

# news update

Welcome to the seventeenth edition of the APSE 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.

## The recession and public services

Previous recessions have led to increase in public service demand. Demand for Benefits, Health Care, Social Care, Housing, Police and Judiciary and even increases on services such as Leisure are all expected.



Best value consultancy has been commissioned to create a touchstone pamphlet to reflect current expectations and understanding within public sectors.

The consultancy recently undertook interviews with key political players, government organisations and key local government suppliers. In addition, the consultancy carried out a large online survey of public sector employees to build a picture of how they see the impact of the downturn. The pamphlet is to be widely available within the coming months.

If you have any queries regarding this survey and the work apse is undertaking please contact [amudd@apse.org.uk](mailto:amudd@apse.org.uk).

## Scottish authority's economic footprint

APSE Best Value Consultancy and the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) have just completed examining the local economic footprint of the local authority's Operational Services.



Recession has meant local authorities have had to increasingly think about their spending patterns and the extent to which they contribute to local economies, and in particular the resilience of local economies.

The spend or lack of spend by front line service departments

upon suppliers and employees has significant implications for the circulation of monies within local economies and their subsequent resilience to economic change.

Findings of the report are to be released soon.

If you wish to find out your area's economic footprint please contact [dwalshe@apse.org.uk](mailto:dwalshe@apse.org.uk)

## Free school meals pilot

Three authorities have been selected by the government to trial the provision of free school meals. Two of the selected authorities will be providing free lunch time meals to all primary school children, whilst another will be extending the eligibility criteria for free school meals to a wider group of children at both primary and secondary level.

It is expected that there will be a significant increase in take up in all three authorities and the government is keen to ensure that any support requirements are established at an early stage. Best value consultancy has been successful in winning the commission to carry out an initial evaluation of the pilot authorities to establish their readiness to implement the trial and to make recommendations as to any process improvements that may be required.

If you have any queries regarding this project please contact [dwalshe@apse.org.uk](mailto:dwalshe@apse.org.uk)

