

BVC news

Welcome to the eighth edition of the BVC update, a quarterly news sheet to keep BVC clients and Associate Consultants informed of what we are undertaking and also our future projects.

Markets add vitality

Many local authorities operate local markets in either purpose built market halls or on a few days per week with stalls erected by the Council. Markets add to the vibrancy of the town centres in which they exist, however they are not immune to changes in shopping habits and the advance of the supermarkets. APSE BVC have analysed the cost structure and operation of several weekly markets and recommended changes to maximise the potential and future financial survival.



CPA leisure surveys accelerate

APSE BVC is organising surveys at leisure centres across England as part of the Cultural block of CPA. The Department of Culture, Media & Sport has recognised APSE PN as one of only two organisations to carry out the Leisure survey aspect of the next round of CPA. To date in excess of 22 leisure centre have been surveyed and other authorities will be joining them in the new year.

APSE BVC is now well established and has developed an infrastructure that enables the BVC to undertake customer satisfaction surveys anywhere within the UK

Interim managers

APSE BVC continues to supply high quality interim managers to local authorities. In recognition of the growing importance of interims in change management, APSE BVC has commissioned a survey of local authority officers to help

determine the key drivers to seeking interims and the expectations that exist. Building on these findings APSE BVC will be further improving the current level of service to clients and the support on which the interim managers can call upon once in position.

Making the most of transport

APSE BVC has brought its large knowledge of transport to bear on seeking more efficient operations from a unitary authority. Whilst fleet management and maintenance may be operating well, the services that commission the transport are in a state of change. New structures are developing as childrens' and adult services replace the old social services/education structure. The BVC aims to ensure that transport for special educational needs, day centres and cared for children is properly targeted and where possible individual journeys minimised.

Incineration vs landfill

Technology is rapidly advancing in waste disposal with some new techniques blurring the distinctions between incineration and burial. One council has used its overview and scrutiny function to investigate the range of options available to the council for waste disposal. APSE BVC has been asked to provide a briefing on the current state of technology and a perspective on potential health issues. Importantly the likely costs of change are to be calculated and laid before the committee.

To find out more about how the BVC can help you, contact:

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LLD news

Lifelong learning and development is the training arm of APSE. Please see details below for the Winter and Spring programme

Stop Press!

New masterclass

Employment issues and legislation

25 delegates attended the first sellout Masterclass on Employment Issues delivered at Eversheds Leeds offices in November. Delegates enjoyed practical and legal advice on a range of topics including

- New public sector equality duties
- A range of staffing issues e.g. agency workers, procurement
- An update on the discretionary compensation regs

For those of you who missed this opportunity, there are 3 further dates available in 2007.

Please book early to avoid disappointment.

New public course

Managing Positive Attendance

The first of APSE's new Public course was held in Newham London and has already interested authorities in holding this course in-house.

The next available public course will be 26 February in Manchester

Contact Wai Lee at wlee@apse.org.uk for further details or to book on any of the courses detailed in this newsletter.

Course Updates

Shared Services

The Masterclass on Shared Services has been developed to include interactive sessions on the different models for authorities to choose when considering such an undertaking.

Next available date is 25 January in Powys

Equal Pay & Bonus

High levels of interest remain for this topic and our next Masterclass in Manchester is already full.

APSE & Walker Morris in conjunction with Cloister Chambers are offering a further date on 7 February in Leeds

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (CNEA)

The final stages of the CNEA came into force on 6 April 2006.

Please note that our forthcoming Masterclasses on 8 December is fully booked and we are currently taking names for the next course planned for 2007.

Full details of the final guidance on the Clean Neighbourhoods Act can be found on the DEFRA website.

Charging and Trading

Please contact Wai Lee to express your interest in this course. Subject to demand, this Masterclass is expected to run again in June 2007.



Course update cont'd

Corporate Manslaughter

Mentioned in the Queen's speech, the long awaited Bill is currently going through parliament and is expected to be in force in just over 12 month's time.

APSE in conjunction with Eversheds will continue to run these courses until the new legislation comes into force.

Next available opportunity to attend is 19 March 2007

Why not follow in the footsteps of Derbyshire and hold your own in-house Masterclass?

Any in-house course can be tailored to the needs, level and requirements of your staff.

Full details are available from Jan Mazzone or Wai Lee at APSE 0161 772 1810 wlee@apse.org.uk

And more member development

APSE is continuing its successful work on the role of Scrutiny for elected members in South Yorkshire Fire Authority

Forthcoming training courses

Masterclasses

Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act

8/12/06 Leeds (full)

New date for Feb/March 07 currently being arranged

Please contact Wai Lee to be added to the waiting list

Equal Pay and Bonus in Local Government

11/1/07 Manchester (course full)

7/2/07 Leeds (available)

Shared Services

25/1/07 Powys

Employment Issues & Legislation

Cambridge 18/1/07

Birmingham 20/2/07

Manchester 15/3/07

Corporate Manslaughter

19/3/07 Manchester

Public Course programme:

Project Management

Milton Keynes 22/1/07

Manchester 7/3/07

Perth 27/3/07

Aspects of Leadership

Birmingham 30/1/07

Manchester 22/3/07

Service Level Agreements

Manchester 8/2/07

Marketing your Service Area

Manchester 22/2/07

Managing Positive Attendance

Manchester 26/2/07

Please contact Wai Lee for details on

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