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# APSE Facilities, Catering and Cleaning Management Seminar 2026

Survive or thrive: Transforming Soft Facilities Management for tomorrow's challenges



**Thursday 5 and Friday 6 February 2026**

DoubleTree by Hilton Stratford-upon-Avon  
Arden Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37

# Programme

## Day One: 5 February

10:00

Registration and Exhibition viewing

### 10:30 **Session One - Current and future**

#### **Welcome by the Chair**

#### **The present and future of local authority facilities management, catering and cleaning**

- The current local government context
- Key findings of the State of the Market surveys for building cleaning and catering
- Building a sustainable future

**Vickie Hacking, Principal Advisor, APSE**

#### **Follow the carrot!**

- Exploring the economic opportunity of expanding free school meals
- Impact on UK producers and wider public sector supply chains
- How to create a win-win effect for pupils, producers and the planet

**Barbara Crowther, Campaign Manager, Sustain**

#### **Audience question and answer session**

11.15 Coffee and exhibition viewing

### **11.45 Session Two – Delivering an effective service**

#### **Rebranding the catering service**

- Overview of the Shire Services
- Identifying the challenges and developing solutions
- Taking the service forward

**Susan Vuil, General Manager, Shire Service**

**APPG School Food Awards 2025 – Groups Category Winner**

#### **What the future holds for site management and cleaning operations**

- Smarter Teams: How to use smart tools to manage resource allocation, track team activity, and drive productivity.
- Improved Service Standards: Use real-time data to monitor quality standards and drive operational efficiency.
- Proactive Compliance: Move beyond paper-based audits and compliance with automatic data capture.

**Mike Travis, CCO and Director, SchoolGrid Ltd**

**Meeting the challenges and delivering an effective**

#### **Facilities Management Service**

- The changing workplace
- Meeting the current challenges
- What next for local authority facilities management services

**Chris Webb, Group Manager, Accommodation Services, East Riding of Yorkshire Council**

12.30 Lunch and exhibition viewing

#### **Audience question and answer session**

### **13.30 Session three – Workforce focus**

#### **What does the Employment Rights Bill 2025 mean for the frontline?**

This interactive session will enable delegates to explore the implications of the Bill on FM, Building Cleaning and Catering services

14.30 Refreshments and exhibition viewing

### **15.00 Session four**

#### **Evaluating the implementation of the auto-enrolment process for Free School Meals**

- Local authorities increasing registration rates among eligible children
- Identifying and overcoming the challenges
- The importance of stakeholder collaboration

**Myles Bremner, CEO, Bremner and Co**

#### **15.20 Keynote Address: A perspective from Westminster**

- The school meal in the context of poverty and public health
- A view from Westminster and the role of government
- Campaigning for and championing school food

**Luke Hall, Office of Sharon Hodgson MP and Former Youth MP for South Tyneside**

16.15 **Day one close**

## Evening Programme



**APSE FM catering and cleaning management charity dinner featuring the APPG Excellence in School Food Awards and APSE Innovation in Soft FM Awards**

19:00 Pre-dinner Welcome  
19:30 Annual charity dinner and awards evening

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

## Day Two: 6 February

### 10.00 **Horizon scanning - Navigating Change and Future Challenges**

*This interactive session will enable delegates to:-*

- *Map the current landscape*
- *Look at the changes and challenges ahead*
- *Examine how services can build resilience and adaptable for the future*

**Facilitated by Vickie Hacking, Principal Advisor, APSE**

### 11.30 **Seminar close, refreshments and networking**

# Seminar Objectives

## About the Seminar

### **Are you surviving or thriving?**

Looking to the future, Soft FM services need to continue to adapt and innovate against the backdrop of budget pressures and policy changes. This seminar brings together experts from facilities management, catering and cleaning and the organisations that impact on them, to chart the future and provide case study examples of how local authorities are taking to ensure services are viable and thrive in the future.

The seminar is crafted to give delegates the opportunity to refresh their knowledge, learn new skills, give practical advice, discuss strategic and policy issues and network with colleagues.

The event also features the **APPG on School Food – Excellence in School Food Awards**, the **APSE Innovation Awards** and the **Annual Charity Dinner**

## Who should attend?

This unique seminar is designed to give service directors, managers, elected members and trade union representatives in the service areas of catering, cleaning and facilities management the opportunity to gain knowledge from experts in the sector and to discuss strategic and policy issues with colleagues.

## Venue

**DoubleTree by Hilton  
Arden Street,  
Stratford-upon-Avon  
United Kingdom  
CV37 6QQ,**

## Getting to the venue

### **By Rail**

5 minutes' walk from Stratford Upon Avon Railway Station

See Trainline

### **By Road**

EV charging and car parking available on site

[Click here to see more information](#)

# Booking information

## Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

### **What's included?**

*The delegate fee covers attendance, delegates' documentation, lunches and light refreshments and dinner on the evening of 5 February 2026*

APSE member delegate fee: **£275 + VAT**

Non member delegates fee: **£430 + VAT**

Commercial delegates: **£505 + VAT**

## Accommodation

Available on a 'first-come, first-served' basis

**Option A:** 1 night accommodation

Date: Wednesday 4 February 2026 **Cost(B&B) £138\***

**Option B:** 1 night accommodation

Date: Thursday 5 February 2026 **Cost(B&B) £99\* (subsidised by APSE)**

**Option C:** 2 nights accommodation

Dates: 4 & 5 February 2026 **Cost(B&B) £237\***

*\*APSE will invoice delegates for the accommodation cost at the appropriate rate. All the above rates are exclusive of VAT. All extras must be paid directly to the hotel on departure.*

**[Click here to reserve your place on this event](#)**

**CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY:** Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by email to [mbutterworth@apse.org.uk](mailto:mbutterworth@apse.org.uk). Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for non-attendance. 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.