



APSE Update

Sports, Leisure and Culture Group Meeting

29 August 2008

Alloa, Clackmannanshire Council

Alistair Fildes, Research Officer, APSE

Association for Public Service Excellence
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National update



- **National update**
- APSE has recently published its latest research paper on 'Governance, neighbourhoods and service delivery'.
- This ground breaking piece of research examines the best operational arrangements for local authorities, delivering services at a neighbourhood level, and how to best secure due governance arrangements with the critical involvement of elected members.
- One day event at Hamilton Racecourse, 21 August 2008, on '**Governance, Neighbourhoods and Service Delivery in Scottish local government**'.

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National update



- **England**
- APSE has lobbied MPs to support an amendment to the Housing and Regeneration Bill to provide greater flexibility and financial freedoms for councils to invest in housing stock.
- APSE is also closely watching the outcomes of the anticipated report from OFT due in late April concluding their investigations into alleged price fixing on public sector construction contracts.
- **Scotland**
- APSE has secured a major victory with the Scottish Government changing the commencement of the Nutrition Act guidance coming into effect within secondary schools. It will now be delayed by one year to ensure that schools have sufficient time to implement the H4S message of healthy eating.
- Involved with reconfiguring SVQs pertinent to Scottish local authorities.

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- **Wales**
- The Welsh Data Unit has adopted APSE's performance networks definitions for part of its leisure performance indicators. APSE met with the Minister, Brian Gibbons on 11 March in relation to how APSE can contribute to the improvement agenda.
- Wales Audit Office are trying to get some baseline data for school meals as part of Appetite for Life (Wales equivalent of Hungry for Success) and have approached some local authorities who have suggested that they contact us. They are going to suggest that they use the apse performance networks to gather information.
- **Northern Ireland**
- APSE members in Northern Ireland are working towards the new administrative structures, following the declaration of 11 new councils. APSE is sitting on the Northern Ireland Review of Public Administration Working Group through NILGA.

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For your diaries ...



• **Forthcoming meetings 2008/09**

- **6 – 7 November 2008, Healthy Communities seminar 2008: making Scotland fit for purpose**
- **Wednesday 28 January 2009 (Fife Sports and Leisure Trust)**
- **Friday 22 May 2009**

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