

### **COSLA EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2023**

#### **Summary and Recommendations**

At their January meeting, Leadership Sounding Board (LSB) agreed that an in-person Annual COSLA Conference and Excellence Awards would take place for the first time since 2019. A date of Thursday 28 and Friday 29 September 2023 at the Crieff Hydro Hotel has been secured for this purpose.

The plan is for the COSLA Excellence Awards to be held on the first night of the Conference on Thursday 28 September which presents an excellent opportunity for Local Government to showcase the great work, talent and innovation across our councils and the exceptional people who deliver for our communities every day of the year.

Convention is invited to note the plans for this year's COSLA Excellence Awards and to promote them as widely as possible.

#### **References**

None. No Previous reports to Convention.

**David J Kennedy**  
**Head of Media and Communications**  
[davidk@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:davidk@cosla.gov.uk)  
**0131 474 9205**

**March 2023**

## **COSLA EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2023**

### **Purpose**

1. This report provides COSLA Convention with an update on the plan to hold an in-person Conference and COSLA Excellence Awards in 2023 and asks members to promote the Awards within their individual Councils.

### **Background**

2. The Annual Conference and Excellence Awards have run as a joint event for over 15 years. By doing so, both Events enjoy a greater attendance and exposure for Members, partner organisations and finalists alike. There are also economies of scale from hosting two events together, in the one venue.
3. In January 2023 COSLA’s Leadership Sounding Board agreed that the Excellence Awards should return to being held in-person, for the first time since 2019, as part of the COSLA Annual Conference, which will take place in the Crieff Hydro Hotel on September 28 and 29.
4. Each Award Category is sponsored by a major sponsor and in returning to an in-person event we hope to get a return to the usual number of entries of between 180 and 200 that we were experiencing pre- Covid.

### **Proposed Format and Timeline**

5. The COSLA Excellence Awards are about recognising the great work, talent and innovation across our Councils and the exceptional people who deliver for our communities every day of the year.

Aligned to the new COSLA Plan, the five categories for this year’s awards are as follows:

- *Category 1: Service Innovation and Improvement*
- *Category 2: Achieving Better Outcomes for the Most Vulnerable in Partnership*
- *Category 3: Tackling Inequalities and Improving Health and Wellbeing*
- *Category 4: Strengthening Communities and Local Democracy*
- *Category 5: Just Transition to a Net Zero Economy*

A timeline for the Awards is presented in the table below:

Report to Convention – <b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>
Applications will open on <b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b> following Convention
Application deadline for entries will be <b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>
Judging, led by a team from COSLA, Solace Scotland, The Improvement Service and representatives from Local Government Professional Associations, will take place over the summer, shortlisting to a final three in each category.

Finalists will be invited to present to an adjudication panel at COSLA's offices in Edinburgh on either <b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> or Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August</b>
All finalist teams will be invited to the awards ceremony on <b>Thursday, 28 September 2023</b> at Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire where the winners will be announced.

### **Next Steps**

6. Although there has been some activity, promotion of the Awards will formally commence on 3rd April and work will continue to secure sponsorship and ensure that the sale of delegate places for both the conference and awards are maximised. Efforts by Convention delegates and member Councils to promote the event would be welcomed and COSLA's Communications team are happy to provide support and promotional material where required. The weekly Elected Member Bulletin, sent to all Councillors, will be used to promote the event.
7. The Award Winners will be featured in COSLA's Communication Campaigns such as 'This is Local Government' going forward.

**March 2023**