

Communities and Place Committee
Thursday 14 August 2025

Good News

Amenities

The Amenities team recently won the APSE Gold Award in the category of STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE. This was in recognition of the work the Amenities have done in establishing the in house play team. The award was accepted by Debbie Sutton at the APSE awards dinner on Thursday 22 May 2025. I would like to congratulate the Team on winning this award.

In addition, I am delighted to inform members that The Highland Council has been shortlisted for three awards at the 2025 APSE Service Awards. The awards are specific to frontline services provided by UK local authorities and celebrate excellence in local public services. Our nominations are in the categories:

- Best Service Team: Parks, Grounds and Horticultural for the Amenities in house Play Team
- Best Service Team: Technical Services, for the Amenities GIS Officer
- Best Community and Neighbourhood initiative, for the Burnside Play Area Project

Winners will be announced at the APSE Annual Charity Awards Dinner in Glasgow on Thursday 11 September 2025, where the awards will be agreed by a panel of expert judges.

Fleet

Congratulations to Calum MacTavish from the Fort William workshop who picked up an awarded for best apprentice.



Environmental Health

The environmental health team has received praise for work undertaken with local schools to support Clean Air Day in June 2025. Local MP, Angus MacDonald, tabled an early day motion in House of Commons to recognise the work of school pupils and the environmental health team on 'Anti-Idling' messages for drivers using school drop-off zones. A previous project had identified distinct peaks in pollution levels during school drop-off and pick-up times and the Anti-Idling Campaign encourages positive change.

Waste

Are pleased to report the Waste Recycling Service transformation project has been taken forward as a submission to the COSLA awards under the category of building towards a just transition.
