

Nominee: Matt Panou, London Borough of Lambeth



Category	2. Established Professional
Nominator	Eva Linnell, Programme Manager, Thames Water (seconded from Atkins)

Matt has been driving the SuDS delivery programme at LB Lambeth for over 3 years. I have been working with him closely for around 2 years setting up and delivering an ambitious partnership SuDS programme with LB Lambeth and Thames Water.

Matt wrote the winning bid to secure £2.5m for SuDS from Thames Water, and he has secured other Borough funds to turn that into over £6m to spend on SuDS.

What stands out is the dedication and commitment with which Matt is embedding sustainable water management into business as usual, actively engaging across the Borough and communities.

His engagement internally within team informs and inspires:

- A colleague in the estates team running a drainage upgrade project built a raingarden that wasn't part of the original plan, adding a wonderful strip of wildflowers to a paved area.
- Engaging with his Highways colleagues has resulted in every Low Traffic Neighbourhood infill having a raingarden, and has changed their blueprint for future schemes.
- He tests innovative approaches to SuDS delivery, using the Borough's Direct Labour to deliver repeatable raingardens at Housing Estates.
- He recently held a Lessons Learned Workshop with a diverse group of colleagues to ensure quality SuDS delivery and best practice information sharing. He is pushing for the Borough to install SuDS by default, and his colleagues don't need him to do it - SuDS is something everyone can do.

His attention to quality and sustainability covers the whole life of SuDS – he has set up a ringfenced maintenance funding pot which is generating interest from his colleagues who want to ensure OPEX funding is secured in the way Matt has done.

And on top of all that Matt presents to community groups (such as Greener Kennington, Incredible Edible Lambeth) about SuDS, and encouraging SuDS take-up by schools.