

# How can better data drive better parks?

Wednesday 28 January, 14.00-16.00, Parks and Greenspace Network

**Starts: 14.00**



**Work in local  
government?  
Need to resolve  
an issue?**





## Agenda for today 14.00 – 16.00

- **Opening Remarks: Councillor Corall Jenkins** (Chair);
- **APSE Update** - **Matt Ellis**, APSE Principal Advisor;
- **Paul Van Damme and Richard Whiting**, Chelmsford City Council
- **Humera Sultan**, Consultant in Public Health and NIHR Doctoral Local Authority Fellow
- **Debbie Johns**, Head of APSE Performance Networks





# Local Authority State of the Market 2026

## Parks and Greenspace

Help APSE help you make the case for your parks service!

### HortWeek

80% of respondents agree the squeeze on resources disproportionately affects parks and green spaces

APSE has released its State of the Market in Parks and Greenspaces for 2025 which looks at the state of the market in local authority parks, horticultural services and grounds maintenance.



### Parks and Greenspace - State of the Market Survey 2026

Your opinion matters

APSE is undertaking a survey on the State of the Market in local authority parks, horticultural services and grounds maintenance. This survey includes a range of questions that will enable a valuable snapshot to be gained of the sector.

Deadline to submit: Monday 16 February 2026

1. If you would like a copy of the survey results and analysis, please enter your email address:

2. Please give your opinion on the following statements

Disagree strongly Disagree Agree strongly No opinion

The squeeze on public sector resources is affecting parks and green spaces disproportionately to other service areas

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# APSE Update

## Speakers include:



# Parks Seminar 2026



## Let It Bee: Nature Recovery in Practice

12 March 2026.  
Old Trafford Football Stadium, Manchester

From national policy and investment priorities to local delivery, the seminar will examine practical approaches to urban nature infrastructure, rewilding and grassland management, tree health and ash dieback, and securing long-term funding for parks.



## APSE Update

### Network Queries Service

APSE members can circulate a query across APSE's extensive UK-wide database of local authority contacts:

- Allotment Society Expenses
- Play Area Asset Management Strategies
- Roadside Nature Reserves
- Rotary Ride-On Grass Cutting Machinery





Association for Public Service Excellence

APSE Update

**Free for  
members  
to join!**



**NATIONAL  
COUNTER TERRORISM  
SECURITY OFFICE**



**ACT** | ACTION  
COUNTERS  
TERRORISM

## **Counter Terrorism Awareness and ACT for Local Authorities Webinar**

Thursday 12 February. 10.00-  
11.00, MS Teams

**FREE for members**

Dr Amy Batley of the National Counter Terrorism Security Office will discuss Counter Terrorism Policing's new ACT for Local Authorities initiative. The initiative provides targeted guidance to support councils to assess and mitigate terrorism-related risks and encourages councils to consider proportionate security measures which don't unduly burden their operations.



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## Shaping the Future of Estate Management



**Local authority perspectives  
on reducing private estate  
management arrangements**

*Tuesday 17 February 2026,  
10.00-11.00, MS Teams*

**FREE for members!**

This online meeting will feature a presentation from Keith Burnett, Senior Policy Advisor at MHCLG, outlining the consultation proposals, followed by a Q&A session.



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government



Association for Public Service Excellence

APSE Update

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*APSE's Climate Change Network presents...*

## **Urban Trees and Climate Resilience**

Friday 20 February, 10.00-12.00, MS Teams

**FREE for members!**

Join us for a discussion on how urban trees can help towns and cities respond to climate change, with a focus on practical approaches, benefits for communities, and building long-term climate resilience.



# APSE Update

# New report: Download from our website

**apse** association for public service excellence

## Grassroots Messaging

Visual communication for biodiversity areas

Briefing 26/05  
January 2026

Aberdeenshire COUNCIL

## Managing our greenspaces for people and wildlife

Across Aberdeenshire you may notice changes in the way that some Council-owned grass areas are being managed. It could be the creation of wildflower areas with reduced frequency of cutting or that some areas are not being cut at all and left to grow longer. You can find out more about management of local greenspaces and the positive benefits for people and wildlife at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/greenspace/>

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND Southwards Partnership  
MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
Clean & Green

Manchester City Council

MANCHESTER PARKS

## Take a walk on the wild side

We're letting parts of our parks grow longer to create vital habitats for wildlife and boost biodiversity.

Find out more at [manchester.gov.uk/differential-mowing](https://manchester.gov.uk/differential-mowing)

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
Clean & Green

Your green spaces is just round the corner



Jump start your career or train up your team with [Introduction to Parks Management](#)  
Tuesday 03 March 2026, 09:00 – 16:00

Go into depth on financial management and commercialisation with [Advanced Parks Management: Sustainable Finance](#) Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 March, 09:00 – 12:00

Be at the forefront of climate resilience with our new climate adaption courses:  
[Climate Adaption: Urban Green Spaces](#) Tuesday 17 March, 10:00 – 16:00  
and [Climate Adaption: Advanced Soil Management](#)  
Thursday 19, Tuesday 24 and Thursday 26 March, 09:30 – 12:30

Put BNG into practical action with [Biodiversity Net Gain for Parks and Green Spaces](#)  
Thursday 05 March, 09:00 – 16:00



Scan the QR code or click [here](#) to learn more about all our courses or book your spot today!

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