



## APSE welcomes Ministers calls for investment in street wardens

APSE, the Association for Public Service Excellence, today welcomed calls from ODPM Minister Jim Fitzpatrick, to strengthen the training and recruitment of Street Wardens.

Paul O'Brien Chief Executive of APSE said **"The role of local authorities in combating neighbourhood level crime and disorder has never been stronger. It remains the number one voter priority and has helped to improve the quality of life and local environment for countless citizens. However there is a real danger that local authorities will fail to deliver on voter expectations if resources are thin on the ground"**.

APSE research into apprenticeship training by local authorities has found that the use of local authority apprenticeship schemes have helped diversity in the workforce, mitigated against skills shortages in the wider economy and in many cases has helped to reduce occupational segregation by encouraging greater gender balance in new trainees. Mr O'Brien added **"We should not take it for granted that well trained staff are out there in the wider economy. Local authorities must look to develop structured career paths with appropriate training and pay levels to encourage working for the community, as a Street Warden, as a realistic, desirable and rewarding career choice"**.

Acknowledging the difficulties some authorities have faced in recruiting Street Wardens Paul O'Brien called on local authorities to look at their existing staffing structures and career paths. Mr O'Brien added **"We are seeing many grounds maintenance and street scene workers face a loss of pay as a result of job evaluation. Re-skilling staff in Wardens duties may be one way in which win win solutions can be developed"**.

APSE has called on local authorities, the Home Office and ODPM to ensure that funding for Street Wardens and the local environment is continuous and part of the mainstream budgeting and staff planning process.

Ends

1. APSE is the Association for Public Service Excellence
2. APSE represents around 300 local authorities throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
3. APSE has researched skills shortages in the public sector in the fields of social care, building and construction, building cleaning, caretaking and facilities management services and rewards authorities who have demonstrated excellence in apprenticeship training through its annual awards.
4. APSE representatives are available for interview. Contact Mark Roden on [mroden@apse.org.uk](mailto:mroden@apse.org.uk) on 0161 772 1810 or Mo Baines on 07971 843515