

# **CAPS SOLUTIONS, CITY OF EDINBURGH AND STIRLING COUNCILS EXCEL AT PLANNING AWARDS**

Submitted by: Chameleon PR

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CAPS Solutions, City of Edinburgh Council and Stirling Council have jointly won the award for "Outstanding performance and quality in Development Control", at the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning, for the implementation of CAPS Solutions' PublicAccess e-Planning system.

PublicAccess for Planning has enabled City of Edinburgh Council and Stirling Council to fulfil a large proportion of their e-planning obligations under the 2005 E-government targets.

PublicAccess enables councils to provide transparent, twenty-four hour, self-service access to planning information and other related property information, including plan drawings, available over the Internet, automatically as it is created. It is helping improve the service to citizens and freeing the authority from the time-consuming and costly process of responding to requests. In addition PublicAccess allows citizens to make comments and objections to live applications online, offering a convenient way to engage with planners about specific proposals.

Previously it was only possible for the public to access this information by visiting each council or by making a formal request and waiting for a response.

The Awards, run by the Scottish Executive and the RTPi (Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland), recognise successful projects that demonstrate creativity in the planning process and the improvement of services and development. To merit an award, entries must demonstrate outstanding work in planning and related activities.

Oonagh Gil, Planning Manager at Stirling Council says:

"Developing PublicAccess involved a close collaboration between CAPS, Edinburgh and Stirling to bring together the professional knowledge of planners and software developers and I am delighted that the RTPi and Scottish Executive have recognised the good work that went into developing a first class product."

Alan Henderson, Head of Planning and Strategy in the City Development Department, was delighted at the recognition given by the awards:

"The areas the award has recognised - improving customer access to services and engaging with service users – are key elements of Councils' current 'Modernising Government' priorities. It is gratifying to see the efforts recognised, particularly where they have been delivered through working in partnership, with other Councils and CAPS."

Nick Chapallaz, Government Strategy Manager for CAPS Solutions said:

"We are delighted that Stirling and Edinburgh have been recognised for their achievements in the Planning services they offer. Both councils have an open, forward-thinking approach to developing the e-Services they offer and it is excellent that this has been acknowledged. The award also demonstrates PublicAccess' ability to help local authorities achieve their e-Planning agenda."

To see PublicAccess in action, visit [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planning](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planning) or [www.stirling.gov.uk](http://www.stirling.gov.uk).

For further information on PublicAccess, visit [www.caps-solutions.co.uk](http://www.caps-solutions.co.uk)

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#### About CAPS Solutions

CAPS Solutions is one of the UK's most experienced suppliers of integrated local government solutions, founded in 1989 and serving over 220 customers. Its UNI-form range of GIS-enabled local government administrative software meets all of the land and property related information needs of local authorities. The UNI-form product suite enables the proactive joining-up of local authority functions and the needs of national initiatives and e-Government to be met. Examples of CAPS Solutions' customers include Leeds City Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Buckinghamshire Accessible Services Partnership and Westminster City Council. CAPS Solutions is a sister company to ESRI (UK). For more information please visit the website at [www.caps-solutions.com](http://www.caps-solutions.com)