



# ***Regeneration and Local Economies: Councils contributing to good growth***

***Wednesday 9 April 2025***

***Shakespeare Playhouse North, Prescot, Knowsley***



***A free event for APSE members***

# Programme

9.00: Coffee and Registration

## 10.00: Opening welcome

**Chair:** Cllr Tracey Dixon, Leader of South Tyneside Council and APSE Northern Chair

### Opening Welcome to Shakespeare North

Cllr Graham Morgan, Leader of Knowsley Council

## 10.15: Session 1: Merseyside Successes!

### Dale Milburn, Executive Director, Regeneration & Economic Development with Cllr Tony Brennan, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development

*Knowsley's reputation as an ambitious council, unafraid of intervening to support regeneration and growth has generated a 27% uplift in council tax revenue, provided a footprint to retail renewal and led an ambitious new cultural offering with the Shakespeare North Playhouse.*

### Claire McGolgan, Director of Culture at Liverpool City Council and the Associate Director of Culture for the Liverpool City Region

*Liverpool is already on the map as a cultural destination, but years of industrial decline has led to ingrained issues which can only be resolved by a determined local authority and combined authority leading on culture, arts and the visitor economy. From visiting giants to Eurovision what is the secret to Liverpool's ongoing successes?*

## Audience Q&A

11.30: Coffee and networking breakout

## 11.45 Session 2: Kickstarting Local Economic Growth

### Chair: Anita Brown, APSE Northern Secretary Mo Baines, APSE Chief Executive and Visting Professor, University of Staffordshire

*What are the right conditions for growth? Jobs, localities and place; what makes for interventions that work? Is investing in local public services a drain on taxes or a means to generate wealth and jobs? Using APSE's latest research with the University of Staffordshire and the Centre for Local Economic Strategies this session will explore the opportunities for public-sector led investment and regeneration initiatives*

### Much Ado About ...Something! Shakespeare North Playhouse Theatre Tour and Talk.

*Shakespeare North Playhouse representatives will take delegates on an interactive tour of the theatre and gardens. Showcasing the educational, cultural and economic impact of this stunning new theatre, which is a cornerstone in the regeneration of Prescott. From the Ken Dod's diddymen to King Lear this will be a tour like no other!*

13.00: Lunch and networking

## 14.00: Session 3: What does good look like?

**Chair:** Cllr John Kerr-Brown, APSE Northern Vice Chair

### Andy Dunbobbin, Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales

*Whilst efforts are made to regenerate and repurpose our high streets, designing out crime and antisocial behaviour can be challenging. Where can police and crime commissioners support local authorities in regeneration which supports communities and engineers considerate use of public realm?*

### Chris Renahan, Assistant Director, Inclusive Growth and Development at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

*Stockton on Tees council is on a journey to deliver a renewed local economy that works for people and place. With an ambitious approach to retail, space for new start-ups and redevelopment of an area previously blighted by an under-used and dated retail block as new flexible-use public space and riverside areas for culture and leisure the pace and scale of change is an exemplar in positive public interventions.*

15:00 Seminar close

# Event information

## How do I book?

Use this link to book your place online

[Click Here to Book Online](#)

## Who should attend

This event is open to all APSE Northern Region member councils. Whilst there is no limit on the number of bookings for each member council early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment. This event will be highly useful for officers and councillors with an interest in

- Economic growth and regeneration
- Local public realm
- Culture, leisure and tourism
- Designing out anti-social behaviours
- Jobs and skills
- Good economies and community wealth building

## What does it cost to attend

This event is **FREE** to attend for APSE Northern members and includes all refreshments, a delegate pack, post event materials and lunch.

**Non-members may attend at a cost of £189.00 + VAT**

## The Venue

Shakespeare Playhouse in the North, Prescott, Knowsley  
Prospero Place, Prescott L34 3AB

### Parking and access

Prescot is easily reached by car and is 2 minutes from the M57 and 10 minutes from the M62.

### Closest Parking:

Mill Street (L34 6HA) – Free short-stay parking, just a 2-minutes walk (160-200m) from the venue.  
Deanes House NCP (L34 3LA) – Paid short-stay and long-stay parking, a 1-minute walk (80-100m) from the entrance.

### Electric Vehicle Charging

Need to top up your battery? You'll find EV charging points at:

- Cables Shopping Park (L34 5NQ)
- Tesco Extra (L34 5NQ)
- Cyprus Street Car Park (L34 5RY)

### By Train

Prescot Train Station is around a 12 minute walk. Be aware there isn't a taxi rank at the station, search Google for local taxis to book in advance.

- Regular trains from Liverpool, 20 minutes journey time.
- Trains from Manchester, 1hr 20 – change at Wigan or Huyton.
- Journeys from the North change at St Helens & Wigan.
- Journeys from the East change at Manchester & Wigan.
- Journeys from the South change at Liverpool.

Plan your train journey via

<https://www.thetrainline.com/>

[www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk)

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