# Durham County Council wins GeoPlace’s Data Quality and Improvement Award, 2020, for its excellence in managing Street information

Durham County 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 street data. That same data is also used in a national Highways dataset – Ordnance Survey’s Highways Network product.

High quality street information has never been more important, when authorities are responsible for managing flow of traffic on and use of the network. Coronavirus is imposing massive demands on the public sector, but accurate street information is key to supporting the country’s response to COVID-19, organisations need to have complete confidence in the roads and streets network and roadworks need to be managed efficiently.

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 Street Information recognises the authority that’s achieved improvements in accuracy and quality of data submitted to GeoPlace.

In presenting the Award to **Danny Harland**, the Authority Street Custodian at Durham Council, Jonathan Bates, National Street Data Manager said: “Durham has made huge strides in data improvements over the improvement schedule year 2019/20. They’ve improved their work against 6 out of the 11 criteria we use. Specifically, there were significant improvements to health checks and traffic sensitivity alongside improvements to all of the classified network coverage. This will have significant benefits to the coordination of streetworks in their area.”

Jonathan continued: “Durham County Council has set an example that we want to recognise on a national stage. Managing street information data takes skill, and commitment. This Award recognises excellence and is an appreciation of the effort going into a process that brings 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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