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What's in store at Aviemore?

**A look ahead to the APSE Scotland Fleet,
Waste and Grounds Seminar 2019**

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Editorial

Sunny days remind us of the value of our parks and greenspaces



Paul O'Brien
Chief Executive,
APSE

It was a glorious Easter weekend for most of the UK. At long last the promise of a sun-drenched bank holiday came to fruition. A welcome change from the usual downpours where most of us view visitor attractions through wiper blades, or the spike of a well-placed broly, to guard against the howling wind and rain, desperate to keep the family entertained!

What struck me most about the (unusually) good weather was the number of people that head to local parks. It is a fantastic sight to see different generations of families heading to the local park with picnics, babies in buggies and grannies in wheelchairs. A welcoming community space where everyone can enjoy some fresh air, the plants and trees, and of course the compulsory ice-cream.

As bank holiday weekends go parks are a staple for cheap and cheerful enjoyment. But they are so much more than that all year round. For runners they are a source of rigorous green exercise away from grey gyms, for dog-walkers a source of wide open spaces to enjoy their pets. For the elderly, a place to stay active and interact. For families with young children a place, come rain or shine, to kick a ball about or feed the ducks. In fact a recent Select Committee report found that 90% of

households with children under five will use their local park at least once a month. However not everything in the park garden is rosy.

Parks often fall at the bottom of the funding pile. Whilst there are often bidding pots for councils to access capital investments the issue of on-going funding, in revenue terms, remains a huge issue. APSE is continuing its campaigning work on parks. As part of the PAG (Parks Action Group) working with MHCLG Minister Rushi Sunak we know that the future of parks remains a contested area. APSE has been unequivocal. We want to see parks properly supported with long-term funding.

There are few public services that reap universally accessible rewards for its users; whether that is improved physical and mental health, a means to address social isolation and loneliness or to act as the green lungs in our communities, parks are a uniquely 'giving' species of public service. The recent sunny spell should act as a timely reminder of the value of our local parks and greenspaces. They are worth fighting for!

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Report Back

A round up of APSE advocacy and events



The Highways Innovation Awards and Highways and Street Lighting Apprentice Award 2019 took place during the Highways, Street Lighting and Winter Maintenance Seminar on 20 March in the Grand Hotel Blackpool

Highways Innovation Awards 2019

APSE is delighted to announce the winners of the Highways Innovation Awards 2019, as well as the winner of this year's Highways and Street Lighting Apprentice Award:

- Durham County Council - Highways Maintenance Services (sponsored by Bouygues)
- Northumberland County Council - Winter Maintenance Services (sponsored by Peacock Salt)
- Conwy County Borough Council - Street Lighting (sponsored by Salix Finance)
- Kirsty Smith, Ayrshire Roads Alliance - Highways and Street Lighting Apprentice Award (sponsored by WJ Group)

The winners were presented with their awards at the APSE Highways, Street Lighting and Winter Maintenance Seminar in Blackpool on 20 March. For a full list of this year's finalists and photographs from the event, visit the APSE website.

MJ Future Forum

APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien was a guest at the The MJ Future Forum which took place at Hanbury Manor, Hertfordshire on 11 -12 April. The Forum gives local authority chief executives the opportunity to consider some of the major issues affecting local government over the next 12-18 months. The Forum looked at major issues including the Spending Review, the Spring Statement, care and health integration, children's services, financial resilience – and the impact of Brexit.

BEIS Local Energy Team

APSE Energy has a new web page dedicated to the Local Energy Team that sits within the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The page includes information about the Local Energy Team, the benefits of local energy projects, how the team can help local authorities and LEPs, the local energy hubs that exist across England and case studies of local energy in action. The local authority case studies are from Nottingham City Council and Bristol City Council. Visit the APSE Energy hub on the APSE website for more information.

Save the date

Wednesday 11 – Thursday 12 September
APSE Annual Seminar 2019 in Newcastle (including the APSE AGM and APSE Annual Service Awards Charity Dinner)

Housing roundtable

APSE/TCPA held a roundtable discussion on the 26 March 2019. The roundtable was attended by local authority officers, elected members and key stakeholders. Discussion at the session centred around the challenges and opportunities impacting the social housing sector. The key themes emerged around permitted development, the standards and quality of new build, skills of the workforce of the future and the resources and expertise in local authority planning. The outcomes from the roundtable will inform the recommendations in the APSE / TCPA research, 'Housing for a fair society'.

Mr Benn

In his latest piece for The MJ, APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien reminds us of the magical world of Mr Benn (the bowler-hatted cartoon character for those who don't remember) and how the current crop of chief officers - those who report directly to chief executives - often find themselves in a Mr Benn-like world. To read the article online, visit: <https://www.themj.co.uk/Mr-Benn-and-the-rise-of-the-super-directorate/213435>

The Local Government Physical Activity Partnership

The Partnership - consisting of Community Leisure UK, Active Partnerships, Local Government Association, Sport England, the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers Association and APSE - aims to underline the social and economic value of physical activity and the vital role the public sector plays in driving better physical outcomes. Our first think piece explores the need for a strong over-arching policy position across the sector, as well as the issues of integration of physical activity across both traditional and non-traditional platforms. You can read more about the Partnership on page 27.

Time to say goodbye

In March we said goodbye to Principal Advisor for Southern region Lorna Holland. Lorna has moved into a new position as 'Project Manager' within the education team at Coventry City Council – a fantastic opportunity for a former teacher. APSE would like to thank Lorna for her exceptional work over the years in helping to grow APSE's presence in the South of England, and we wish her every success in her new role.

We also say farewell to Administrative Assistant (and creative wiz) Chloe Petersen Snell, who will be leaving us to take up her new role as an Editorial and Marketing Executive. This is great news for Chloe as her new role is linked to her current Masters degree course - which she has almost completed. Chloe will be missed by everyone at APSE, and we have no doubt she has a highly successful future ahead of her.

If you are interested in applying for the role of Administrative Assistant, please visit the APSE website – The deadline for application is 17 May.



The APSE new municipalism fringe event at the SNP Conference (L-R) APSE's Paul O'Brien, Depute Leader at East Ayrshire Council Cllr Elena Whitham, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning Kevin Stewart MSP, and APSE Scottish Chair Cllr Les Sharp.

Radio 4 You and Yours

On Wednesday 8 May, APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien was interviewed on BBC Radio 4s You and Yours on what councils know about gully problems, and how they are addressing them. You can listen to the full interview on BBC iPlayer.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Partnership Board Meeting

In collaboration with NILGA, APSE met to explore partnership working between different stakeholders in Northern Ireland, including business partners, third sector charities and working with local councils.

Northern Ireland Local Government Awards

A slight change of timetable this year to the Northern Ireland Local Government Awards means submissions this year will open at the beginning of June. Look out for the details on the APSE website. The awards will now run into 2020 when the winners will be announced at the Nilga Annual Seminar which will be held on 20 February in Belfast. The Northern Ireland Local Government Awards are increasingly popular and provide an opportunity for APSE and NILGA members in Northern Ireland to showcase their journeys to excellence in public service delivery and innovation. For more details email Mo Baines on mbaines@apse.org.uk

Scotland

SNP Conference

APSE Scotland exhibited at the SNP conference which took place on the 27 -28 April at the EICC in Edinburgh. As well as exhibiting APSE hosted a fringe event on the theme of new municipalism with speakers including Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, Cllr Elena Whitham, Deputy Leader of East Ayrshire Council, Paul O'Brien, Chief Executive of APSE .

Opening doors

The international Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative aims to secure commitments from governments around the world to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. In 2016, Scotland was selected as one of 15 pioneer governments around the world to join

a programme to bring new leadership and innovation into the OGP at all levels of government. The inaugural meeting of the OCGP took place in April 2019 and was attended by Louise Melville, APSE Scotland's Principal Advisor and Cllr Les Sharp, APSE Scotland's Chair.

A Truncated Matter...

Trunk Road Litter operational workshop – Following the ongoing correspondence and meetings with Scottish Government and Transport Scotland on the issues of litter operations on Trunk Roads an operational workshop meeting will take place in Aviemore for APSE member local authorities with Transport Scotland and representatives from the Scottish Government. The aim is to develop ways in which the issues of Trunk Road litter can be effectively dealt with between the interested parties.

Scottish Labour

APSE Scotland exhibited at the Scottish Labour Conference which took place on 8 - 10 March in Dundee. APSE also hosted a fringe event on the theme of community wealth building with speakers including APSE's Paul O'Brien, Cllr Archie Dryburgh, Dumfries & Galloway Council, Cllr Natasha Murphy, Inverclyde Council, and Colin Smyth MSP, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Connectivity and Transport.

The APSE Scotland road-show continued with the Scottish Conservatives conference which took place at the AECC in Aberdeen on the 3 – 4 May.

Meet our new member of staff!



Abi Ademiluyi, Principal Advisor for Southern region

What is your professional background?

Before joining APSE I worked as a Technical officer for 13 years in the waste team for the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire district councils. My role involved contract

management for the waste services including but not limited to: health and safety of contractors, street cleaning, abandoned vehicles, assisted waste collections, statistics and performance indicators, planning applications and rolling out new waste services.

What is your role at APSE?

My role is as a Principal Advisor for APSE covering the Southern region. I am responsible for providing a broad range of advisory, research and information services to APSE networks and member authorities as well as coordinating and developing regional membership.

What is your favourite thing about your role?

My favourite thing about my role is that it is quite wide-ranging. From doing research and finding out updates to what is going on in local authorities, to going out to seminars and advisory groups and being able to network and talk to members about local pressures and looking at what solutions can be presented going forward; encouraging sharing of service innovations and resources.

Where can APSE members meet you?

I will be based at the Oxford office, you can contact me by emailing aademiluyi@apse.org.uk or phoning 01865 749365.



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Not nineteen forever: APSE at 20!

They say a week is a long time in politics. Well twenty years in local government must constitute an epoch. From the Millennium Bug to Bird Flu, councils have had to deal with a myriad of threats to service delivery over the last two decades. As part of our 'APSE at 20' series, we will be asking key figures in the sector about their dramatic changes that have occurred over these transformative years and what potentially lies ahead.



Heather Jameson
Editor of the MJ

Twenty years ago, the Blair Government was two years into its first term, the Local Government Association was just a few months older and I started work at The MJ.

Hackney was imploding. Each week saw a new catastrophe at the London borough, from a Section 114 notice to government intervention. It was the Northamptonshire of its day, held up as a bastion of poor performance. It may not have been the only failing authority, but it was grabbing the headlines.

Then there was council tax. In 1999-2000, the average council tax increase hit 6.8% - luxurious by the meagre standards of recent years – and the government pledged to abolish 'crude and universal' capping.

By 2003-04, rises had hit a whopping 12.9% - topping an eye-watering 27% in Croydon – and so arrived the era of elegant and targeted capping. In the aftermath of the poll tax riots, which toppled a Prime Minister, no government wanted to risk the wrath of the public over tax for local services.

And then there was the Association of Direct Labour Organisations. Twenty years ago, ADLO broke down, and APSE was born.

All history is cyclical – or perhaps a pendulum which swings back and forth as each attempt to correct our failings creates another set of problems.

The priorities of 20 years ago were education, regeneration and tackling child poverty. Local government was shifting from Compulsory Competitive Tendering to Best Value and introducing large scale PFI projects.

We saw the rise of the Audit Commission and its focus on performance management; devolution to Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and London; and Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott's attempts at kick-starting the regional agenda.

By the end of the Labour Government, we had Total Place and Troubled Families.

Now we have Northamptonshire. Local government is faced with rising social care costs and dwindling income – and attempts at self-sufficiency are increasingly under the spotlight. Business rates and

council tax can't rise fast enough to pay for adult social care.

Attempts to wipe out child poverty have been replaced with a raft of rising social issues – food banks, knife crime, and startling levels of in-work poverty.

Prescott's regional agenda has morphed into combined authorities and Metro mayors in a mish-mashed patchwork of provision that has ground to a halt as the Government focuses on Brexit.

And the managerialism and performance management has been replaced by stronger politics – just as politics diverge into worrying extremes.

So where next?

Local government is shifting towards commercialism and prevention in a bid to resolve its financial woes – but there are growing calls for increased accountability. A decade after the Audit Commission was scrapped, there is a gap in the market.

Sharing budgets across public services in one place is also back on the agenda – and tax rises are looking increasingly like the only option to ease the fiscal squeeze.

Post Brexit there will be much to do. Westminster and Whitehall has lost credibility – and local politics will feel the fallout. Economic growth will be centre stage in the struggle to recoup the losses to GDP, putting places centre stage.

We have a choice between centralisation and localism, as powers are passed back from Brussels – will central government answer the backlash against remote democracy with further devolution deals? And then there is cohesion. Patching up a country divided by Brexit, growing political extremism, race and religious tensions and extremes of wealth and poverty will require community building at an extraordinary level.

Brexit will fade, but we sit in the midst of a technical revolution that will change everything from the way we work to how long we live. Local government will need to find new ways of supporting people, nurturing economies and building skills.

As people abandon our high streets and find everything online, holding communities together will be more important than ever.

- *Stay tuned for more in the 'APSE at 20' series*



Dundee leading the charge to an Electric Vehicle city

Dundee has the highest proportion of electric vehicles in its council fleet in Scotland. APSE Direct spoke to Councillor Lynne Short about her Council's achievement and future plans for the fleet.

Talking of charging points, the council owns 144 of them at 94 publicly available charging locations - including Scotland's first rapid charger. Plans are already approved and work is about to get underway on yet more.

In my role as the convener of Dundee City Council's city development committee I am one of the people charged with the responsibility of helping to make our dream of becoming a world-class city for electric vehicles a reality.

Not simply for its own sake but because although I honestly didn't think the city's air quality was all that bad, since we've been collecting samples, having them analysed and comparing and contrasting them with other Scottish and UK cities, it isn't all that good either.

So in 2011 Dundee became an air quality management area, which gave us access to data, tools and techniques to help to improve our air quality. One of the main sources of air pollution in Dundee, and indeed any other city of any reasonable size, is petrol and diesel vehicles.

Reduce the amount of that type of vehicle and you reduce air pollution, simple right? Well sort of. Encouraging people to change their habits, especially if that habit is associated with issues of identity, personal freedom, mobility and convenience and it becomes a bit more of a challenge.

Factor in the awareness that the air quality issues in our towns and cities is not going to be solved by a single act or a one size fits all approach, and we had to put in some serious thinking. We knew that a multi-modal solution was going to have most impact in the medium to long term, but little bites at the problem wasn't going to cut it in the short term.

What we wanted was a way of making a significant impact and so we began to usher in the use of electric vehicles in the council's fleet.

Almost a decade on and Dundee City Council now has the largest fleet of electric vehicles of any local authority in the UK - 95 so far and counting. We are a past winner of Green Fleet magazine's public sector fleet of the year and low carbon vehicle operator of the year

Dundee has one of the most extensive charging infrastructures in the UK with one of the Rapid Chargers, which happens to be in Queen Street Broughty Ferry, officially the most used in Scotland, averaging 18 charges per day. It's also worth noting that the second most used in Scotland is also in Dundee at the city's ice arena.

It's no coincidence then that in 2017, TESLA chose Doubletree Hilton in Dundee to install its own strategic charging hub with space for eight of its vehicles.

Talking of charging points the Council owns 144 of them at 94 publicly available charging locations, including Scotland's first rapid charger. Plans are already approved and work is about to get underway on yet more.

We are planning to bring in a fee for charging an EV in Dundee later this year. Up to now it has been free. The fee will simply cover the council's costs and despite some concerns that EV owners and drivers might rail against it, so far most take the view that it was inevitable and paying a small price to charge their EV pays back a large environmental dividend.

Back in 2015/16 when we only had 45 council electric vehicles they travelled a total of 181,800 miles, that's the equivalent of 23 times around the world! Those journeys saved around 70 tonnes of CO₂, countless particulates and other pollutants and it was that type of irrefutable evidence which helped to persuade me, and other decision-makers, that electric is the way to go.

Since then, with the support of Transport Scotland, OLEV and some key early-adopting champions in the local taxi trade and public-minded citizens, we've progressed towards a cleaner, greener fleet, and with it city.

Among the other initiatives we've introduced is to put Council mechanics on dedicated EV training courses to gain recognised qualifications in the repair and maintenance of EVs. That of course not only helps to upskill our workforce and young people for the future but also allows for the continued expansion of the Council's electric fleet.

But these things have not happened by themselves. Nor have they emerged from a vacuum.

In the first instance it required vision, But in order to make that a reality there followed years of dogged determination and hard work by people in the Council and in a variety of private and third sector partners to make it happen

Passion and vision are key parts of our upward path, but in the end you have to just do it!

There will be financial and physical barriers. There will be people in your council who will say you shouldn't. There will be members of your communities who will raise all sorts of objections. There will be reluctance to change, and problems shaking complacent people from behind the wheel of their fossil fuel burning pollutant.

But believe me when I tell you, we had all of that in Dundee. ...and more! All of these things can be overcome. We did it. We did it quietly. We did it with determination and a clear and concise vision. We did it by prioritising EVs, charging points and by leading by example.

We made it easy for EV owners to charge their vehicles by putting charges at strategic locations around the city, by charging them less money to park, by seizing new technologies and methodologies and by working with like-minded individuals, companies and advocates in our city to make it happen.

Dundee's air quality is better than it was before we started this journey and it is continuing to improve. Large scale EV use can work. It does work, and contributes significantly towards the multi-modal solution that makes our 26 square miles of the planet an even better place to live, work and do business.

- *For the latest news and developments in local authority transport services, please contact APSE Principal Advisor Rob Bailey on rbailey@apse.org.uk*

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There's Nuplace like home

In 2015, to address the housing crisis in Telford & Wrekin, the local council set up a new wholly-owned company called Nuplace to build and manage more than 400 private and affordable homes to rent - with impressive results. APSE Direct spoke to the Director of Nuplace, Katherine Kynaston, to learn more about the company.

With councils facing ever-decreasing budgets alongside ever-increasing housing demand, Telford & Wrekin Council asked itself, 'what does our community need from us?'

In June 2015 the Council announced that it would set up a new wholly-owned company to build and manage more than 400 private and affordable homes to rent.

The new housing solution would address housing needs in the borough and at the same time generate income and capital growth. The company was named Nuplace Ltd.

The principal activity of Nuplace is the procurement of the construction and management of private and affordable residential properties for rent.

The company aims to:

- Raise the standard of rental properties, both in terms of the quality of the homes and the landlord service.
- Deliver added value and stimulate local economic growth through supply chain engagement, offering skills and employment opportunities and working with the community.
- Develop brownfield and stalled sites in order to deliver widespread regeneration benefits.

Nuplace is an innovative concept and the first wholly owned company set up by Telford & Wrekin Council - it has also attracted significant interest from other local authorities as a model for revenue generation and stimulating housing delivery.

Construction and delivery

Nuplace has forged an excellent professional working relationship with partner and building contractor Lovell Partnerships Ltd through openness and collaboration, and were shortlisted for one of the most prestigious housing awards in the industry.

To date Lovell and Nuplace have worked together to develop seven sites in the borough totalling 329 homes so far. These include a mix of two, three and four bedroom houses and apartments.



Telford & Wrekin Council identified a number of sites on which Nuplace could build a combination of two, three and four bedroom homes not only to help provide local housing but also help transform communities visually, practically and economically. The social value of these new homes goes far beyond providing families with a brilliant place to live.

Nuplace success

Nuplace has a commitment to be a responsible landlord to its tenants, ensuring the journey from first enquiry to moving in is as smooth and trouble-free as possible.

This includes a commitment to being capable and confident in delivering its promises to tenants, a willingness to listen and to go the extra mile, being professional and knowledgeable while retaining an entrepreneurial streak and hearing and delivering on what tenants want.

The strength of the Nuplace brand continues to grow and the success of this approach is clear with comments from tenants including, "I can't help but feel assured knowing that Nuplace is owned by the council. So far any issues I have had with it being a new build property have been sorted quickly for me."

"We moved in back in May so we've enjoyed a lovely summer in the garden and now can't wait for our first Christmas in our new home. We usually visit parents for Christmas and this year it will be my first time hosting in my own home and I can't wait. I really feel like this is our forever home."

The homes have been constructed in three phases, with tenants moving into the most recent development in Snedshill, Telford in February 2019. This was a site where all 39 units were pre-let within just one month when it was launched last year – including all 5 of our four bedroom properties which were reserved within a day.

With a waiting list of 90, as well attracting new interest, there are also an increasing number of existing Nuplace tenants who are choosing to move to other properties within Nuplace's property portfolio – for example families upsizing to larger 3 and 4 bedroom homes.

Jonathan Rowe - Nuplace Director and Director of Customer, Neighbourhood and Wellbeing, said, "Nuplace is already an incredible success story that is delivering outcomes that far exceed original expectations.

"It is helping to regenerate those neighbourhoods which are in need and is working to ensure that local people have access to suitable housing.

"By raising the standard of rental provision across Telford, Nuplace is supporting the Council's ambitious growth agenda resulting in major investment in the borough. It has guaranteed a long term income stream for the Council that is helping to protect frontline services in an extremely challenging financial environment for local government."

Planning has recently been secured for a further two developments in the borough which will be announced in spring 2019.

Nuplace has delivered a cumulative profit before interest and taxation of £1.5m for the first 3 years of trading. The Council also benefits from additional Council Tax in addition to a New Homes Bonus as Nuplace properties.

- Katherine gave a presentation on 'Transforming the private rented sector in Telford and Wrekin' at the APSE Central Region Seminar 'Housing and Homelessness' on 7 March 2019. The presentation is available to download from the APSE website.

New APSE Approved Partners:

Welcome  Hanson
HEIDELBERGCEMENT Group



Hanson's National Commercial Manager Sara-Ann Pepper receives the Approved Partner certificate from APSE Principal Advisor Rob Bailey at the APSE Highways, Street Lighting and Winter Maintenance Award in Blackpool on 20 March.

APSE is delighted to welcome Hanson Asphalt and Contracting Services to the APSE Approved Partner scheme.

Hanson is a leading supplier of heavy building materials to the construction industry; producing aggregates (crushed rock, sand and gravel), ready-mixed concrete, asphalt, cement and cement related materials. Hanson also has extensive experience of highways construction works, operating throughout the UK.

Speaking of the partnership, CEO of Hanson Simon Willis said, "Like APSE, we strive for high ethical standards in all of our activities; taking our social and environmental responsibilities very seriously. We have decades of experience in helping our customers generate efficiencies and are very much looking forward to working closely with APSE's member authorities to provide cost-effective solutions."

Hanson operate a fleet of more than 1,200 vehicles to deliver their products, including 850 tippers and mixers operated by independent owner-drivers under a franchise agreement. Where practical, their production sites are located close to core markets to reduce the costs and impact of transport. Hanson operate a series of depots and wharves, supplied by road, rail and sea, to ensure the efficient transfer of aggregates and cement to areas of greatest demand and where local materials are not readily available.

APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien said, "Hanson are specialists in supplying sustainable solutions – low carbon concrete, low energy asphalt, recycled aggregates – to projects large and small throughout the UK. This, as well as their top-level customer service, means they will be a huge asset to our members."

Hanson's expertise, materials and products have helped build some of the UK's largest and most innovative construction projects of the last 50 years. Their capability across the energy, major infrastructure and commercial, residential and industrial sectors is founded on the experience and resources of HeidelbergCement, the global leader in aggregates, a major producer of cement and concrete, and the supplier of choice to building projects throughout the world.

For more information visit: <https://www.hanson.co.uk/en>



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Loch, stock and thought-provoking panels

Surrounded by lush Highland scenery, Aviemore remains one of Scotland's most charming locations. APSE is therefore delighted to once again announce we will be returning to the picturesque town as part of APSE Scotland's Fleet, Waste and Grounds seminar 2019. The event features Scotland's largest trade exhibition of its kind, as well as ample opportunities for learning through our panel discussions.

Against the glorious backdrop of the Cairngorms, local government specialists in fleet, waste and grounds services will gather with the UK's leading suppliers to debate the future of these services and to explore new and exciting innovations within the industry.

The event features Scotland's largest trade exhibition of its kind with over 110 exhibition stands. Delegates have a unique opportunity to question suppliers about their latest products and pricing.

However, Aviemore is far more than just an exhibition. The seminar – kindly sponsored by Dennis Eagle and Terberg Matec UK – draws in a wide variety of highly influential and knowledgeable speakers; offering attendees a fantastic opportunity to network and bounce ideas around other member of local government. We will also be holding four discussion forums - Fleet advisory, Waste advisory, Parks advisory and Litter Managers Network - so that delegates can debate the latest challenges and opportunities in each sector.

The seminar will open with the keynote session: What does the future hold for neighbourhood services? This panel discussion will include APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien, Depute Chief Executive of East Ayrshire Council Katie Kelly, and Cllr Archie Dryburgh of Dumfries and Galloway Council. Drawing on APSE's latest research – The new municipalism: Taking back entrepreneurship - Paul will begin by looking at how more Scottish councils are benefiting from developing entrepreneurial approaches in order to manage ever-tightening budgets. Katie Kelly will provide a case study on how her Council is helping to protect communities through a transformational approach to spending. Cllr Dryburgh will also explore the ways in which the Borderlands Prpject is bringing economy, environment and low carbon together for the benefit of local communities.

Compliance and enforcement are top of the fleet agenda in Aviemore. Margaret Simpson, Head of Policy for Scotland and Northern Ireland at the Freight Transport Association, will look at the questions that council directors should know the answers to regarding their transport operations and licence compliance. We will also be joined by Network Business Manager Liz Warner and Testing Network Manager John McKernan from the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) for an overview of the major changes to vehicle testing being implemented now and in the year ahead.

Overcoming the contamination challenge is arguably the most pressing issue currently facing local authority waste collection



services, which is why we will be grappling with the issue at Aviemore. Emma Leask, Consumer Campaigns Project Manager at Zero Waste Scotland, will provide an update on the work they have undertaken to develop communications resources focused on reducing contamination. Kenny Dalrymple, Service Lead Neighbourhood Services at South Ayrshire Council, and Seamus Connolly, Principal Officer at Glasgow City Council, will then offer a local authority perspective on the issue of waste. Kenny will chart his Council's progress in reducing contamination through its introduction of a Charter compliant waste service, whilst Seamus will talk delegates through Glasgow's city centre-wide commercial waste policy; the challenges of such a big project and the benefits achieved so far.

The event features Scotland's largest trade exhibition of its kind with over 110 exhibition stands.

As the momentum for electrifying road transport continues to grow, day two of the event will consider how local authorities can make the transition to electric and low emissions vehicles as seamless and cost-effective as possible. Lindsay Yeoman, Switched On Fleets Manager for Transport Scotland, will talk delegates through the current funding opportunities available, such as ChargePlace Scotland – Scotland's network of electric vehicle charge points. Amanda Lyne, Managing Director at ULEMCo Ltd will be on hand to discuss the merits of hydrogen technology in reducing carbon and air quality emissions; offering case studies in success. We will also be joined by André Lagendijk, Product Manager from the session sponsor Geesinknorba, who will expand on electric, hybrid and battery technology; where we are today and what is planned for the future.

Delegates interested in litter picking will be able to pick the brains of two experts in the field: Janet McVea, Head of Zero Waste Unit at the Scottish Government, and Debbie Johns, Head of APSE's Performance Networks. Janet will scrutinise Scotland's strategic approach to tackling litter in addition to mapping out what the government want to achieve over the next 5 years. Debbie will be available to discuss the increasing importance of benchmarking within the National Litter Strategy.

For the final session of the seminar, we turn our attention to waste services, and more specifically the use of technology within these services. Delegates can learn from Perth & Kinross Council's Waste

Services Co-ordinator Donna Rigby and Smart Waste Systems Officer Magda Jakub, about how greater connectivity in their authority is enabling the delivery of smart city services – particularly in waste. David Goodenough, Waste Services Manager at West Lothian Council, will reveal the dark art of making route optimisation work. Rounding off the session, Adrian Bond, Vice Chair SWITCH H&S Working Group will ask how those in the waste collection industry can make the industry safer and healthier; looking at new and amended guidance in addition to the SWITCH Passport Scheme.

Besides providing ample opportunities for learning through our seminar sessions, APSE Scotland's Fleet, Waste and Grounds seminar is a key event for local government decision-makers and heads of service to come together and share best practice, while providing the opportunity – via the largest Scottish trade exhibition of its kind - to get to terms with the latest technological developments in fleet, equipment and ancillary supplies; from salt spreaders to asset management software. It is a space in which new partnerships can be developed with a view to transforming and enhancing local government frontline services.

As well as a chance to share best practice and network, the event in Aviemore is also an opportunity to recognise and reward excellence in the sector. The APSE Scotland Rising Star Awards will take place at the end of day two at a dinner ceremony at Coylumburgh Hotel. The Awards are established to celebrate the hard work and commitment of individuals within local authority services in Scotland. This year's categories include:

- Parks, Grounds and Street Scene Award (sponsored by Contenur UK Ltd)
- Waste and Recycling Award (sponsored by Zero Waste Scotland)
- Fleet Award (sponsored by Geesinknorba)

Entry to the awards is now closed.

The Conference will take place in Aviemore on Tuesday 14 to Friday 17 May. The Conference is an extremely valuable resource for local authorities and is not to be missed.

To learn more about the APSE Scotland Fleet, Waste and Grounds seminar and to book your place please visit the APSE website or contact Louise Melville on 01698 459051 or lmelville@apse.org.uk



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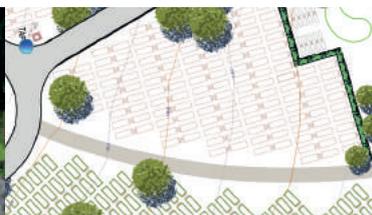
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Thinking big at the Big Energy Summit



This year's Big Energy Summit in Warwick was our biggest yet - featuring over 150 delegates, speakers, sponsors and exhibitors. Charlotte Banks, APSE Energy Research and

Project Officer, reports back on a seminar buzzing with ideas on municipal energy.



The 2019 APSE Big Energy Summit took place on 14 and 15 of March in Warwick. The overarching theme of the summit was 'energising local government' and focused on areas such as the local authority role in related UK policy developments, learning about best practice from existing projects, getting the best out of energy opportunities and local authority assets, investing in energy and renewables, as well as much more.

When opening the Summit, Head of APSE Energy, Phil Brennan, acknowledged the rapid developments occurring in the energy industry and the growing scope of the local authority role in these developments. This is going from strength to strength with APSE Energy playing a key role in supporting local councils across the UK. A huge variety of presentations, workshops and case studies allowed the delegates to engage in a plethora of topics.

In attendance at the summit were 150 delegates, speakers, sponsors and exhibitors which enabled plenty of opportunities for lively discussions, networking and ideas sharing across the two-day summit.

Key themes that emerged from the Summit included the need to -

- challenge the status quo of energy management if we are to move further forward;
- take a long-term approach for infrastructure projects;
- appreciate the need to accept and work within a rapidly changing sector;
- use the support that is out there not only from APSE Energy but from BEIS and elsewhere;
- clarify your commercial approach;
- realise that the more scale a project has the more likely it is to attract sector funding;
- hone your planning and project management skills if you're working towards a climate emergency declaration or similar;
- understand the need to invest in appropriate skill and training both policy-related and technical;
- get a grip of data – yours, your customers', your technology's, your suppliers' – it will be fundamental to how the success of future projects.

A key area to highlight from this list is the discussion regarding Climate Emergency declarations. A variety of delegates in the

A variety of delegates in the room were from councils who had recently declared a Climate Emergency and set a carbon neutrality target, and others were in the process of doing the same. This backdrop informed a lot of the discussion.

Clockwise from right: Victoria Bradley, Director of Energy, Infrastructure and Government at Walker Morris; Patrick Allcorn, Head of Local Energy at BEIS; Samantha Nicol, Head of Innovation and Marketing at Bristol Energy; Dr Jacky Lawrence, Corporate Energy Manager at Warwickshire County Council



room were from councils who had recently declared a Climate Emergency and set a carbon neutrality target, and others were in the process of doing the same. This backdrop informed a lot of the discussion and placed emphasis on how engaging in the energy agenda is vital for councils to achieve these targets and how it will require involvement and commitment from the entire council.

The lack of capacity and resources in many local authorities to meet local, national and international targets was raised repeatedly as an issue throughout the summit. However, there is a growing momentum for renewable energy projects and new business models within those councils who are considered to be forward thinking and paving the way for others to follow, such as Nottingham, Dumfries and Galloway, Swansea and Warrington. 'Support' was a word that was used regularly throughout the summit and highlights the culture across local government of ideas sharing and the openness of councils to share their best practices and lessons learnt.

This year the summit was sponsored by BEIS, and Patrick Allcorn, Head of Local Energy at BEIS delivered a presentation which outlined the support that BEIS can provide for councils and the BEIS perspective on the local authority energy agenda. This included his preference for spreading existing experience and expertise across the sector.

The idea of challenging existing practices emerged strongly from the summit – whether that is challenging how the council's corporate energy is purchased, what your council considers an asset, the authority's approach to investments, or who leads the council's approach to climate change issues – it was recognised that doing what we have always done won't get the best results.

We hope that all of the summit attendees enjoyed the two days as much as we did! We are now looking forward to the Scottish Energy Summit in October and next year's APSE Big Energy Summit 2020, as well as a range of other events in between.

To discuss further please contact Phil Brennan, Head of APSE Energy, at pbrennan@apse.org.uk or Charlotte Banks, Energy Research and Project Officer, at cbanks@apse.org.uk or on 0166 772 1810.

New APSE Energy Approved Partners: Welcome *RP Martin*



RP Martin's Roy Nolan receives the APSE Energy Approved Partner certificate from Head of APSE Energy Phil Brennan and APSE National Chair Cllr John-Kerr Brown.

APSE is delighted to welcome money broker's RP Martin to the APSE Energy Approved Partner scheme.

RP Martin have over 100 years' experience in the world's financial markets. With offices in London and Edinburgh, they are experienced in delivering bespoke and relevant services to public sector and corporate clients alike.

Speaking of the partnership, Claudia Jasper, Director at RP Martin said, "We are thrilled to be part of the APSE Energy family. At RP Martin, we do not rest upon our laurels and are committed to providing APSE Energy's member authorities with access to a variety of funding and investment solutions; designed to enhance diversification and embed risk management. We very much look forward to helping councils gain greater marketplace leverage as they strive for a greener and cleaner UK."

Over recent years RP Martin have expanded their team to match their client's requirements to source sustainable investments to help counter the shortfall in central government funding. They currently offer a number of green solutions and can help local authorities source specific renewable energy investments and offer innovative funding solutions that bridge the affordability gap. RP Martin are not advisers and the services they offer are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Head of APSE Energy Phil Brennan added, "It gives me great pleasure to welcome RP Martin to the APSE Energy Approved Partner Scheme. With so much experience and expertise, I am in no doubt they will be a massive asset to the councils in membership who are committed to developing the prospects of municipal energy."

If you would like to learn more about RP Martin's services then please contact Roy.Nolan@martin-brokers.com.

Let's S.C.R.A.P. fly tipping

A look at Hertfordshire's multi- agency approach to reducing fly tipping

The Fly Tipping Group (FTG) is a multi-agency task force, which in addition to Hertfordshire's 11 local authorities includes the Office of Police & Crime Commissioner, the Hertfordshire Constabulary, Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue, the Environment Agency, and the National Farmers Union. The FTG brings together numerous disciplines from preventative behavioural change work through to intelligence gathering and frontline enforcement. The Group has also worked with Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) including commissioning their 'Inside the Head of Fly Tippers' report which researched why people fly tip in Hertfordshire.

The FTG already had communications as part of the work programme, however the report noted above highlighted some key issues that needed to be addressed. For example; 28% knew what their Duty of Care was, 11% of respondents think offenders would be caught, and 40% of respondents admitted to actually carrying out some sort of fly tipping themselves, once they realised the scope of the definition of fly tipping.

A special communications sub group was formed to represent the widest possible representation from the main FTG. The idea was to create a range of campaign materials that could be used either in isolation by any single FTG stakeholder or any combination of stakeholders without the need for reinvention. With such a diverse range of partners involved there was no 'one size fits all' solution. For instance, for some, small scale fly tipping such as black bags, or household items dumped around litter bins is the main problem. For others, the dumping of builders waste on farm land or down country lanes is the most pressing issue.

Following months of work and input from a range of stakeholders across the FTG, on the 12th March 2018 the group launched its multi-channel fly tipping campaign.

#SCRAPflytipping Campaign

The campaign includes a range of instruments including: specifically designed social media images, a householder leaflet, separate information for businesses and landowners, short films, special banners for installation on farms and other private land, vehicle banners and a magazine pull out that was included in the county-wide magazine in March 2018, thus ensuring all householders in Hertfordshire have been provided with the necessary information

As well as educating the public on what constitutes fly tipping the campaign also encourages Hertfordshire's residents and businesses to follow the campaign's S.C.R.A.P. code, which provides a check list to follow when arranging one-off collections of waste.



The S.C.R.A.P. Code

- Suspect all waste carriers; do not let them take your waste until they have proven themselves to be legitimate.
- Check their waste carrier's registration details, then verify them by searching the Environment Agency or by calling 03708 506 506.
- Refuse unsolicited offers to have any rubbish taken away.
- Ask what exactly is going to happen to your rubbish and seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately.
- Paperwork should be obtained. Make sure you get a proper invoice, waste transfer note or a receipt for your waste removal – this should give a description of the waste and provide the waste carrier's contact details.

As with all modern campaigns the power of social media cannot be overlooked and, from the inception of the campaign, the FTG knew that having a strong social media plan would play a key role in ensuring the campaign was successful in its reach, reinforcement of key campaign messages and driving traffic to the Hertfordshire fly tipping website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/flytipping

The FTG knew that having a collection of content would only be useful if these messages were going to reach the right people. Key to the strategy was maximising reach through not only the HWP's

As well as educating the public on what constitutes fly tipping the campaign also encourages Hertfordshire's residents and businesses to follow the campaign's S.C.R.A.P. code, which provides a check list to follow when arranging one-off collections of waste.



For all you need to know about fly tipping and YOUR DUTY OF CARE

hertfordshire.gov.uk/flytipping

Let's S.C.R.A.P. fly tipping
hertfordshire.gov.uk/flytipping



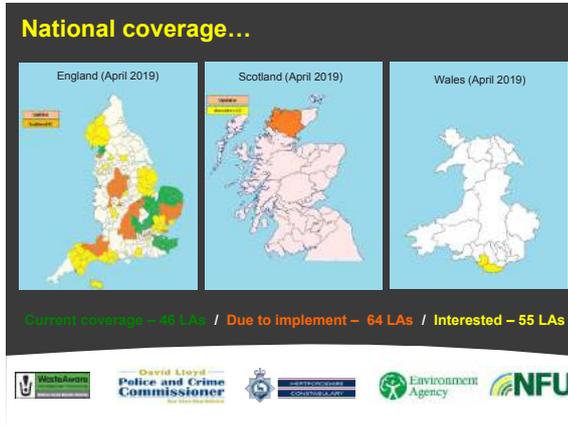
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I didn't check the person who took MY waste away was registered.

I'VE now been fined.

Know YOUR DUTY OF CARE

Let's S.C.R.A.P. fly tipping
hertfordshire.gov.uk/flytipping



existing WasteAware social media platforms but also by utilising the 'sharing' power of all the stakeholders on the FTG.

Free offer to local authorities

All campaign materials have been deliberately designed so that they can be used by any local authority and / or local authority partnership with only minimal changes necessary. To encourage wider adoption, the Herts FTG is offering a campaign toolkit free of charge. The latest coverage map, as shown, highlights that 46 local authorities are already using this campaign, with many more in the planning stage. If your local authority is interested please contact either Duncan Jones or Jennie Probert.

The campaign continues to grow

Since the campaign was launched the toolkit has expanded to include new content, including; information for businesses working with Right Waste Right Place, pull up banner designs, a business card and new social media imagery. Importantly not all of this material has been produced by the Herts FTG. Lancaster City Council, Buckinghamshire and Corby Borough Council have all added to the toolkit as well. This continues to highlight the power of partnership working, with everyone using the campaign working together to form a consistent message to tackle fly tipping.

For more information about this initiative, please contact;

Duncan Jones
Partnership Development Manager - Hertfordshire Waste Partnership
Chairman - Hertfordshire Fly Tipping Group
Duncan.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk
01992 556150

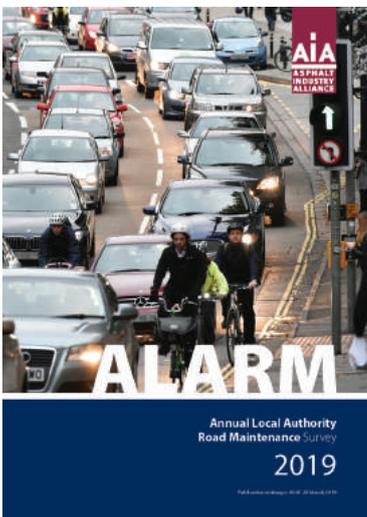
Jennie Probert
Environmental Strategy Manager - Three Rivers District Council
Vice Chair - Hertfordshire Fly Tipping Group
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Local road investment still falling short

This year's Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance (ALARM) survey reports that the overall highways maintenance budgets for local councils has increased for the second successive year. Though there are some early signs that this is stemming further decline in local road conditions, the journey from slowing decline to improving the overall condition of the network is a long one. Rick Green, Chairman of the Asphalt Industry Alliance, provides a summary of the Report's findings.



- You can download the full survey at: <http://www.asphaltuk.org/alarm-survey-page/>

Each year the Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA) commissions an independent survey of local authority highway departments in England and Wales. Widely respected throughout the highways industry, the ALARM survey seeks to give a voice to the views of those responsible for maintaining the vast majority of the road network. Alongside APSE's State of the Market Survey on Highways, the ALARM Survey is considered one of the most authoritative and comprehensive studies into the condition and funding of local road maintenance.

The 2019 ALARM survey – the 24th annual report – highlights that, overall, local authorities have seen their highway maintenance budgets increase for the second successive year to £4.1 billion (2017/18: £3.46 billion). Figures from a decade ago reported this annual figure as £3.1 billion, highlighting that, after some years of below-inflationary rises, budgets are now rising more in line with inflation.

Highways maintenance budgets

In England (excluding London) the reported average local authority budget for highway maintenance in 2018/19 increased by 20% to £31.5 million (2017/18: £26.2m), 55% of which is funded by central government. This is in contrast to Welsh local authorities reporting a slight decrease (4%) to £7.8 million in 2018/19 (2017/18: £8.1).

It is important to stress that the average totals hide a wide disparity between those seeing increased highway maintenance funding and those local authorities who have experienced a cut, with funds diverted to other areas of council expenditure, notably education and social care. In England more than a quarter of local authorities reported a cut in last year's budgets, while in Wales and in London around a half of authorities reported a year-on-year reduction. This disparity is particularly apparent when considering highway maintenance budgets per mile of local road, which varies from less than £9,000 per mile to more than £90,000 per mile.

Consequently, the focus on primary routes continues and achieving target conditions on all categories of road still remains out of reach. To put this into context, if local authorities had enough funds to meet their own targets across all road types it would give us more than 20,000 miles of improved local roads.

Carriageway maintenance

The shortfall in annual carriageway maintenance budget reported this year is £657 million, the equivalent of an average funding gap of £3.9 million per authority. In England the shortfall has widened by 21% from £3.4 million per authority last year to £4.1 million this, while in London the figure has increased by a third from £3.0 million 2017/18 to £4.0 million in 2018/19. In Wales, the average shortfall reported declined by 11% from £3.1 million last year to £2.8 million this. The real extent of the shortfall could be being masked by the fact that 40% of English and Welsh authorities report transferring capital funds, intended for highways improvements, to supplement traditional revenue budgets for maintenance work.

Potholes

After four years of decline, the total number of potholes filled in the last year jumped by 24%, from 1.5 million in 2018, to more than 1.86 million this year, the equivalent of one pothole being repaired every 17 seconds in England and Wales. The biggest increase was reported by London authorities, with the average number of potholes filled climbing from 1,878 per authority in 2017/18 to 2,711 in 2018/19 – a 44% increase year-on-year.

The number of potholes filled by Welsh councils, which did not benefit from the additional funding allocated by DfT during the year, fell by more than half on the previous year's figures from an average of 5,976 per authority reported in ALARM 2018 to 2,531.

Qualitative feedback reported that intense rainfall last winter, followed by a hot, dry summer, contributed to the number of potholes formed across the network.



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Key facts 2018/19



Budget shortfall

The ALARM survey asked highway departments to estimate how much it would cost to bring their road networks up to scratch (assuming they had the resources in place to make it practical to do so as a one-off project). The estimate for this one-time “catch-up” cost has grown by approximately 5% to £9.79 billion from £9.31 billion reported last year. This is an average of £69.9 million per authority in England; £31.9 million in London and £36.3 million in Wales. Highway departments reported that it would now take 10 years to get local roads back into a reasonable and steady state, if adequate funding and resources were in place.

Long-term investment

Last year we called for an additional £1.5 billion of funding for local roads each year for the next 10 years to allow them to be brought up to a condition from which they can be managed in a cost-effective way. We stand by this call. The findings from this year’s ALARM survey support the need for this long-term approach. We know it’s a long journey from slowing decline to improving the overall condition and resilience of the network – which we all rely on every day – and the additional investment could go to waste if it is not continued. Sustained investment over a longer timeframe is needed if we want a local road network that supports enhanced mobility, connectivity and productivity.

• For the latest news and developments in local authority highways, street lighting and winter maintenance services, please contact APSE Principal Advisor Rob Bailey on rbailey@apse.org.uk



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New APSE Approved Partners:

Welcome  **wj**
think exceptional



WJ Group's Commercial Director Andy Walker and Sustainability Director Paul Aldridge receive their Approved Partner certificate from APSE Principal Advisor Rob Bailey at the APSE Highways, Street Lighting and Winter Maintenance Award in Blackpool on 20 March.

APSE is delighted to welcome WJ Group to the APSE Approved Partner scheme.

WJ Group is the UK's leading specialist road marking business dedicated to permanent and temporary road markings, road studs, high friction and safety surfacing, average speed cameras, asphalt joint repair and surface retexturing.

Wayne Johnston, Managing Director of WJ Group said, "Since our formation in 1987, WJ Group has evolved into one of the most successful innovators, manufacturers and providers of award-winning products and services in our sector. Having already had a highly rewarding relationship with APSE, the opportunity to deepen this relationship was one we were very eager to pursue. We are in no doubt that this partnership will greatly improve our ability to support local authorities across the UK."

Speaking of this exciting new partnership, APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien added, "WJ Group's motto is 'think exceptional', and here at APSE we think WJ Group will make for an exceptional Approved Partner; providing our members with a world-class road-marking service. WJ Group's extensive range of innovative products and services are already very popular amongst councils, and this partnership will only serve to cement WJ Group's position as a reliable and cost-effective partner for local authority highways services."

WJ Group recently received the "Championing Safety" award at the prestigious annual Highways England Awards, an event designed to celebrate excellence in safety, customer and delivery. WJ were also shortlisted for two awards in the "Improving Customers' Journeys" category and their "Transforming Safety in the Road Making Sector" entry was shortlisted for the 'Chairman's Award'. It follows the successful completion of an £8.5 multi-disciplinary project along a 9.4 Kilometre stretch of the A38 between Ripley and Junction 28 of the M1 for Highways England and also delivery of innovation on the M62 Smart Motorway project for Bam Morgan Sindall JV.

For more information about the WJ Group please visit: www.wj.uk

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Let's get physical

The Local Government Physical Activity Partnership (LGPAP) is a collective body of organisations who are responsible for or have an interest in the provision of local services and opportunities that enable individuals and communities to become more physically active. The Partnership's first strategic think-piece discusses challenges the sector faces and how the sector might position itself to drive better outcomes.

Driving better outcomes through increased levels of physical activity is incredibly difficult. It will challenge local councils not simply because it cuts across so many traditional service or directorate structures (or silos), but also because it can lead to questions about where the leadership and ownership actually comes from. So for example - does leadership and ownership come from traditional leisure and sports development services or does it come from elsewhere e.g. public health or health and wellbeing based services or beyond the council through collaborative approaches and partnerships?

The LGPAP - CLOA, Community Leisure UK, Sport England, the Local Government Association, APSE and Active Partnerships - has come together to create a collective voice that represents, improves and articulates the social and economic value of physical activity and the important role the public sector plays in this

Working collaboratively, this voice has significant reach and influence, with the ability to make a real difference to the future role of local councils in supporting their citizens to be physically active. The group has brought forward thoughts from its round table conversations about the challenges the sector faces and how the sector might position itself to drive better outcomes.

These think pieces are not about providing definitive answers or official positions by any of the partners, but instead about amplifying points and raising key questions for discussion in the sector.

What is the council's role in driving physical activity?

Councils should have clarity about their particular leadership role and ownership in driving forward physical activity. This will include the enablement and development of policy and the direct delivery of related services. Does your council have a clear policy position? Is the case for physical activity and sport effectively made? Is it crowded out by debates about statutory services with a lack of understanding of the role physical activity and sport play in delivering these broader agendas?

Tackling inactivity is a multidimensional and complex problem and should not be seen as

the sole domain of the traditional leisure/sport services department. It is much more complex and the outcomes will be more effective if a whole council approach is adopted. This in turn will be part of a whole area approach in driving improved outcomes, working with key stakeholders. (Admittedly this is more challenging for two tier authorities). In many areas a whole council approach isn't in place and leadership still disproportionately rests in leisure and sport services, which are often not strategically connected to the council's priorities.

Step change in activity levels will only come about through better integrated working and behaviour change and community led approaches. This creates challenges for local councils as traditional responses are likely to be less effective. This could be illustrated by the thinking about where else physical activity leadership can emerge e.g. public health, transport, climate (green travel/air quality), community development, social care and young people's services.

Is your approach dominated by physical asset considerations? The role and cost of physical assets play (e.g. leisure centres/playing pitches/open space) are important, but they are only part of the solution. Increasing levels of physical activity at scale is likely to come by engaging local communities and demographics that are inactive and understanding where community strengths can be tapped into to drive behaviour change

Is your local council really clear about the role of its assets? For example, the provision of swimming pools helps people to be active (and deliver targeted health programmes) but in reality the primary driver is about learning to swim. Would we now build swimming pools to solve the inactivity challenge? Probably not, but we do need pools to help the population to learn to swim.

Is the approach insight driven?

The group all agreed that services should be driven by evidence and insight about the local population with priorities determined by social demographics and geographies and determined by agreed strategies (e.g. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Health and Wellbeing Strategy).

Does your council effectively use data to show impact?

Social value as a concept needs to be the bedrock of service delivery, but models of social value are not well developed and more work is needed in this area.

Is there evidence of influence and integration?

The group agreed that there has to be evidence of ongoing and strong high level leadership and influence. This leadership and influence needs to generate accountability and drive physical activity policy, demonstrating the value and contribution of those services to wider policy and strategic outcomes.

Connections need to be made across areas like housing, employment, education, health and wellbeing, social care, planning, regeneration, economic policy, highways/transportation and community services.

Councils need to evaluate whether they have a strong enough understanding about who to influence, key connections, the strength of the wider system (planning/highways/local community strengths etc.). This pre-systems type work is essential.

Does your council display positive behaviours?

It is critical that services can work collaboratively and respond quickly to policy changes or partnering opportunities. The way the service works is essential in responding to driving;

- Better outcomes - in this sense it heightens the need for services to be agile and responsive.
- Values driven approaches should be evident and those leading the creation of physical activity and sport opportunities will be very clear about the outcomes to be achieved overall.

Above all councils need to move away from an over reliance on deficit models of delivery (i.e. provision led) as it simply creates dependency and is ultimately not sustainable. Asset or strengths based approaches will have more lasting and powerful outcomes, but will require a shift in thinking and approach.

New APSE Approved Partners:

Welcome  **wamitab**

APSE is delighted to welcome WAMITAB to the APSE Approved Partner scheme.

WAMITAB is an awarding organisation and charity that develops qualifications for those working in resource management and recycling; cleaning and street cleansing; facilities management and parking from operative through to management level. With over 120 qualification pathways and 70 quality assured centres, WAMITAB offers a comprehensive specialist network to support staff development. Additionally WAMITAB is on the register of End Point Assessment Organisations for Waste, Metals FM and Environmental skills providing employers with reassurance that assessments will meet the standards.

WAMITAB's Chief Executive Chris James said, "In common with APSE, we are a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing individuals with fit-for-purpose skills for the workplace. Looking ahead, we understand that local government is facing some very serious challenges. Through this partnership, WAMITAB is eager to collaborate with APSE to make sure councils across the UK are well-equipped with the skills and qualifications they need for the future."

APSE Chief Executive Paul O'Brien added, "As we head into a new financial year, local authorities need to take stock of the skills their frontline workforce and managers will need over the next 12 months to deliver the best in public services. Too often training is seen as an 'add-on' to services but it is in fact a vital means to planning for future service delivery. WAMITAB understand how integral staff development is to maintaining a quality service. We are delighted to welcome them to the APSE family."

Since it was formed in 1989, WAMITAB has evolved in line with the convergence between the sectors with a clear focus on promoting and supporting environmental sustainability. WAMITAB plays a key role in ensuring employees across the waste and resource management industry have the necessary skills and competence to introduce and maintain sustainable waste management practices for the benefit (and safety) of individuals and the public.

For more information visit: <https://wamitab.org.uk/>

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Social Care: Data shows the case for fundamental reform

New analysis from the King's Fund shows that rising disability among working-age adults and a growth in the number of people over 65 is putting rising pressure on the adult social care system in England, with more people requesting care but fewer people receiving it.

The King's Fund analysis shows that the proportion of working-age adults approaching local authorities for support has risen by 4 per cent – over 23,000 people – since 2015/16. At the same time, England's increasing older population is fuelling greater demand for services. Together, this has led to over 1.8 million requests for adult social care, up 2 per cent since 2015/16. However, nearly 13,000 fewer people are receiving support and real-terms local authority spending on social care is £700 million below what it was in 2010/11. The figures are presented in 'Social care 360', which brings together, for the first time, analysis of data from all major, publicly available data sources to provide a comprehensive overview of the adult social care system in England.

The new analysis finds that 18 per cent of working-age people now report a disability, up from 15 per cent in 2010/11. The proportion of disabled working age adults reporting mental health conditions has increased significantly from 24 per cent to 36 per cent in the last 5 years. This rise is mirrored by an increase in the number of working-age adults claiming disability benefits in recent years. Whilst more older people are also approaching their councils for support, fuelled by an increase in the numbers of older people in the population, the proportion of over-65s getting long-term social care from their local council has fallen by 6 per cent. The Kings Fund report suggests this is partly due to a freeze since 2010/11 in the amount of assets people can hold and still be eligible for state-funded care. Unmet need among older people remains high, with 22 per cent saying they needed support but did not get it.

The report also identified that the amount it costs councils to pay for care per week is increasing. The average per week cost of residential and nursing care for an older person now stands at £615, a real-terms increase of 6.6 per cent since 2015/16. At the same time the numbers of nursing and residential care beds available for people aged over 75 has fallen from 11.3 per 1,000 to 10.1 per 1,000 since 2012. The sector also carries around an 8 per cent vacancy rate for jobs and whilst care jobs have gone up to a workforce number of 1.6 million strikingly 390,000 staff leave their jobs each year. In spite of these challenges 90 per cent of social care users said they were either extremely or quite satisfied with their care.

Simon Bottery, Senior Fellow at The King's Fund and lead author of the report, said, "The Social Care Green Paper, which still has no release date over two years after it was announced, is an opportunity to set out the fundamental reform we desperately need. But while the green paper is delayed, the government must focus on what it can do to support people now. Putting more money into the system in this autumn's Spending Review would help people to get the help they need while longer-term reform takes effect."

The full report can be downloaded at <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/> and search for 'Social Care 360'

The APSE Social Care Forum takes place in Oxford on Tuesday 18 June. To book for this event contact Shami Scholes on sscholes@apse.org.uk



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School food funding and the impact of Brexit

Brexit has created uncertainty for the food and agricultural sector generally and school food services in particular. The School Food Plan Alliance asked Public Health Nutrition Research to investigate disquiet amongst the major players in school food catering and front-line school catering staff. Director of PHN Research, Dr Michael Nelson, provides a summary of the investigation.

Brexit has created uncertainty for the food and agricultural sector generally and school food services in particular. The School Food Plan Alliance asked Public Health Nutrition Research to investigate disquiet amongst the major players in school food catering and front-line school catering staff.

Concerns about the impact of Brexit on food and labour costs, the integrity of the food supply chain, and staff availability have been voiced amongst those responsible for delivering school food services. The aim of this research was to get an overview of those concerns and to understand the possible impacts of Brexit on school food catering.

The project gathered information from three sources:

- Interviews with school food caterers and food providers
- Online questionnaire completed by front line school catering staff
- Current literature such as Select Committee reports, newspaper articles, and expert and consumer reports

Between May and June 2018, fifteen interviews were completed with heads of major catering companies (LA and non-LA), membership organizations (such as APSE), academics, and campaigning organizations with an interest in school food and child nutrition. In addition, 64 school food catering staff completed an online survey. These were mainly head cooks or catering managers, school cooks, or other members of the catering staff.

Interviews

Overall, Brexit was seen as likely to have a negative impact on services and provision.

The biggest concern was increased costs in food, the supply chain and wages. Food price rises had already begun to affect costs. This put pressure on services and quality and was creating a need to increase prices to parents. Food quality is likely to go down, and some foods would be either more expensive or less available, especially fruit and vegetables. Loss of some items had already occurred because of dramatic price increases, for example, from local suppliers (e.g. yogurt) or non-domestic suppliers (seasonal fruit and veg).

Staffing was not likely to be a problem at school level but rather in the supply chain, production and transport. This would be exacerbated by loss of EU staff because of reduced net EU immigration. Difficulties in filling staff vacancies in transport and fruit and vegetable picking were already evident.

Fuel cost increases will have an impact on food costs. Any form of customs barrier or tariffs will also cause a rise in food costs. Availability of fresh and seasonal foods, especially fruit and vegetables, is likely to go down.

If food prices rise, this will have a negative impact on services because school food budgets are not usually ring-fenced. School food is often at the bottom of a list of priorities for schools coping with budget cuts. Reduced Free School Meal registration (relating to UIFSM) and its impact on Pupil Premium are creating further problems.

UIFSM has a positive impact on economies of scale, but a static budget since 2014 makes it increasingly difficult for many schools to cover costs. Whilst the £2.30 allocation for universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) is working in large schools, it is no longer sufficient to cover costs in schools with fewer children on roll. There is no current prospect of the UIFSM budget allocation being reviewed.

Small schools (with fewer than 150 on roll) have been hit the hardest.

As food prices rise and school lunch costs go up, health inequalities are likely to increase because low income families will not be able to afford school meals and will rely instead on packed lunches, repeatedly shown to be less healthy. Universal Credit has compounded this issue by making many low-income families ineligible for Free School Meals.

Online survey

When asked what impact Brexit would have on staffing in schools, 45% of respondents said there were no EU staff in their school and 41% that Brexit would have no impact. 5% thought the number of EU staff would go down. This reflects the fact that many staff had children or grandchildren in the school or saw the school as a local employer offering flexible hours.

Of those who held an opinion regarding the impact of Brexit on the cost of food, around three-quarters thought costs would rise. While most respondents felt that Brexit would have no overall impact on the variety, quality or safety of food in schools, many did feel that the variety or quality of food would go down (15% and 12%, respectively). 15% thought more food would be sourced locally, and 9% that there would be an adverse impact on children's health. Fruit and vegetables were thought to be the food groups most likely to be affected adversely, but meat and dairy were also mentioned.

Because the sample is small and not random or regionally representative, the findings have limited generalizability.

Nonetheless, they provide insight into concerns about the impact of Brexit on school food catering and services.

The most commonly expressed concerns from both interviewees and front-line catering staff related to the:

- increase in the costs of food
- inability to respond to budgets under pressure (e.g. rising food costs and no change in the UIFSM cost allocation)
- reduced availability of fresh and seasonal foods
- reduced access to labour (especially food transport drivers and fruit and vegetable pickers)
- risk of increased health inequalities because of reduced access to healthy food at lunchtime caused by budget pressures on families who can no longer afford school meals and are forced to opt for packed lunches.

Thanks to the interview respondents, front-line catering staff, members of the School Food Plan Alliance, and to Jin Xu, MSc student, King's College London who helped with data collection. The analysis and views expressed in the report are those of the author.

• *For the latest news and developments in local authority school catering services, please contact APSE Principal Advisor Vickie Hacking on vhacking@apse.org.uk*

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