# Bury Metropolitan Borough Council wins GeoPlace’s Data Quality and Improvement Award, 2020, for its excellence in managing Address data

Bury Metropolitan Borough Council has been awarded GeoPlace’s Data Quality and Improvement Award, 2020, recognising the way it manages its address information database. This achievement was announced in a webinar celebrating the achievements of local authority Address and Street Data Custodians.

**Recognising outstanding achievement**

Land, property, street and address information connects different services – giving local communities and individuals a ‘property level view’ of the services available to them. Each year, GeoPlace’s Exemplar Awards highlight best practice and excellent examples of this data management by individual local authorities.

Dedication and coordination are needed to curate the data that drives the nation’s addressing infrastructure. Without this data, and the work of Street and Address Custodians, our nation’s most essential services could not operate effectively or efficiently. The Awards highlight the Custodians' roles in this task, rewarding impressive and extensive personal commitment to constantly improving the quality of addressing data.

**Addressing – supporting vulnerable people**

High quality addressing has never been more important. Coronavirus is imposing massive demands on the public sector, but accurate addressing enables the prompt provision of support for vulnerable people, enabling social services to see which households need help.

By using addressing – and the Unique Property Reference Number in particular – high quality, granular data from different sources is easily connected, while still respecting information governance. Personal details are protected. Addresses from local authorities are key to making this possible, and the data quality is imperative.

This is why the Award is so important. It is recognition of the hard work and skill that goes into maintaining a constantly changing dataset – delivering tangible results directly back into the community. The Award puts a spotlight on services using the data, further helping to promote the importance of Custodians’ work.

Using statistics compiled by GeoPlace, the Data Quality and Improvement Award for Address Data recognises the authority that’s achieved improvements in accuracy and quality of data submitted to GeoPlace.

In presenting the Award to **Jon O’Connor** and **Michelle Halstead**, in the LLPG team at Bury Council, Kerry Pearce, National Address Data Manager said: “Bury Council are very deserving of this award. They have improved in all aspects of data quality – a commendable effort on Jon’s part, and an indication the authority is future-focused on making good use of location data.”

Kerry continued: “Bury Council has set an example we want to recognise on a national stage. Managing Address information data takes skill, and commitment. This Award recognises excellence and is an appreciation of effort that’s delivering local and national benefits.”

**END**

**Notes**

**About GeoPlace**

GeoPlace LLP is a public sector limited liability partnership between the Local Government Association (LGA) and Ordnance Survey.

GeoPlace is a world class expert in address and street information management, working internationally as well as in the UK to help our partners and customers maximise the value of their spatial information for better decision making.

GeoPlace maintains a national infrastructure that supports the address and street information needs of the public and private sectors. Its work relies heavily on close working relationships with every local authority in England and Wales. This relationship has been developed over 15 years, to build the National Address Gazetteer infrastructure and National Street Gazetteer. Ordnance Survey develops the range of AddressBase products from the National Address Gazetteer and OS MasterMap Highways Network from the NSG. Both datasets underpin efficient and effective services, bringing direct service delivery benefits to users.

The Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN) and the Unique Street Reference Number (USRN) are the unique identifiers for every addressable location and street in Great Britain. They are created by local authorities who have the statutory authority to name and number every street and property and Ordnance Survey who identify objects on the landscape which may otherwise not attract an address.

These unique reference numbers link datasets together and share information with other organisations who also use them. They provide a comprehensive, complete and consistent identifier throughout a property's life cycle – from planning permission or street naming through to demolition.

See https://www.geoplace.co.uk.

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