

Network news

Performance networks working seminar and awards special edition

The Performance Networks year in review

Welcome to the third volume of Network News. The newsletter contains important information about this year's Performance Networks Working Seminar and Awards, together with information about the Culture Block CPA and the Validation process for each of the PN service areas for year 8 (2005/06).

Performance Networks continues to go from strength to strength. There are now 205 local authorities in membership of PN (which is an all time high for the service), with every indication that more local authorities will join in the future. Participation rates across all the service areas are extremely encouraging and look set to show an increase over last year; with some significant increases in a number of service areas.

This year has seen the launch of the PN members secure web portal, which allows members to both download manuals and templates and also upload completed data files directly to our IT partner, IQSS for processing. This should both speed up and simplify the data collection process in the future. The next stage of development for the website; will involve allowing greater interactivity by members, the ability to both interrogate the data further and generate bespoke comparisons across services.

We are also addressing the strategic development of the PN model and have been in active discussions with a number of organisations in relation to street scene and neighbourhood management; healthy lifestyles and the efficiencies agenda. We hope to make some further announcements about wider thematic developments at this year's seminar.

If you have not already done so, I would encourage you to book on to the seminar which will be held on 14 and 15 December at the Hilton Hotel, Blackpool. As ever, demand is high and the capacity is limited; so if you want to guarantee your place at the Seminar

and Awards dinner, I would urge you to book early to avoid disappointment.

This edition of Network News contains information on the award categories for this year's Seminar; further details of the short listed councils will follow in the next edition of Network News.

Mark Bramah

Assistant Chief Executive

Blackpool 2006 - keynote speakers

APSE has put together an impressive platform of high profile speakers and local government experts including:

Tony Bovaird, Professor of Public Management and Policy, INLOGOV

Transforming Local Government Services - The Challenge of the Local Government White Paper

Neil McInnery, Chief Executive, CLES

The Importance of Local Area Agreements

Fiona Lees, Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council

Top Down or Bottom Up - What Works Best?

Andrew Martin, Head of Dorset Works Organisation, Dorset County Council

Making Improvement a Reality: Dispatches from the Front Line

Tony Travers, Director, Greater London Group, London School of Economics

A Punter's Eye View - How does it feel for Citizens?

For further information or to reserve your place at the seminar and awards, please refer to the seminar flyer (attached).

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Best and Most Improved Performer Awards, 2006

This year, Performance Networks has developed the successful Awards format to include an award for the Best Performer and the Most Improved Performer in the following service areas:

- ♦ Building Cleaning
- ♦ Building Maintenance
- ♦ Civic, Cultural & Community Venues
- ♦ Education Catering
- ♦ Highways & Winter Maintenance
- ♦ Parks, Open Spaces & Horticultural Services
- ♦ Refuse Collection
- ♦ Sports & Leisure Facility Management
- ♦ Street Cleansing
- ♦ Street Lighting
- ♦ Transport Operations & Vehicle Maintenance*

**There will only be an award for the Best Performer.*

For further information, please contact Alex Kent at the APSE office.

Data deadlines

It's not too late to submit data for some service areas. Performance Networks has a **short** window in the following service areas:

- ♦ Sports & Leisure Facility Management (deadline: 06-11-06)
- ♦ Culture, Leisure & Sport (deadline: 07-11-06)
- ♦ Security (deadline: 10-11-06)
- ♦ Transport Operations & Vehicle Maint. (deadline: 10-11-06)
- ♦ Other (Civic & Commercial) Catering (deadline: 10-11-06)

If you'd like to submit data for any of the above services, please contact Cheryl Walker at the APSE office or Julia Wareham at IQSS as soon as possible to discuss the latest available deadline.

Members only web portal presentation

Dave Knapman of IQ Software Systems will be giving a short presentation at the Performance Networks Working Seminar on the contents and capabilities of the Performance Networks members only secure web portal. The presentation has been

scheduled to commence at 2.10pm in the Royal Suite and all delegates are welcome to attend the presentation if they wish. Please contact Alex Kent at the APSE office or Dave Knapman at IQSS for further information.

Validation process update: data validation on-site visits

Performance Networks is currently in the process of identifying the Best and Most Improved Performers for each service area and you may already have received a letter, confirming your status as a finalist at the forthcoming Best and Most Improved Performer Awards. Details of how to reserve your place at the Working Seminar and Awards are included on the seminar flyer (attached).

If you are a finalist, you will receive a call in the near future from a member of the PN Validation Team, who will carry out an on-site data validation check. If you would like to assist with the Data Validation Meetings, please contact Alex Kent or Cheryl Walker at the APSE office.

CPA Update

APSE has now launched the CPA Toolkit for the new Culture Block Comprehensive Performance Assessment in England. Colleagues registered for the Performance Networks Sports & Leisure Facility Management service should already have received an electronic pack and a hard copy will follow in the post shortly.

APSE is offering all UK-wide authorities the opportunity to benchmark these Performance Indicators for 2005/06 as well as 2006/07; due to the benefits from having already been through the process. APSE will also process all additional data received from Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland councils in the interests of promoting best practice.

To join Performance Networks, register additional facilities, or find out information on the CPA process; please contact Cheryl Walker or Alex Kent at the APSE office.

Alex Kent

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