

Best Collaborative Award

Partnership

Eligibility

This category is open to UK based partnerships involving any combination of client organisations, contractors, consultants, community groups, or cross sector collaborators.

Entries must demonstrate exceptional results delivered through genuine collaboration during the 2025 qualifying period.

Submissions should highlight how the partnership model itself enabled improved outcomes that would not have been achievable through traditional, isolated ways of working.

1. Partnership Eligibility

- Open to formal or structured partnerships involving at least two organisations (e.g., client–consultant, contractor–consultant, client–community, cross sector alliances).
- The partnership must have been active and delivering outcomes during 2025.
- UK based activity must be central to the submission (either through project delivery or primary partnership operation).
- Partnerships may be project specific, programme based or long-term strategic collaborations.

2. Nature of Collaboration

Entries must demonstrate a collaboration model built on trust, transparency, shared objectives and aligned incentives, evidenced through behaviours and processes—not just contract structures.

Judges will expect clear evidence of:

- Trust based working relationships-based working relationships
- Joint decision making

- Open information sharing
- Shared risk and shared ownership of outcomes

3. Scope & Focus of Submission

Strong Partnership Model & Governance

- Clear description of the partnership structure, participating organisations and shared objectives.
- Evidence of governance supporting collaboration (e.g., joint steering groups, co-delivery arrangements, shared KPIs).

Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement

- Engagement of clients, end users, communities or cross sector partners.
- Examples may include codesign workshops, community engagement programmes, feedback loops, user led design processes.

Outcomes & Measurable Impact

- Tangible improvements that occurred *because of* collaboration—not despite it.
- Evidence may include enhanced quality, cost efficiencies, accelerated delivery, risk reduction, safety improvements, community benefit, improved user outcomes.

Innovation & Problem-Solving

- Collaborative behaviours that unlocked new ideas, enabled creative problem solving or resulted in innovative delivery approaches, tools or solutions.

Long Term Value & Legacy-Term Value & Legacy

- Lasting positive impacts for users, communities, clients, or the wider sector.
- Evidence may include sustained benefits, ongoing partnerships, transferable processes, policy influence, or capability uplift.

4. Evidence Requirements

Submissions should provide proportionate, verifiable evidence, such as:

- Stakeholder engagement records, co-design outputs, consultation feedback
- Delivery metrics demonstrating measurable improvement

- Innovation case studies or joint solution development
- Testimonials from clients, community groups, contractors or partners
- Legacy or post project impacts documented through evaluation or follow on activity

5. Judging Considerations

Judges will assess:

- Whether genuine collaboration—not just coordination—was demonstrated
- How partnership behaviours directly improved outcomes
- The strength, depth and maturity of stakeholder engagement
- Innovation enabled specifically by working together
- The scale, sustainability and transferability of long-term benefits