



# news update

*Welcome to the tenth edition of the best value consultancy new update, a quarterly news sheet to keep clients and associate consultants informed of what we are undertaking and also our future projects.*

## Civic catering gets a revamp

A service which provides catering to members, special events and lunch to staff has been reviewed by APSE best value consultancy to ensure that it continues to provide value for money and is flexible enough to accommodate the changing expectations of the service. It is expected that the report will provide the springboard to re-launch the service, building on current, often hidden, strengths and with an improved financial return.

## Building schools for the future

With many local authorities looking to build new schools under this scheme, that can often potentially mean a loss of income to the in-house provider of both cleaning and catering as old schools are replaced. APSE best value consultancy has been successful in assisting the in-house team to compete on level terms for the new school contracts. APSE best value consultancy brings together a wealth of local authority best practice and access to substantial private sector contract experience, allowing in-house teams to compete as equals.

## Demonstrating value for money in Scotland

Building maintenance departments have to show that they provide a cost effective service to Audit Scotland. Market testing is costly, time consuming and not always reliable. To this end APSE best value consultancy has facilitated an exercise on behalf of 4 Scottish authorities to share their cost information and challenge building repair costs and procedures. The resulting document provides a robust basis to demonstrate value for money and an ongoing methodology to ensure underlying data is refreshed.

## Keeping the lid on PFI costs

Some initial PFI contacts are now reaching the first opportunity to revise prices on the soft service element of the contract. Hit with claimed rises of over 100% from some contractors, APSE best value consultancy has been called in to verify claims and provide substantiated benchmark costs. The exercise is set to save one authority in excess of £300,000 over the next 5 years on cleaning alone against the original claimed increase.

## Value for money - member toolkit launched

Where does an authority start to make an assessment of services and a judgement on competitiveness and value for money? Equally difficult is the process to ensure that members have the tools to make objective decisions without disappearing under a mountain of reports and paperwork. The toolkit has been developed with one authority to structure the process and has been enthusiastically supported by both officers and members. Over 20 areas of council administration have been defined and objectively graded to provide a forward plan for individual efficiency reviews.

## Fighting enviro-crime in real time

Using real-time data to direct enforcement activity can bring large benefits and ensures that potential problems are caught before they escalate. Following work with APSE best value consultancy, a series of heat maps have been produced, which highlight specific types of environmental crime and antisocial behaviour including fly-tipping and dog fouling. Tasking is to be decided daily and given experience elsewhere is expected to show significant falls in repeat crime levels.

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

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**Rob Bailey, Senior Consultant**  
rbailey@apse.org.uk, 0161 772 1811

# news update

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

## Construction Design and Management Regulations (CDM) 2007

**On 6 April 2007 the new Construction Design and Management Regulations came into force.**

For those of you who missed out on our previous sessions, please note we are now taking expressions of interest for the next programme to commence in the autumn.

**The CDM sessions will contain:**

- ♦ An overview of the new Regulations
- ♦ Roles and responsibilities for CDM dutyholders e.g. client, designer,
- ♦ co-ordinator, principal contractor, and contractor
- ♦ Workshops on assessing competency, provision of pre-construction information, co-ordination and management
- ♦ Health and safety file
- ♦ Practical tips and advice

### Why not hold CDM 2007 in-house at your authority?

If you have large numbers of staff interested in this new legislation, sending them to a public course may not be a suitable option for you. Many authorities prefer to hold our Masterclasses in-house on a mutually agreed date, and with the course tailored to particular requirements of the service.

Further details on request from Jan Mazzone 0161 772 1810  
jmazzone@apse.org.uk

## Free Taster Event

### Using Psychometric Testing in Recruitment and Development

APSE will be holding a free taster event in Manchester on 1 November 2007 to show how psychometric testing can be used as a tool to complement recruitment methods and management development workshops.

If your authority is interested in using psychometric tests for measuring ability and personality traits to enhance your recruitment process or career development programme, then please come along to this event.

Please book your place early - contact Emma Barrow  
ebarrow@apse.org.uk 0161 772 1810

APSE provides a qualified service of Occupational Testing at Level A and Level B (Intermediate) in accordance with the British Psychological Society standards and conditions

## 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 4 September in Leeds at Eversheds offices.

## Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (CNEA)

If you would like an overview of your new powers, please note the next available date is 2 October 2007 in Leeds at Walker Morris offices.

Please note new guidance for 2007 can be found on the DEFRA website. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/index.htm>

## Charging and Trading Masterclass

Back by popular demand, your next opportunity to gain awareness of the powers given by the new Local Government Act 2003 will be 11/09/07 in Leeds at Eversheds offices.

## Smoke free England

The new Smokefree Law for England is in force from July 1 - are you aware of all your legal responsibilities as an employer and an enforcement authority? - Wirral Council are!

APSE and Eversheds have successfully delivered a "Toolkit" on the new regulations on Smokefree England for Wirral including:

- ♦ The offences
- ♦ The defences
- ♦ The obligations
- ♦ The exemptions
- ♦ Issues for enforcement officers
- ♦ Promoting Health
- ♦ Links to Clean Neighbourhood Act
- ♦ Q&A session

Why not follow in Wirral's footsteps and invite up to 25 members of staff to this "Toolkit". Toolkits last for 4 hours in total, can be delivered at your convenience, and are a very cost effective option.



# Forthcoming training courses

## Masterclasses:

### Employment Legislation

24/07/07 Cardiff

### Charging and Trading

11/09/07 Leeds

### Shared Services

04/09/07 Leeds

### Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act

02/10/07 Leeds

### Construction design and management regulations 2007

10/10/07 London

16/10/07 Leeds

14/11/07 Newcastle

22/11/07 Cardiff

24/09/07 Scotland



## Public course programme:

### Project management in local government

07/09/07 Belfast & 11/10/07 Birmingham

### Service level agreements

28/09/07 Manchester & 09/10/07 Perth

### Marketing your service area

04/10/07 Manchester

### Aspects of leadership - managing and communicating change

10/09/07 Manchester

### The manager as a team leader and coach

30/10/07 Newcastle

