

Local Authority Challenge

Thursday 19 October 2017

Participant Quotes

“The Challenge was a fantastic experience that I would absolutely recommend to others. It was a great opportunity to test and stretch ourselves and see how well we could actually cope in such a high pressured situation. Every member of our team thoroughly enjoyed it and gained a lot from it that we are now able to feed back into our ongoing personal development plans in the real world.” - **Amy Wennington, Principal Lawyer (Litigation), Darlington Council**

“The team had a ball; the balance of fun, challenge and competition, mixed with the immersive nature and professional execution of the event made the day a really valuable and enjoyable experience.” - **Phil Innis, District Manager, Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service**

“If it could go wrong, it did go wrong! What an eye opener and what an experience. The clue is in the name, it’s a challenge but very rewarding and I’d recommend it to anyone prepared to put themselves outside their comfort zone.” - **Al Tose, Transport Services Manager, Gateshead Council**

“A well organised, fast paced, mentally challenging day that no amount of planning could prepare you for. It was great to be involved and really tested our skills especially in terms of working as a diverse team. I would recommend it to others, especially those looking to develop their communication and engagement skills.” - **Kristina Robson, Finance Business Partner, Gateshead Council**

“You could feel the tension first thing Thursday morning with the anticipation of it being a long day but the day simply disappeared with 10 years’ worth of drama shoehorned into one day

As a team we had to push ourselves and step out of our comfort zone. Allocating responsibilities helped develop the confidence of each person in the team and the interactive activities brought out the best in every one of us.

The day was fast paced, totally exhausting but utterly exhilarating. My advice to anybody doing it in the future would be to go in with an open mind, be prepared to work hard and get stuck in!” - **Sandra Watson, Development Manager, Gateshead Council**

“This was a great opportunity to build working relationship with colleagues from across our Council that would not normally interact back at the office . Having reflected as a group , we all agree that the event was an enjoyable and learning experience that should be repeated next year to allow other colleagues to take up the challenge, develop their personal skills and build positive relationships with colleagues.” - **David Jamison, Strategic Asset Manager, Middlesbrough Council**

“A fantastic experience where we sharpened our skills as a team and developed our individual abilities.” – **Rob Brown, Director of Prevention and Partnerships, Middlesbrough Council**

“Wow, what a tough day and testing day. Make sure you clear the decks and distractions your team skills will be tested!! A learning experience to say the least!” - **David Carruthers, Inspector, Northumbria Police**

“The LA challenge took us out of our comfort zone and into a world of bureaucracy and politics that we do not usually have to experience.

Well done to the teams that came away with awards. For us it was an interesting day seeing how a local authority works, or doesn't as the case may be!” - **Jerry Hewitt, Digital Forensic Unit Manager, Northumbria Police**

“This is a challenging, non-stop day that takes you out of your comfort zone; presenting a variety of scenarios and issues that require you to push yourself of the way to achieving your goals. Effective team work is a must, but this is an extremely rewarding experience and an excellent development opportunity. Facilitation of the event is first rate and I would definitely recommend it to you.” – **Phil Winstanley, Directorate Accountant, Redcar & Cleveland Council**

“Thank you for a very enjoyable day. A very well organised event with all minor details thought of!”

“It was a fast paced and interesting challenge providing a great insight into a Local Government senior management team”

“For me, there was real benefit in working with colleagues from other parts of the council and professional backgrounds and the opportunity to look at problems from different perspectives.”

“From my own point of view, I think we all found it very interesting, challenging, enjoyable (and exhausting!). We all came away with a better appreciation of the trials and tribulations that senior management have to deal with and the political aspects of being “at the top.” – **Les Steel (and Team Members), Operations Manager – Building Control, South Tyneside Council**

"Playing the role of councillor leader was certainly a far cry from the day job - in a politically restricted role I can't express opinion - however I learned that regardless of political view point working with management teams was actually more about listening than leadership!

LA challenge is an excellent experience, I couldn't recommend it more highly, the slick operation and delivery from Breckland Training and the enthusiasm and learning that you actually see increase as the day unfolded was a joy! I'd recommend anyone to jump at the chance to enter a team!

Couldn't help but be impressed with the teams from the Fire Service! I would definitely encourage more public sector organisations to join in! You learn and demonstrate your partnership value.” - **Nigel Carruthers, Role Player, Leader**

“As one of the event Council ‘Leaders, I found it to be particularly well organised and demanding event for the participants offering real opportunity for them to test and refine their political and management skills at the highest level. I would commend any public authority to get involved.” – **Richard Robson, Role Player, Leader**

"An exhausting day for both 'actors' and participants alike. I was impressed at how everyone threw themselves into their roles and gave everything to deliver the results that were demanded of them." - **Chris Rushton, Role Player - Media**

“It was a fun, lively but tough day which put everyone through their paces, including the role players! Great to see that, just like in real life situations, positive attitudes and clarity of focus win out in the end.” - **Emily Sweetman, Role Player - Partner**

“As a ‘Partner’ in the Local Authority Challenge you certainly get to experience the excitement and pressure that the teams are under during the day but you also have your own to deal with! Not a minute to spare, from before the start of the day to the finish, you are trying to keep one step ahead of the teams (and usually are only about 5 minutes ahead ...) which makes this day fast paced and fun. Thoroughly recommend it!” – **Dawn Parkin – Role Player - Partner**

“What an incredible day to be part of! I was honoured to be asked to be a Cluster Leader and having run many Assessment Centres, I was very impressed with the design of the day, the mix of activities involved, the method of assessment and the obvious enjoyment of all of the Local Authorities who took part. A huge well done to everyone involved – it was an exhausting day but hugely rewarding.” - **Lisa Thompson, Role Player – Cluster Leader**