

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001243
Date 20 June 2017

2017 Municipal Journal Awards

Request:

The Council was nominated for an award at the 2017 Municipal Journal awards.

Q1: Which organisation nominated the Council? If the Council was nominated for more than one award category, please list each category and the organisation which made the nomination?

[The City of Wolverhampton Council made nominations in the following categories:](#)

[Best Council Services Team](#)
[Workforce Transformation](#)
[Local Authority of the Year](#)
[Most Improved Council](#)
[Senior Leadership Team](#)
[Delivering Better Outcomes](#)
[Reinventing Public Services](#)
[Excellence in Governance & Scrutiny](#)
[Behaviour Change](#)
[Innovation in Finance](#)
[Impact & Learning in Children's Services](#)
[Legal Services](#)
[Excellence in Community Engagement](#)
[Commercialism in the Property Estate](#)

Q2: For any awards where the Council nominated itself, please provide copies of the nomination form submitted?

[These are available on the councils website. Information also available on the link below under City of Wolverhampton Council.](#)
<https://awards.themj.co.uk/winners>

Q3: Please provide copies of any press releases produced by the Council pertaining to the MJ awards 2017 – including any prior to the award ceremony and any which were issued after the award ceremony?

[City of Wolverhampton Council Crowned 'Council of the Year'](#)

Released: Friday June 16, 2017

City of Wolverhampton Council was crowned Council of the Year at the 'Oscars of local government' and also scooped three other awards at a ceremony in London last night (THURS JUNE 16).

The council was the star of the show at the Municipal Journal (MJ) Awards held at London's Hilton Park Lane Hotel and hosted by television star Joanna Lumley.

The MJ Awards are open to all councils across the country and are judged by a panel of leading experts.

This year City of Wolverhampton Council was a finalist in seven out of the 14 categories – which was more than any other council.

As well as winning the top accolade of Council of the Year, City of Wolverhampton Council also took home Most Improved Council, Senior Leadership Team of the Year and Excellence in Governance and Scrutiny.

It was also highly commended in the Impact and Learning in Children's Services category.

Winning four awards is believed to be a record.

Heather Jameson, Editor of the MJ, said: "Judges praised City of Wolverhampton Council for delivering consistently excellent services across all key areas and the council was described as an outstanding example of modern local government where the resident is at the heart of sound commercial decision-making.

"It was a truly fabulous night and congratulations to all our winners and particularly City of Wolverhampton."

City of Wolverhampton Council leader Cllr Roger Lawrence said that the outstanding success was independent recognition of the transformation of the authority over recent years.

He added: "Receiving these four fantastic accolades is a testament to the hard work we've invested into putting our residents at the heart of all we do, improving services and making our city a rising star within the local government world.

"I am delighted that we took home the top prize of the night, 'Local Authority of the Year' after being runner up last year.

"It shows the huge strides we have made on our transformation journey to become a confident, capable council. – and I would like to thank all those involved for helping make this possible."

Managing director Keith Ireland said: "To be finalist in seven of the 14 categories and win four of those awards is absolutely fantastic. This is a real

achievement for the city council, its residents, employees, councillors and partners.”

For more information about the MJ Awards [see here](#).

Q4: How many personnel attended the awards dinner in London? Please state the number of councillors and the number of officers?

Officers: 16 (14 of whom presented to judges in seven categories)

Councillors: 6

Q5: How much money did the Council spend on seats at the awards dinner? For clarity, where a place was sponsored by an external body, please do not include in this total ie only include Council expenditure?

2 tables of 10 purchased at the price of £2,695 per table – total price: £5,390.00

Q6: How much external sponsorship was received to support the event? Please list each sponsoring organisation and the sum provided?

2 officers were accommodated on a table sponsored by iMPower.

Q7: What were the travel, accommodation and subsistence costs for Council personnel attending the event?

Total costs were £7,233.97. All drinks on the evening were paid for by the 5 directors out of their own pockets and there was, therefore, no cost to the council.