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apse performance networks

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From Performance to Insight

Using Data to Shape the Future of Local Services

The UK's largest local government benchmarking conference



Thursday 3 and Friday 4 December 2026

Village Hotel Blackpool, East Park Drive, Blackpool FY3 8LL

Thursday 3 December

9:00 Delegate registration

10:30 Session 1: Insight and opinions

Neighbourhood services in Berlin – how are they performing?

- Benchmarking in Germany and sharing good practice
- Managing finances for front line services
- Engaging with citizens

Sebastian Brand and Michael Resch, Organization and Technology Cleaning Business Unit, Berliner Stadtreinigung (BSR), Berlin

What's happening in front line services?

- Latest performance issues affecting Local Government
- Are we improving standards and rising to expectations
- Recent developments

Debbie Johns, Director - APSE performance networks

Digitalisation and the use of AI within local government services

- What do citizens expect from local government?
- Use of digital assistants and AI
- Technologies and trends shaping the future

Dr Mark Brett, Professor of Cyber Security Policy & Governance, SOCITM

Public opinion on service spending and the economy

- Trends in public satisfaction
- What is important to citizens?
- Key messages for decision makers

Damian Lyons-Lowe, Chief Executive, Survation

11:45 Coffee & Networking Break

12:15 Thematic Forums

Forum 1: APSE service award winners 2026: Derby City Council

- Best Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship Initiative
- Digital Enforcement Hub
- Road safety, school crossing and active travel

Robert Shoebridge, Group Manager, and Kerry Griffiths, Digital Enforcement Manager, Derby City Council and Mo Baines, APSE Chief Executive

Forum 2: Monitoring and evaluating energy usage and carbon reduction

- Reducing Energy Demand in Bradford
- Data collection, analysis and review
- Building Energy Management System Tool
- How to use the data effectively
- What are the impacts?

John Sharp, Energy Team Manager, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, and James Jefferson Principal Policy Lead, APSE energy

Forum 3: Workforce matters

- Latest employment law developments
- Considerations for local government services
- What's on the horizon?

Ruth Rule-Mullen, Partner and Head of Public Sector Employment, Forbes Solicitors and Lindsay Airey, Executive Director, APSE

Forum 4: New Power BI reports and Inspection Apps

- Showcasing the new Power BI reports and customisation
- Using apps to inspect the quality and asset condition of the public realm and building cleaning
- Inspection apps: a case study

Debbie Sutton, Chief Officer, Operations and Maintenance, Highland Council, and Debbie Johns, Director - APSE performance networks

Forum 5: Using data to transform neighbourhood services

- Experiences with transformation for Cumberland Council
- Design v reality – key challenges
- Key lessons and take aways

Glynn Humphries, APSE associate, Paul Naylor, APSE Associate, Fiona Sutton-Wilson, Director - APSE Training and Emma Taylor, Executive Consultant, APSE

13:00 Lunch and Networking

14:00 Workshops

Workshop A: Building cleaning and catering

- Digital transformation and smarter contract management
- Co-biotic cleaning and "Golden Dustpan and Brush" Award scheme
- Social value and community outcomes through procurement
- School food standards and balancing the budget
- Case studies

Anne Goldie, South Lanarkshire Council; Hayley Jones, Denbighshire County Council; Vickie Hacking, Principal Policy Lead, APSE and Kate Evans, APSE associate

Workshop B: Building maintenance (housing and non-housing)

- Managing dampness in Council Housing
- Awaab's Law – Phase 2
- Asset Management
- IT systems and monitoring

William Andrew, South Ayrshire Council; Lindsay Airey, Executive Director, APSE and Colin McInnes, APSE associate

Workshop C: Cemetery and crematorium services

- A commercial approach: Pet Cemeteries and stone masons' businesses
- Availability of land for burials
- Memorial Inspection Safety Tool
- Best practice case studies

Joanne Robinson, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council; Fiona Sutton-Wilson, Director - APSE Training; Glynn Humphries, APSE Associate; James Jefferon, Principal Policy Lead and Ryan McNally, Senior Data Analyst, APSE

Workshop D: Parks, street cleansing and streetscene

- Tackling Litter, Fly-Tipping and Environmental Crime
- Litter detection software
- Managing extreme heat, flooding and drought
- Using parks and green infrastructure for climate adaptation
- Integrated Weed Control Strategy

Brian Rae, Keep Scotland Beautiful; Debbie Sutton, Highland Council; Abi Ademiluyi, Principal Policy Lead, APSE; Dave Henrys, APSE associate and Paul Naylor APSE Associate

Workshop E: Recycling, Waste Collection and Transport

- Award-winning transport service
- Food waste/underground bins Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility
- SEND transport
- Blackpool's transformation of waste services

Simon Tongue, Plymouth City Council;John-Paul Lovie, Blackpool Council; Bonni Jee, Principal Policy Lead, APSE; Peter Kirkbride, APSE associate and Pete Johnson, APSE associate

Workshop F: Roads/highways, winter maintenance and street lighting

- Live Labs and energy efficiency in street lighting
- Climate resilience
- Monitoring quality to road users - Potholes App
- Effective management of budgets

John Lamb, Chair, UKRLG ABC Board; Karl Rourke, East Riding of Yorkshire Council; Louise Melville, Principal Policy Lead, APSE; Andy Derbyshire, Senior Data Analyst, APSE and Andy Martin, APSE associate

Workshop G: Sports and leisure

- Update and developments around active wellbeing network
- Sports England and Moving Communities
- Evidencing impact though data collection
- Best practice case studies

Kerry Purnell and Scott Grant, North Northamptonshire Council; Rowell Gordon, Sport England; Georgia Lucey, 4Global; Matt Ellis, Principal Policy Lead, APSE and Mark Allman, APSE associate

17:00 Seminar close

Evening Programme

The prestigious performance networks awards are a high-profile occasion where both the best performing authorities and the most improved are awarded for their achievements. There are dedicated awards for most service areas and finalists are selected based on those authorities who have participated in performance networks.

19:00 Pre-dinner drinks
19:30 Performance networks dinner
21:30 Performance networks awards

APSE is proud to once again be supporting Parkinson's UK as our event charity this year and hopes to add to the many thousands raised at our awards in recent years for this vital charity.

Friday 4 December

10:00 Session 2

A view from a Chief Executive: the vision for Dumfries and Galloway Council
Dawn Roberts, Chief Executive, Dumfries and Galloway Council

10:30 Panel discussion

What's in store for local government front-line services?
Chair: Mo Baines, Chief Executive, APSE

- **Good governance on AI / Digital strategy**
  Arash Ghazanfari, Strategic Leadership, CxO & Board Advisory, UK & Europe, Dell Technologies
- **Local government finance**
  Dawn Roberts, Chief Executive, Dumfries and Galloway Council
- **Workforce issues**
  James Rupa, Regional Lead for Local Government UNISON North West
- **Managing demand and productivity**
  Emma Varnam, Assistant Director, Tameside MBC
- **Adaptation, Biodiversity and Climate resilience**
  John Lamb, Chair, UKRLG ABC Board

11:30 Seminar close





Venue 2026

This year's performance networks seminar will be held at the Village Hotel Blackpool, East Park Drive, Blackpool, FY3 8LL.

Situated on the eastern edge of the town, the venue is easily accessible from the M55.

Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance on both days, delegate documentation, lunches, light refreshments, dinner and attendance at the performance networks award ceremony. Accommodation for Thursday 3 December is also included.

Performance networks member delegates: **£279+VAT**
Non performance networks member delegates: **£454+VAT**
Private/non Local Government delegates: **£599 +VAT**

Accommodation Bookings allocated on 'first come, first served' basis

Accommodation for the night of Thursday 3 December is included in the delegate fee.

Accommodation will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please note that APSE cannot guarantee that bedrooms at the Village Hotel will be available for late bookings.

Wednesday 2 December can be booked via APSE at £95+VAT per person using the event booking page.

Visit the APSE Events page to book **click here**

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by email to iali@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 nonattendance. 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 mode of delivery should this become necessary. If due to emergency action by UK Governments/Administrations or Public Agencies this event is postponed, for example for reasons of public health and safety, the organisers will transfer your booking to the replacement event or provide a credit voucher against a future event booking.

