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An innovative way of processing blue badge applications in Cambridgeshire has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award.

Cambridgeshire County Council and LGSS are finalists in Digital Leaders' DL100 list for 2017 which recognises 100 people and organisations across the UK who are leading the way in digital transformation in all sectors.

They have been jointly shortlisted for the Digital Public Service Innovation of the Year award category for developing a new online way of applying for blue badges, cutting down the average time it takes to process an application from 32 minutes to just 2.

By reviewing the entire process and identifying points that held it up, LGSS's digital specialists were able to design a more streamlined approach whilst also speeding up the response times for the customer.

Described by one satisfied tax payer as 'the best thing that Cambridgeshire County Council has ever done,' the redesigned system is expected to save the council £60,000 every year from a development cost of £30,000.

Sue Grace, Director of Corporate and Customer Services, said: "We're very proud to be shortlisted for this prestigious award. We've worked really hard to develop a really good digital application service and we've had some really good feedback from residents. The application process takes just a fraction of the time, while saving the taxpayer a significant amount of money. We are always trying to improve our service and make it better for our customers and would welcome any feedback."

The 100 finalists that make up the list will now compete for the public vote in one of 10 categories.

This year's list is made up of individuals and organisations with 50 from the private sector, 29 from the public sector and 20 from the non-profit sector.

Cheryl Doran, LGSS Head of Digital, said: "This development has increased online usage of the service from 20% to 60% so far and is increasing, as well as generating significant savings.

"LGSS is proud to support our partners in transforming the services they provide, putting customer's needs first so that people prefer to use the online service."

The most hotly contested category each year is the Digital Leader of the Year with this year's list including non-profit leaders such as Asthma UK's Kay Boycott, Helen Milner from The Good Things Foundation and Craig Steele from CoderDojo.

The final list order and category winners will be announced at the DL100 Awards Dinner at St. Pancras Renaissance London Hotel on June 22, 2017.

Have your say and vote for LGSS and Cambridgeshire County Council at www.digileaders100.com/vote before 5pm on Friday, June 2 2017.