

## **ELG Awards 2023 Category Descriptions**

### **Communications**

Local authority communications and marketing efforts play a vital role in keeping the public informed, involved and engaged, promoting services and projects, supporting local business and enterprise, promoting library services, and encouraging tourism, enterprise and investment. Local authority marketing and communications extend across public awareness, project communications, service promotion, brand development, tourism promotion, internal communications, and other areas.

This award seeks to recognise communications and marketing campaigns that support local authorities' strategic objectives and provide a better understanding of the work and role of councils.

### **Climate Change**

With the effects and future of climate change becoming more apparent, it is clear action must be taken by all responsible bodies in this space to combat the crisis. Local authorities have really contributed to these efforts through a range of original initiatives. With both the aim to educate and take action against the effects of climate change, local and regional efforts engaged communities with the climate change crisis.

### **Diversity & Inclusion**

As communities diversify and modernise, it is vital that all members feel included, heard and can participate in local society. This category seeks to celebrate the range of projects which have promoted inclusion, enhanced accessibility, or just in general improved the quality of life of those from diverse or marginalised groups. Successful projects implemented by local authorities include those focusing on civic engagement, disability friendly services, initiatives in aid of refugees, and projects which educate on and emphasise gender equality, including in local government structures and decision making.

Community engagement is at the core of these initiatives.

### **Festival of the Year**

Festivals are a great way to bring communities together to celebrate -even if they have moved online during the pandemic. Landmark occasions and centenaries are also important celebrations to bring local communities together and establish a sense of pride in the locality. This award recognises the best and most innovative festival or event held by or in association with a Local Authority, either virtual or in-person.

### **Municipal District Initiative**

This award seeks to recognise the impact of initiatives that maximise the contribution of the municipal district members to local authority effectiveness, particularly in terms of governance, local representation, conduct of council business, community engagement, and economic, social and local development.

### **Age Friendly Initiative**

This award recognises the excellent programmes by Local Authorities who take the lead on changing thinking about ageing, and how services are planned and delivered, to encourage communities in which older people live valued lives.

### **Health & Wellbeing**

This award seeks to recognise best in class efforts by a Local Authority to promote the health and wellbeing of its community. Health initiatives can include active transport infrastructure, health programmes, sports programmes, outdoor recreational areas, development of facilities that enable physical activities, awareness campaigns and more. Wellbeing initiative can include programmes that support tackling issues on mental health.

### **Supporting Sustainable Communities**

This award seeks to recognise projects by Local Authorities that promote social awareness and work with communities to involve them in making their localities a better place in which to live and work. This category celebrates initiatives which promote sustainable communities, development of the community or contribute to improved quality of life in an area.

### **Promoting Economic Development**

The relationship between businesses and local authorities is very important for the local economy of an area. This award is presented to the project which has enhanced this relationship and delivered innovative projects such as those that support women in the workforce, digital hubs which facilitate remote working, and other efforts to support the local economy based on the direct relationship between local government and businesses.

### **Supporting Tourism**

Tourism is a vital part of the Irish economy and can have wide ranging positive effects for communities and businesses. This award seeks to recognise best practice work by local authorities to promote and increase the tourism offerings in their local areas as well as helping people appreciate the tourism attraction within their local area.

### **Local Authority Innovation**

This is a wide-ranging award which recognises innovation at any level and in any capacity within the Local Authority. Examples might include the introduction of new technologies, innovative methods of service delivery or projects that are unique and original in local government in Ireland.

### **Sustainable Environment & Biodiversity**

This award will recognise a Local Authority that works to develop, promote and foster initiatives that support the sustainable development of their local environment. Projects in this category should be outward looking and seek to promote sustainable or low- carbon approaches to protecting our environment and might include work on a diverse range of areas, from enhancing biodiversity to reducing waste or improving air quality.

### **Sustaining the Arts**

Support for the arts is hugely important for the vibrancy of an area's cultural landscape and is a way in which communities can be inspired and celebrate creativity among themselves. The arts are a way in which people can express values, build bridges between cultures, and bring us together regardless of our differences. This award recognises initiatives by a Local Authority to further develop or promote the arts in their locality.

### **Heritage & Built Environment**

This category celebrates best in class by a Local Authority to promote public interest in, and knowledge, appreciation and protection of local heritage sites.

This can include enhancement or protection of the heritage environment, such as historic sites, promotion of cultural heritage, archaeological heritage and more.

### **Urban Revival**

This award recognises initiatives that promote urbanism through improving and enhancing the lived experience in urban environments. Examples of initiatives might include programmes to reduce vacancies in urban cores, renovating buildings for residential use, creating people friendly streets and town centres, sustainable mobility programmes, repurposing civic buildings, community art programmes, or any other initiative that improves urban quality of life.