, together with the civil enforcement approaches that are applied. This year, 2017/18 Annual Reports are under review.

The awards form part of PATROL's commitment to promoting best practice in the dissemination of public information on civil enforcement to increase understanding of traffic management objectives.

Louise Hutchinson, Director, PATROL, said:

'The observation of the Transport Committee inquiry on civil parking enforcement in 2013 remains relevant today:

"Civil traffic enforcement is an issue that provokes strong views from the public... with a deep-rooted perception that local authorities use it as a 'cash cow".'

This underlines the importance of reporting, including the unpacking of parking finances and showing how any parking surplus is spent.

In deciding on the PARC Awards shortlist this year, the Independent Review Group commented on the improved standards of Annual Reports across the board, together with the increasing number of authorities producing reports. The Review Group was also pleased to see an emergence of reporting on the range of factors influencing traffic management strategies, such as the drive to improve air quality.

The Independent Review Group members assessing the 2017/18 reports this year are Chair, Peter Bayless (Head of Traffic and Safety at Hampshire County Council – Retired); Jo Abbott (Communications Manager, RAC Foundation – Retired); Kelvin Reynolds (Director of Policy and Public Affairs at the British Parking Association) and Natasha Monroe (Marketing and Brand Manager, Four Communications).

The shortlisted Annual Reports are as follows:

- [Brighton & Hove City Council>>](#)
- [Cheshire East Council>>](#)
- [Devon County Council>>](#)
- [Durham County Council>>](#)
- [Newcastle City Council>>](#)
- [North Essex Parking Partnership>>](#)
- [Sedgemoor District Council>>](#)
- [South Lakeland District Council>>](#)
- [Sunderland City Council>>](#)

Awards will be given for **Overall Winner** and three categories for **Highly Commended Reporting**:

1. **Innovation and New Services**

Where authorities have provided one or more example of innovations or new schemes delivered to improve traffic management, in order to meet the needs of the community.

2. **Customer Service**

Where authorities have reported on steps taken to proactively engage with their community.

3. **Presentation of Finance and Statistics**

Where authorities have transparently and effectively conveyed income and expenditure around traffic management, including the use of any surplus, or presented statistics on parking and traffic management in a visually compelling way.

This year sees the arrival of a new award category – **Outstanding Digital Format** – which will recognise authorities that have harnessed digital formats to improve the accessibility and availability of report information.

Shortlisted authorities are invited to the PARC Awards reception at the House of Commons on 16 July, where the award winners will be announced. The event is sponsored by Huw Merriman, MP for Bexhill and Battle.

– ENDS –

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Background

- The PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) Joint Committee comprises 313 local authorities in England (outside London) and Wales.
- The principal function of the Joint Committee is to make provision for independent adjudication in respect of appeals against penalties issued for traffic contraventions by enforcement and charging authorities in England (outside London) and Wales.
- Adjudication is delivered through the Traffic Penalty Tribunal (TPT). TPT adjudicators are wholly independent lawyers, appointed with the consent of the Lord Chancellor, and are supported by a small team of administrative staff, who provide customer support. The TPT is the UK's first fully online tribunal and decides ~25,000 cases a year.
 - The Adjudicators decide appeals against civil enforcement penalties issued by authorities for parking, bus lane, littering from vehicles and (in Wales only) moving traffic contraventions, as well as appeals arising from road user charging enforcement (including from the Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing, Mersey Gateway Bridge Crossings and the Durham Road User Charge Zone).
- PATROL represents its member authorities on traffic management issues of mutual interest, whilst also taking into account the motorist's perspective – as seen through appeals to the TPT.
- PATROL also promotes best practice in public information to increase understanding of traffic management objectives. This includes the annual PARC (Parking Annual Reports by Councils) Awards held at the House of Commons.
- PATROL member authorities comprise each type of local authority and a spectrum of political allegiances – a representative voice on civil traffic enforcement outside London, through the sharing of issues, insight, evaluation and best practice from a broad and diverse geographic area.

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