

Young Local Authority of the Year 2024

**6 – 8 March
Lancaster**

**Developing new talent
in local government**

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Scenes from 2023. From top: Gianluca Guerriero and Kate Perry who won the title Young Local Authority of the Year for Central Bedfordshire Council; runners-up James Hill and Natalie Read-Bone of Test Valley Borough Council; Peter Cooper and Alex Czabaniuk of Maidstone Borough Council who were highly commended.

Young Local Authority of the Year is an annual team competition enhancing the professional development of people in the early stages of their local government careers. A highlight of the charity-run Young Programme's calendar, the event exists to **improve communication skills and build confidence**. It is also a valuable opportunity to meet others in similar positions across the UK, and it provides a creative and inspiring environment for the exchange of ideas and experiences away from the demands of everyday professional life.

The dates for the 2024 event are **6th to 8th March**. Teams of two will compete to win the prestigious Young Local Authority of the Year title for their employers. All delegates will be aged 18 or over but **all of our events are 'age-positive' so there is no upper age limit**. The requirement is that delegates are in the early years of their local government careers, irrespective of age.

In advance of the two-day residential competition, each team will research and write a paper (the 'Argument' presentation) on a subject of its own choice 'of current interest or controversy'.

Our coaches provide useful advice – in a helpful written briefing before the event and then in rehearsal on the day of arrival.

The Argument paper should be around 900 words – six minutes when the team co-presents it at Lancaster. Rather than a balanced 'on the one hand...on the other hand' approach, we look for a **strongly argued case, well-researched, well-written, and well-presented**. No PowerPoint or presentational aids are allowed – delegates must rely on the power of the spoken word.

There are two further (more informal) tasks. In 'On the Spot', each team will ask itself a question of its own choice on any topic under the sun, light or serious, and then answer it without notes in as close to two minutes as possible. Sounds challenging? It is... but it can also be hugely enjoyable and rewarding as well as being a test of delegates' ability to think on their feet. In 'Pride of Place' teams have two minutes (also without notes) to tell us about one thing for which their local authority area is distinguished.

Each team will be awarded a maximum of 80 marks in the Argument session (up to 60 for content and 20 for presentation) and a maximum of 20 for On the Spot and 20 for Pride of Place.

It all adds up to a lively and creative experience culminating in the **awards ceremony** on the final evening when the team with the highest mark will win the Young Local Authority of the Year 2024 title.

Each team will receive a written adjudication following the event.

AT A GLANCE...

WHERE AND WHEN?

Teams will check-in at the four-star Lancaster House Hotel on the campus of Lancaster University in the afternoon of **Wednesday 6 March 2024**. Briefing and rehearsals will take place that afternoon. A full day of lively competition on **Thursday** will be followed by the awards dinner. Check-out is after breakfast on **Friday**.

The hotel is just 10 minutes by taxi from Lancaster railway station on the main west coast line. For delegates coming by car, the hotel is very close to the M6.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

Each team must consist of two people aged 18 or over who are considered by their employers to be in the early years of a career in local government in the UK. There is no upper age limit and no limit on the number of teams a council may enter.

WHAT IS THE ENROLMENT FEE?

£1440 plus VAT (total: £1728) per team, inclusive of accommodation (single room occupancy) for two nights, plus all meals.



Emma Foster and Katharine Pearce who won the Best Pride of Place award for South Hams District Council & West Devon Borough Council (joint entry).

HOW DO WE REGISTER?

Book online at www.youngprogramme.org. The closing date is **Thursday 18 January** – this is also the deadline for submitting the names of your delegates.

WHAT ADVICE / INFORMATION DO YOU PROVIDE FOR TEAMS IN ADVANCE?

A delegate pack containing guidance on writing the Argument paper, information about On the Spot and Pride of Place, rules and other aspects of the event, travel details, etc, will be sent to all delegates on **Thursday 18 January**.



Lancaster House Hotel

Roll of Honour 2006–2023 and award ceremony scenes over the years

YOUNG LOCAL AUTHORITY OF THE YEAR PAST WINNERS

2023

Central Bedfordshire Council

Runner-up: Test Valley Borough Council

2022

Buckinghamshire Council

Runner-up: Southend-on-Sea City Council

2021

Warwickshire County Council

Runner-up: Kent County Council

2020

Cancelled due to Covid restrictions

2019

London Borough of Brent

Runner-up: Doncaster Council

2018

London Borough of Redbridge

Runner-up: Chelmsford City Council

2017

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Runner-up: Wigan Council

2016

Kent County Council

Runner-up: London Borough of Southwark

2015

London Borough of Brent

Runner-up: Wigan Council

2014

Wiltshire Council

Runner-up: Leeds City Council

2013

Leeds City Council

Runner-up: Aberdeenshire Council

2012

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils

Runner-up: Bury Council

2011

Warwickshire County Council

Runner-up: North East Lincolnshire Council

2010

London Borough of Newham

Runner-up: East Staffordshire Borough Council

2009

East Sussex County Council

Runner-up: London Borough of Hillingdon

2008

Hampshire County Council

Runner-up: East Sussex County Council

2007

Wokingham Borough Council

Runner-up: Hertfordshire County Council

2006

Newcastle City Council

Runner-up: Cornwall County Council



HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM/S IN YOUNG LOCAL AUTHORITY OF THE YEAR 2024

Go to our website – www.youngprogramme.org – and complete the booking form. This brochure is also available on the website. **See the Young Local Authority of the Year page for both.**



There is no limit on the number of teams a local authority may enter.

The cost per team (i.e. two delegates) is £1440 plus VAT (total £1728). This covers two nights' accommodation (single occupancy) and meals at the four-star Lancaster House Hotel and is inclusive of enrolment fee.

**Final closing date for registration:
Thursday 18 January 2024**

Names of your delegates must be received no later than the above closing date. All delegates will receive an information pack including advice on preparing the Argument paper and On the Spot and Pride of Place presentations, rules, and travel information on Thursday 18 January 2024.

We will also send an invoice at this time. Please supply a purchase order number, if required.

If you have a question on any aspect of the event, please call us on 01292 478510 or email enquiries@youngprogramme.org

**Book now:
6 – 8 March 2024
Lancaster**

Cancellation Policy

If a team member is unable to attend, you may substitute, by prior arrangement and after notifying us, someone else from your local authority. If a team member is unable to attend and you are not in a position to substitute the place to another person, resulting in your local authority being unable to include that team, then the following charges apply:

- More than six weeks before the course: no charge
- Six to four weeks before the course: 20% of the fee
- Four to two weeks before the course: 50% of the fee
- Less than 14 days before the course: 100% of the fee

**The Young Local Authority of the Year is part of the
Young Programme charity group of events and is organised by**

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