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**Forth Valley GIS**

**Viewforth**

**Stirling FK8 2ET**

Tel. 01786 442976

Fax. 01786 442818

## **Innovative GIS Wins National Recognition**

MAPPING out the future of the Forth Valley area has received national acclaim.

Forth Valley GIS has scooped the second prize in the Association for Geographic Information (AGI) 2004 UK Awards.

The service was highly praised by the AGI, the professional association for GIS in the UK – in the Innovation & Best Practice (Local Government) category - for its “modernising and improvements” and being “extraordinarily well planned and managed”, with “strong partnership.”

The GIS unit is a joint team serving Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils’ with “a service-orientated approach and clearly defined benefits” said the judges.

Forth Valley GIS was up against strong competition from 27 UK local government entries.

Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Councils along with other public agencies use ‘Geographic Information System’ (GIS) - a digital mapping and database system - in a wide variety of ways. Examples include planning, roads and asset maintenance, environmental assessment and analysing census information to planning school transport and refuse collection routes.

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John Hendry, Convener of Stirling Council's Economy Committee praised the work of the GIS team. "Once again Forth Valley GIS has been recognised as an excellent example of a service at the leading edge of its field. The team are to be congratulated for building on previous successes by continuously improving, developing and delivering a service to meet the future needs of the Forth Valley area."

The system can now be accessed by over 10,000 staff in the three Councils and provides on-line access to a wide range of map-based information to support all Council services. Future plans are to extend the opportunities to other partners of the Councils in the Forth Valley area in support of Community Planning and other joint initiatives.

Clackmannanshire Councillor Janet Cadenhead, Convener of the Policy and Audit Committee said: "I am delighted that Forth Valley GIS has achieved this latest success. I know that the service the team provides is appreciated by a range of council staff across a number of services and they should be congratulated for their achievements."

Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy and Performance Review for Falkirk Council said: " We are very pleased that the dynamic and successful work of Forth Valley GIS has been recognised in this national awards scheme. The Team provides an excellent service and continues to build on its success year on year."

**Media Contact:**  
**Fiona Fulton**  
**(01786) 443361**