

We are delighted that you are interested in finding out more about the new Local Innovation Awards.

The new scheme is jointly designed and led by Government, the LGA and the local public sector. It will capture the expertise and commitment that lies at the frontline of public services and the real difference this makes to communities across the country. The awards will seek to celebrate the important role partnership working plays in delivering services in the community in the most effective and efficient way. We all need to work closely with our partners, including those from the business and third sector, to create the right environment for our communities to grow and prosper.

The Local Innovation Awards scheme will identify partnerships with excellent practice and innovation in service delivery. It will encourage partnerships to develop new approaches to the challenges they face and, in doing so, raise standards for all. But there is no expectation that one size fits all.

The scheme will look at how we can provide the most effective support to enable peers to work with each other in the development of services that will work in our own local areas. Support will be available for those partnerships and front line teams who are taking a fundamental look at how services are delivered in order to develop a radical and innovative approach which could accelerate the pace of reform.

The scheme will recognise the importance of technological change, to embrace its innovative use positively, and to recognise how promoting the use of skills and creativity can help find innovative solutions to seemingly intractable problems. It will identify those innovators, nurture them and provide the incubation needed to realise their vision if we are to really drive improvements for our communities.

We have set out in detail the six cross-cutting themes for which applications are invited in this, the first year of the scheme's operation. These themes are aligned to the sector's 20 most popular Local Area Agreement (LAA) indicators, as chosen by councils and their partners. The evaluation process will be "light touch", reducing the resource and cost burden on applicants. But we will set the bar high. The overall result will be an 'easy to enter, harder to secure' award that has a peer review element, and engages local and regional stakeholders in a national best practice process.

We hope that you will recognise themes where you are working successfully with your community and partners, and maybe even leading the field. If so, we look forward to hearing from you!

Rosie Winterton
MP
Minister for Local
Government

Dame Denise Platt
Chair Advisory
Panel for the Local
Innovation Awards
scheme

Councillor Ian
Swithenbank CBE
Chairman IDeA

Councillor Margaret
Eaton OBE
Chairman LGA

