

**apse** annual seminar 2025

# Local placemaking:

**Cleaner, greener, resilient neighbourhoods**

Seminar kindly sponsored by:



**DISCOUNT**  
for APSE  
members

**Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 September**

Glasgow Marriott



Join the conversation:

**@apseevents #apse25**

# Programme: Wednesday 10 September

11:30 Registration, coffee and exhibition hub

A rolling lunch will be served from 12.00

## Exhibition and innovation hub

APSE has a range of services to assist local authorities to respond to the challenges of a rapidly changing environment.

This is an opportunity for delegates to attend drop-in surgeries with APSE experts in:

**APSE Energy (trading as APSE Synergy):** Bespoke Local Authority Energy Collaboration

**APSE Performance Networks:** Largest voluntary public sector benchmarking service

**APSE Solutions (trading as APSE Synergy):** high-quality consultancy and interim management services

**APSE Training:** specialist training to support frontline local authority services.

**Exhibition and innovation hub:** specialist local authority suppliers

13.00 Plenary session one

## Local placemaking - cleaner, greener, resilient neighbourhoods

*Opening welcome: Councillor Archie Dryburgh, APSE National Chair 2024/25*

### Opening the challenge panel

**Mo Baines, Chief Executive**, of APSE will introduce a review of the year for local government and what we should look for in the coming year including finances, the local environment, public interest in procurement and insourcing. Following these opening remarks the challenge panel will respond with their thoughts.

The expert panel includes: -

**Paul Bellotti, Chief Executive, East Riding of Yorkshire Council**

**Cllr Susan Aitken, Leader, Glasgow City Council**

**Simon Aitken, Director for Communities, Derby City Council**

**Richard Baker, Chief Executive, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, APSE Overall Council of the Year 2024**

## Question time: An opportunity for a panel and audience Q&A

14.15 Coffee and Exhibition viewing

14.45 Session two

### Frontline roundtable discussions

*Delegates will have the opportunity to attend one of the following discussions:*

#### Local Growth: What role for local councils in economic growth, jobs and skills?

A facilitated workshop with Professor Steven Griggs, Department for Business and the Regions, University of Staffordshire

#### Environmental services

**Facilitators:** Fiona Sutton Wilson, Head of Training, APSE and Bonni Jee, Principal Advisor, APSE

- Waste
- Recycling
- Streetscene
- Fly tipping

#### Communities, housing and homelessness

**Facilitators:** Phil Brennan, Head of Energy, APSE and Vickie Hacking, Principal Advisor, APSE

- Building remediation post Grenfell
- New homes targets
- Building safety: Damp and Mould
- Tackling homelessness

#### Leisure, Parks and wellbeing

**Facilitators:** Lindsay Airey, Head of Business Resources, APSE and Matt Ellis, Principal Advisor, APSE

- Physical activity
- Energy costs in wet facilities
- Grassland management
- Tree strategies

#### Technical services, highways, transport and fleet

*Sponsored by Dynamon*

**Facilitators:** Debbie Johns, Head of Performance Networks, APSE and Abi Ademiluyi, Principal Advisor, APSE

- Potholes and complaints
- Litigation and costs
- Climate preparedness

16.00 Plenary session three

## Keynote address:

*Introduced by Andrew Kennedy APSE National Secretary 2024/25*

## Making Local government finance work for our neighbourhoods and local economies

**Professor Mark Gregory, Visiting Professor, Staffordshire University**



Business economist Mark Gregory has over 30 years' experience in more than 40 countries as an advisor to Governments and industry. He recently retired after spending ten years as Ernst & Young's Chief Economist and has previously held roles at global organisations including IBM and PwC.

Mark's connections led to him being named LinkedIn 'Top UK Voice' in 2016, 2017 and 2018 which recognises individuals whose words have launched countless high-quality conversations locally, and globally.

Alongside his Visiting Professor role at Staffordshire University Mark continues to be a member of the UK Government's Investment Trade Advisory Group and is actively involved with the Made in Stoke-on-Trent Network.

## APSE Annual General Meeting 2025

16.30 Annual General Meeting

17.15 Close, refreshments and exhibition hub

## 19.30 Evening reception at Glasgow City Chambers Lord Provost Welcome

Hosted at the historic Glasgow City Chambers, join us for a tour of the building, hot supper and light entertainment

# Programme: Thursday 11 September

9.00 Registration for new arrivals and exhibition viewing for all delegates including sector innovations

10.00 Plenary session four

## **A view from across the UK**

*Chair: Cllr Tracey Dixon, National Chair Elect*

### **How local authorities in Scotland are delivering on priorities**

- A just transition to Net Zero
- Supporting fair growth and delivering for our communities

**John Wood, Director of Membership and Resources, COSLA**

### **The future of local government in Northern Ireland**

- Meaningful devolution of powers
- The policy challenges ahead

**Alison Allen, Chief Executive, NILGA**

### **Where now for English local authorities**

- The changing digital landscape and English Devolution
- Sector readiness for artificial intelligence and responsible digital adoption

**Lisa Trickey, Digital Advisor, LGA**

### **Working with councils in Wales**

- Wellbeing and preventive approach in communities
- Creating sustainable neighbourhoods for Welsh citizens

**Paula Walters, Head of Corporate Policy and Services WLGA**

**Question time: An opportunity for a panel and audience Q&A**

11.15 Coffee and Exhibition Viewing

11.45 Plenary session five

### **Keynote address: Glasgow City Council – A case study in Placemaking**

*Introduced by Cllr Judy Hamilton, APSE Scotland Chair*

**George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, Glasgow City Council**

## **Rising to the challenges:**

### **Devolution, Local Government Reorganisation and future models**

*Chair: Cllr John Clarke, Gedling Borough Council, APSE Perspective National Chair*

### **Local Government Reorganisation: The District Council Perspective**

- What does this mean for the future of local neighbourhood services?
- Impact of the changes to planning and the delivery of new homes

**Cllr Richard Wright, Leader, North Kesteven and Chair of the District Councils Network**

### **Local Government Reorganisation: A Chief Executive's Perspective**

- Impacts on finances and resources
- Getting the culture right - taking the workforce on the transformation journey

**Karen Bradford, Chief Executive, South Kesteven District Council**

### **What's next after re-organisation: Lessons from Cumberland Council**

- Embedding the new authorities culture and ethos
- Delivering effective and sustainable frontline services post reorganisation

**Cllr Lisa Hinton, Deputy Leader and Darren Crossley, Director of Place and Economy, Cumberland Council**

**Question time: An opportunity for a panel and audience Q&A**

13.15 Lunch and Exhibition Viewing

14.15 Plenary session six

### **Climate Innovation Shorts: Case studies of best practice, innovations, adaptations and mitigations**

*Chair: Anita Brown, National Secretary Elect, APSE*

### **Solar PV on RCVs in Darlington**

Margaret Enstone, Sustainability and Climate Change Lead Officer, Darlington Borough Council and Lisa Haetzman, Climate Change and Sustainability Officer, Redcard and Cleveland Borough Council

### **School Safe Haven Zones reducing traffic congestion and air pollution an Innovative Approach**

Robert Shoebridge, Group Manager, and Kerry Griffiths, Digital Enforcement Manager, Derby City Council - Winner of the MJ, Best Service Team of the Year Award

### **Kerbside battery recycling**

Julia Kerr, Technician Zero Waste and Janice Ireland, Neighbourhood Services Officer, Dumfries and Galloway Council

### **Soil Association Impact Report**

Sarah Duley, Co-Director and Head of Food at Soil Association Scotland

16.15 Seminar close

### **15.15 Grill in the grill**

The final refreshments will be taken through to the Grill room where our innovation presenters will be gathered in service hubs to answer your questions or swap contact details.

Make the most of this informal networking opportunity and a final opportunity to meet the exhibitors.

### **APSE Annual Service Awards Charity Dinner 2025**

#### **Glasgow Marriott**

19:00 Pre-dinner reception

19:30 Service awards dinner

Carriages at midnight

### **In aid of Parkinson's UK**

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**  
**CHANGE ATTITUDES.**  
**FIND A CURE.**  
**JOIN US.**

# Seminar Information

## About the Event

This year, APSE's Annual Seminar and Service Awards Charity Dinner will take place in the vibrant and historic city of Glasgow on Wednesday 10 to Thursday 11 September 2025. Delegates will enjoy an opportunity to explore the regeneration of this wonderful city whilst gaining unique insight into how local councils can ensure their frontline services are green, clean, smart and sustainable.

One of the biggest events in the local government calendar, APSE's Annual Seminar offers frontline service providers the chance to learn from each other, network with sector experts and develop strategies for our vital local services. Delegates will get the opportunity to hear from industry-leading experts for across UK local government cover topic like:

### Frontline services

- Refuse, recycling and street scene
- Leisure, health and wellbeing
- Parks, open spaces and playgrounds
- Cemeteries and crematoria
- Policy developments
- Local government finance: Fairness for frontline services
- Green energy, flooding and climate change
- Digitisation and demand management
- Place-making and regeneration

## Who should attend?

This highly interactive conference is the must attend event for all those looking to future-proof the frontline including recovery for local economies, those seeking to develop strategies to and implement climate change objectives.

The event incorporates the APSE Annual General Meeting which we would encourage all member councils to attend, on Wednesday 10 September.

The Annual Seminar concludes with the APSE Service Awards Charity Dinner on Thursday evening, 11 September.

## Booking information

Book your place at the Annual Seminar [here](#)

Seminar kindly sponsored by:

