

# network news

Year 10 data collection for financial year 2007-08

## Statutory guidance and national reports reinforce the importance of benchmarking

The guidance emphasises service improvement and the need to address under-performance - there is no automatic presumption that services should be outsourced in the document.

### Scotland; Audit Scotland stresses the importance of effective performance management

Some of the latest audit reports from Audit Scotland have stressed the importance of effective performance management to corporate plans, the need to be aware of inputs, the quality and cost-effectiveness of services and outcomes, and to identify when a service provided is not performing at the level expected.

In order to claim efficiencies under the Efficient Government initiative, Audit Scotland have reiterated the need for councils to demonstrate that service outcomes have been maintained or improved, and to evidence the link between resources and performance measurement.

### Wales; Welsh Assembly states its intention to legislate for local authorities to compare performance

The consultation paper issued in 2008 by the Welsh Assembly Government, 'Delivering a shared responsibility; performance improvement and

Recent guidance issued by relevant assemblies and governments, emphasise the importance of undertaking benchmarking not only in terms of evaluating service performance but also in assessing competitiveness. Details on individual guidance issued is contained below.

### England; CLG 'Creating strong, safe, prosperous communities' paper

Statutory guidance issued by the CLG in July 2008, 'Creating strong, safe, prosperous communities' states that local authorities, for their own services (including those externally provided), should "regularly and rigorously assess and review the competitiveness of those services against similar services" and that where in comparison with others they are found to be underperforming they should re-evaluate the "need and priorities for that service".



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community planning' reinforces the importance of benchmarking. The Welsh Assembly Government has stated that it is their intention to legislate for 'local authorities to compare their performance using the most appropriate performance data' (page 9). In addition, the proposal to broaden out the best value duty with a duty to secure improvement also includes a focus on the efficiency, quality and availability of services.

## Northern Ireland; Department of Environment pledges support for the development of appropriate performance management systems

Environment Minister Arlene Foster's statement to the Assembly in March 2008 on the future shape of local government highlights the need for performance management to deliver modern, high quality and efficient public services. The statement notes that central government will support local government with the development of appropriate performance management systems and a modernisation challenge fund that will support innovative and efficient practice.

## Validator training sessions

25th September 2008

Performance networks is holding an additional free validator training session in Manchester. The sessions will give you the tools needed to be involved in the data validation; including helping new members through peer support and getting involved in peer checking processes for performance networks. This includes a variety of opportunities to be involved in group data checking sessions, on-site audits or off-site support.

The mentoring and coaching training will teach you transferable skills, which can be used beyond APSE performance networks, such as in your own workplace. The sessions will be highly interactive and you will be given a full training pack during the course of the day. In addition, you will receive the following APSE certificates:

- APSE approved validator
- APSE approved mentor and coach.

To book on please contact Michael Egerton at the APSE office on 0161 772 1810 or [megerton@apse.org.uk](mailto:megerton@apse.org.uk).

## Performance networks seminar; 4-5 December 2008, Blackpool

The performance networks seminar will be taking place on the 4-5 December 2008 at the Hilton Hotel, Blackpool Promenade. Last years event was completely sold out with over 450 delegates attending. Pre-booking for this event will be available at the annual APSE seminar on the 10-11 September 2008.

## Performance networks team updates

### Welcome Joe to the performance networks team

Joe Furniss has joined the performance networks team as IT and research officer. APSE would like to welcome Joe to the team.

## Data submission deadlines approaching

Building cleaning	15 OCT
Building maintenance	20 OCT
Civic, cultural and community venues	8 OCT
Culture, leisure and sport	6 OCT
Education catering	22 OCT
Highways and winter maintenance	16 OCT
Other (civic & commercial) catering	23 OCT
Parks, open spaces & horticultural services	14 OCT
Refuse collection	07 OCT
Sports and leisure facility management	24 OCT
Street cleansing	09 OCT
Street lighting	17 OCT
Transport operations	31 OCT
Welfare catering	21 OCT