

Report back

A round up of APSE lobbying and events on behalf of our members

November and December proved busy months for APSE with a range of conferences, meetings and lobbying activity on behalf of APSE members.

England

Common ground

APSE launched its latest research report commissioned by UNISON at the House of Commons with Dave Prentis, General Secretary of UNISON and Housing Minister John Healey MP, with Paul O'Brien explaining the research findings.

The report 'A new generation of council housing' provides an analysis of need, opportunity vision and skills in developing a new generation of council housing. The report calls for greater freedoms for local councils to deliver sustainable council housing and allow for a widespread house building programme to address the chronic housing shortages.



Housing Minister John Healey MP

Capital ambitions

APSE chief executive Paul O'Brien addressed the Guardian 'Capital Ambitions' conference on the 16 November 2009 exploring how the public sector can meet the challenges of efficiencies despite increased service demands created through the recession.

Transforming breakfast

The Association of London Councils hosted a breakfast meeting on service transformation, innovation and efficiency. Attended by Paul O'Brien the meeting explored the challenges of delivering responsive services in an economic downturn.

A million voices

The House of Commons played host to the launch of the UNISON million voices campaign which is 'speaking up for public services'. Celebrity signatures include Olympic Champion Colin Jackson, who addressed the APSE national seminar in

Cardiff in September 2009 and a host of TV personalities. The campaign launch in support of public services saw representation from APSE through APSE chief executive Paul O'Brien

Barber cuts to the chase

APSE's research report commissioned by the TUC 'Speaking up for public services; The vital role of the public sector in and beyond the recession' formed the basis of national media reports in The Guardian and other newspapers when it was launched in the media by the TUC. Highlighting the value of the public sector to the economy and warning of the dangers of a 'double dip' recession if public sector cuts are too soon and too deep the report is available to download free of charge from the TUC website and via a link on the APSE website

It's in the post.....

APSE has launched its latest research report 'The ensuring council; governance, neighbourhoods and service delivery' by providing a complimentary copy to all APSE main contacts and local council chief executives and leaders. The report explores the organisational structures of neighbourhood working and the barriers to councils meeting both national and local priorities. The report which was co-authored by Mark Bramah, APSE assistant chief executive and Dr Steven Griggs of De Montfort University is featured in an article by Dr Griggs on pages 4-5 of this edition of direct news.

Wales

Lording it in Swansea

Swansea, named as APSE's overall council of the year in service delivery, thanked elected members and employees at a special Lord Mayors reception which saw APSE chief executive Paul O'Brien formally present the honour to the council. Swansea won the prestigious award after beating other councils in the APSE service awards 2009 held at Cardiff International Arena. (Swansea winners pictured opposite)

A voice to be heard in the Welsh Assembly Government

APSE has continued to lobby on behalf of its members on the 'Legislative Competence for Culture and Other Fields Order 2009. Following oral evidence presented to the Assembly Government back in October APSE has now been invited to comment further on the draft order and is liaising with APSE members in Wales to formulate a further response. For more details contact Debbie Johns on djohns@apse.org.uk

Scotland

Healthy Minister

Scotland's healthy communities seminar held at Dunkeld Hilton Hotel heard from Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning Fiona Hyslop, who addressed delegates with a key note address on the importance of a holistic approach to tackling obesity, child health and learning. Ms Hyslop was joined by APSE award winning catering manager Anita Brown of Stockton-on-Tees Council and by Dr Cathy Higginson, Food and Health Programme Manager for NHS Health Scotland.



Northern Ireland

Organising for reorganisation

APSE chief executive Paul O'Brien continues to chair the Northern Ireland Local Government Reform Joint Forum and addressed a joint Staff Commission and SOLACE NI conference on reorganisation issues in Fermanagh. Exploring the cultural as well as organisational changes will be critical to the success or otherwise of post reorganisation councils Mr O'Brien told delegates.



Claim the date! 18 February 2010

Around 70 submissions have so far been received for the second annual local government awards for Northern Ireland hosted by a partnership including APSE. Awards marking is now underway with a panel of expert judges and the awards night, which will announce the lucky winners, will be held on the 18 February 2010. Contact Phil Brennan at APSE for more details (pbrennan@apse.org.uk)



Congratulations!

Pictured: Victoria Dempsey of 2010 Rotherham, Housing apprentice of the year, Pamela Marnie of Fife Council, Horticulture apprentice of the year and Gary Lothian of Scottish Borders Council, Transport and Vehicle Maintenance apprentice of the year

