

apse seminars

APSE Wales one day seminar 2015

Looking through a different lens:

Are there alternative options for local government re-organisation in Wales?



**Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells
Wednesday 15 July 2015**

Also featuring the APSE wales annual general meeting

Wednesday 15 July 2015

9.30 Delegate arrival and registration

10.00 **Session 1: Strategic overview**

State of the Nation – What next for local government: Key challenges facing local government not least Finance and Reorganisation

Speaker: Steve Thomas CBE, Chief Executive, WLGA

Welsh Local Government Re-organisation – an alternative view

- APSE Strategic Forums May 2015
- Alternative local government models
- Findings/ solutions/recommendations

Speaker: Prof Colin Copus, Head of Local Government Studies, De Montfort University Leicester

Entrepreneurialism and commercialisation in local government

- The need to do things differently
- What is municipal entrepreneurialism?
- Case Studies

Speaker: Paul O'Brien, Chief Executive, APSE

11.30 Tea and coffee break

11.45 **Session 2: Local Government leading the way**

Jobs, governance and democratic representation – ensuring local services meet local needs.

- Impacts upon future staffing needs
- Potential societal impacts
- Threat to local democracy and governance

Speaker: Dominic MacAskill, Regional Manager Head of Local Government, UNISON Wales

Working collaboratively – Prosiect Gwyrdd 'probably the most significant collaboration between local authorities in Welsh History'

- Why collaborate
- Bringing the partners together
- Benefits and successes

Speaker: Martin Williams, Head of Community and Leisure Services, Caerphilly County Borough Council

Cardiff's approach to collaborative working

- Organisational considerations
- Potential Impacts on the delivery of services
- Anticipated benefits and outcomes of Alternative Delivery Models

Speaker: Tara King, Assistant Director Environment, Cardiff City Council

13.00 **APSE Wales annual general meeting**

13.15 Buffet lunch in the restaurant

14.00 **Session 3: Putting theory into practice**

Local Government Re-Organisation- The journey begins: the Northern Ireland Experience

- Past – the context and issues driving review
- Present – keeping services running through review and taking on new responsibilities
- Future – expected benefits and potential for the new councils

Speaker: Nichola Creagh, Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland

Workshops:

A) Building Operational Services Together- a case study from Cheshire East

Facilitator: John Jeffries, APSE Associate

B) The Role of Policy and Performance in Service Delivery

Facilitator: Karen Armstrong Flintshire City Council

15.30 Seminar close and departure

Seminar objectives

This seminar will consider the momentous changes facing Wales in the way local authorities will operate in the coming years, not least the possibility of there being fewer authorities and by association fewer elected members. The justification for the proposals is that the current structures of local government in Wales are unsustainable, with local authorities duplicating and delivering the same services, and therefore only by merging authorities will savings and efficiencies be made.

However, there are wide-ranging concerns about losing the 'local' in local government if organisations become bigger. Reliance upon local authority services in Wales is considerable, with more people employed in the public sector than in any other part of the UK, therefore by reducing the number of local authorities and by association their workforce structures, this could have enormous impacts on communities, local businesses and families, as jobs and local markets are lost.

Speakers will look at how the current period of uncertainty could allow alternative options to whole-scale re-organisation to be considered, by looking at how local authorities operate outside of Wales, and by drawing on the findings of recent discussions with elected members and senior officers from across Wales carried out by APSE and De Montford University Leicester.

This event will look at ways in which local authorities in Wales are already delivering many of the aims of the proposed local government re-organisation in Wales through examples of collaborative working such as the highly successful Prosiect Gwyrdd collaborative waste management partnership, and the work of Cardiff City Council in delivering alternative service delivery models.

The phrase, 'municipal entrepreneurialism' is gathering pace as more local authorities turn to income generation to help address the cuts in funding occurring nationally, and as such consideration will be given to embracing this approach to help local authorities become more sustainable.

Workshops will also be held to allow more detailed discussions to take place as to how many of the strategic considerations can be delivered at the operational level.

This one day event hopes to highlight the opportunities which may still be available to local authorities in Wales to argue the case that they are capable of delivering the efficiencies and economies needed without major and costly re-organisation to take place.

Attendance at this APSE one-day event is essential for all officers and members with responsibility for delivering services or involved in policy and it is structured to allow plenty of time for debate and questions.

The events are always popular and usually sell out fast so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Who should attend?

- Chief executives and council leaders
- Service and area directors
- Senior managers and heads of service
- Front line service managers and officers
- Elected members
- Policy and development officers
- Legal services
- Finance services
- Trade union representatives

Reserve your place online now at www.apse.org.uk or complete the booking form on page 4 and send to Keisha Swaby by email, kswaby@apse.org.uk, or by fax to 0161 772 1810.

The Venue

Metropole Hotel

Temple Street, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5DY

Tel: 01597 823 700

Email: info@metropole.co.uk



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Booking form

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APSE Wales seminar and AGM, Wednesday 15 July, The Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells

main contact name: _____ authority: _____

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Please detail here any special dietary/access requirements for the delegates listed below:

APSE issues a written confirmation for all delegate bookings received. If you have not received your confirmation letter within 5 working days of sending your booking form, then please contact APSE on 0161 772 1810.

Payment information

What's included: The delegate place covers attendance, delegate documentation, lunch and light refreshments. Please note that hotel accommodation and travel costs are not included. A list of recommended hotels in the area is available on request.

APSE members delegate fee:- £79 + VAT

Non-members delegate fee:- £149 + VAT

Private sector delegate fee:- £360 + VAT

Please indicate preferred method of payment (tick):-

VAT registration number 519 286 915

- Please find enclosed cheque (made payable to APSE)
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CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by post, email to kswaby@apse.org.uk or fax to 0161 772 1811. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or venue should this become necessary.

Delegate name	Delegate position	Delegate email

Please return completed form to Keisha Swaby, APSE, 2nd floor Washbrook House, Lancastrian Office Centre, Talbot Road, Old Trafford, Manchester M32 0FP or fax direct to: 0161 772 1811 Telephone: 0161 772 1810 - E-mail: kswaby@apse.org.uk