



news update

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

City highways survey

A major city has awarded APSE best value consultancy the contract to conduct a survey of its residents to gauge the state of the highways. 10,000 residents have been split into neighbourhood areas and randomly selected from the electoral role. Surveys will be posted in February/March for return prior by Easter. The surveys will then be processed and the results analysed to provide a comprehensive picture of the state of the City's highways and the perception of the service.

Building cleaning

APSE best value consultancy has been commissioned by a large Housing ALMO to undertake a comprehensive survey of the communal areas of their housing stock, including entrance halls and community centres. In total APSE consultants will be visiting over 500 separate buildings throughout January and making detailed measurements and an analysis of the current state of cleaning. The results will be tabulated into a comprehensive schedule and combined with an APSE designed cleaning specification to allow the ALMO to seek tenders for a brand new cleaning service.

Waste reconfiguration

The increase in recycling and the changes to waste collection methods has left the waste collection regimes of many authorities struggling to retain efficiency. In others, new housing has not been reflected in the capacity of the rounds placing unequal demands on some crews. In many cases a complete review of the routes is required and a balancing of personnel and resources to maximise the effectiveness of the service

Round rebalancing can be contentious and APSE best value consultancy has been tasked by one Welsh

Authority to review the existing rounds to ensure that specific difficulties are reflected in any new configuration. For the APSE consultant that means 2 weeks either riding with the crews or following the rounds. APSE best value consultancy has previously carried out a similar exercise in Scotland and with several English Authorities.

Best value procurement

Procurement is changing. Many items that would have previously been bulk purchased and then stored are now delivered direct to the end user by the supplier. Electronic communication is reducing the amount of paperwork and has simplified many traditional purchasing tasks. APSE best value consultancy has recently started a review for one authority on the most appropriate way forward for their stores department. Working with the Unions and officers, APSE will map out the future needs of the Council and develop a structure that provides modern effective purchasing whilst maintaining their corporate objectives.

Interims solutions continues to shine

In the last month APSE interim solutions has placed managers for highways, parking, neighbourhood services, waste management and strategic project management. With over 100 interim managers now registered with APSE interim solutions from across the UK, we are able to deliver interim support across most services and to all locations.

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

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news update

Lifelong Learning and Development is the training arm of APSE. Please see details below for the 2008 Spring programme.

New masterclass: Waste Management Issues First date sold out!

New date added in Leeds on 31/03/08
Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Are you aware of all the issues in Waste Management that local authorities need to consider?

APSE and Walker Morris are developing a new Masterclass on the issues that authorities will need to consider on Waste Management such as:

- ♦ Waste Strategy 2007
- ♦ Direct and Variable charging for household and residual waste
- ♦ Waste Minimisation
- ♦ Joint Waste authorities
- ♦ Regulations on food waste, composting and animal bi-products
- ♦ Compulsory recycling of Waste and enforcement
- ♦ Emerging new technologies
- ♦ Health and Safety in the Waste industry

APSE welcomes any case studies or information that authorities may want to provide and share with delegate. Please forward to jmazzone@apse.org.uk

Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act

Did you know the Legislation comes into force from 6 April 2008?

Are you prepared?

Don't miss your last chance to attend the final Masterclass before this Act comes into force :

6 March 2008, Leeds and 31 March 2008, Edinburgh Show us yours and we'll show you others!

Lessons Learned from Equal Pay - Public course

If you are willing to complete a survey on what steps your authority has taken (and why), APSE will provide you with a compiled analysis of what other authorities have done on equal pay

(please note the information you provide will be anonymised)

The lessons learned information will be given out on the course plus we will discuss what has worked and what hasn't.

The next opportunity to attend is 04/03/08 in Powys.

Managing Positive Attendance - Public Course

New dates for Scotland and NI

27/02/08 Belfast and 13/03/08 Glasgow

Are you spending a significant amount of time on managing non attendance, preparing reports, dealing with Appeals internally and at Employment Tribunals?

Despite various government initiatives to get people back to work, the 2007 CIPD Absence Survey indicates that absence is on the rise for the first time in two years.

The specific figures for the Public Sector show:

- ♦ an increase of 0.2% on the previous year
- ♦ 10.3 days lost per employee
- ♦ the cost of absence at £732 per annum per employee.

"Delivering Efficiencies through Improved Attendance"



Charging and Trading

Are you aware of all your powers relevant to charging and trading?

Do you know when they are/are not available?

If not, then take the opportunity to attend our forthcoming Masterclass on 4 March 2008, Rugby

...and more member development

New course for 2008

Elected members and the Third Sector

APSE is offering councillors an opportunity to enhance their skills, knowledge and relationships for third sector working.

Details will be published on our website in February 2008

If you are interested in any of the courses mentioned in this newsletter or you require further information please e-mail jmazzone@apse.org.uk or ebarrow@apse.org.uk telephone 0161 772 1810, fax 0161 772 1811

None of the dates or venues suitable?

What about an in-house option?

APSE can deliver any of its public courses or Masterclasses in-house at your authority

- ♦ at a mutually agreed date
- ♦ at a cost effective rate
- ♦ tailored to the needs of a particular service area, portfolio or directorate

Please contact Jan Mazzone to arrange on 0161 772 1810 or via email at jmazzone@apse.org.uk

Forthcoming training courses

Masterclasses:

Employment Issues and Legislation

14/02/08 Glasgow 10/3/08 Birmingham 29/4/08 London

Construction Design and Management Regulations (CDM) 2007

25/01/08 Manchester 22/02/08 Birmingham
10/03/08 Dundee

New Waste Management Issues

17/03/08 Leeds - FULL 31/03/08 Leeds

Charging and Trading

04/03/08 Rugby

Corporate Manslaughter

06/03/08 Leeds 31/03/08 Scotland

Public course programme:

New Making the most of the Media

29/02/08 Manchester

Project Management in Local Government

25/02/08 Manchester 11/03/08 Perth

Aspects of Leadership - Managing and Communicating Change

03/03/08 Belfast 14/03/08 Liverpool

Aspects of Leadership - The Manager as Team Leader and Coach

28/03/08 Birmingham

Service Level Agreements

05/03/08 Manchester

Marketing your Service Area

23/01/08 Birmingham 12/03/08 Newcastle
07/03/08 Cardiff

Lessons Learned from Equal Pay

04/03/08 Powys

Managing Positive Attendance

27/02/08 Belfast 13/03/08 Glasgow
31/03/08 Manchester

Please contact Emma Barrow for details on 0161 772 1810 or via email at ebarrow@apse.org.uk