**Wigan Council Awarded Most Improved Local Authority for Street Data Management**

GeoPlace has announced the winners of this year’s Data Quality and Improvement Awards, and Wigan Councl has been recognised as the Most Improved local authority for address data management. This recognition highlights the council’s exceptional efforts in managing its Local Streets Gazetteer.

The award was presented on 21st May at the GeoPlace annual conference, which was attended by over 400 data management specialists. Each year, these awards celebrate best practice and outstanding examples of data management by local authorities. Local Street Custodians maintain the central database for street information within a local highways authority, underpinning the ability of each authority to coordinate activities on the highways network, minimising disruption and coordinating streetworks. Highway authorities use the data to meet their statutory requirements, managing and providing appropriate streetworks notifications. The data is also essential for utility providers – helping them to work efficiently with contractors all accessing the same, authoritative, single source of data.

The awards highlight the vital role of Street Custodians in collecting and curating this data. Their work promotes better data management across the authority, demonstrating the skill and commitment required to maintain high standards in an ever-changing dataset.

Presenting the award to Kay East, Business Support Officer at Wigan Council, Nick Chapallaz, Managing Director of GeoPlace, said: “Wigan Council has set an example that we want to recognise on a national stage. Managing street data to this level takes skill, commitment and dedication to constant improvement and data quality. The resulting data delivers numerous benefits both locally and nationally, alleviating congestion and minimising disruption caused by street and road works and improving air quality.”

Notes

**GeoPlace’s Exemplar Awards**

The Exemplar Awards highlight Custodians' roles within their authorities and enable their work to be more widely promoted to all parts of the authority. They allow the many services that use address and street data to see the high standard of the data is externally recognised. From radical transformation initiatives saving millions of pounds for local authorities, to smaller projects improving data management by using the local address and street gazetteers in innovative ways, almost every aspect of local government business is underpinned by high quality address and street data.

GeoPlace's awards highlight the Street and Addressing Custodians' work helping to curate and maintain that data. Promoting their work helps to highlight the importance of their role, and the potential for this data to deliver ever-more efficient and effective services for their communities.

**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 â from planning permission or street naming through to demolition.

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