



APSE Southern Region Policy Symposium 2026

Onwards and upwards: where to next for local government?



Thursday 25 June 2026

Broadway House, London, SW1H 9NQ

Programme

09.30: Registration and refreshments

10.00: Welcome from the chair Cllr Jacqui Burnett, Elected Member, Luton Borough Council

Financial Sustainability in Local Government: Reviewing pressures, funding, financial governance and future resilience

- Review of funding and cost pressures facing local government
- Forward look through the rest of the spending review period and beyond.
- Financial resilience and governance of councils, review of policy and support for the sector

Speaker: Bevis Ingram, Senior Adviser Finance, LGA

LGR – supporting the workforce through a period of Uncertainty and Reform

- Understanding the workforce impact of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR): key risks, pressures, and opportunities during periods of change.
- Communicating through uncertainty: strategies for transparency, trust-building, and staff engagement.
- Leadership in times of disruption: supporting managers to lead with clarity, empathy, and resilience.
- Turning disruption into opportunity: skills development, culture integration, and building a future-ready local government workforce.

Speaker: Rachel Slaughter Deputy Head of Local Government, Unison

Managing Planning Functions During Local Government Reorganisation

- How to manage the process
- Harmonising planning policies across merging authorities.
- Balancing development pressures with strategic reset opportunities.
- Maintaining statutory planning functions during transition.

Speaker: Timothy David Crawshaw, APSE Associate, Urban Design

Audience question and answer session

11.30: Refreshments, exhibition viewing and AGM

APSE Southern Region AGM

If you are attending from an APSE member council, we would be delighted if you would join us to hear about what has happened over the year within the APSE network, across the UK and share your views on how to take the Association forward in the year ahead

12.00: Session Two

The Future of Frontline Delivery Under LGR: Councils That Still Deliver for Communities

- Protecting frontline services during transition.
- Balancing financial sustainability with service resilience and public trust.
- Building future councils around prevention, place and community wellbeing.

Speaker: Mo Baines, Chief Executive, APSE

Social Value and Inclusive Economies: What Works?

- How Islington is integrating social value into procurement, commissioning, and economic strategy.
- Aligning policy with delivery, translating inclusive economy ambitions into tangible programmes, partnerships, and contracts.
- Lessons from the ground: what has worked, what hasn't, and how councils can scale and sustain impact.

Speaker: Caroline Wilson, Director of Inclusive Economy and Jobs, Islington Council

Audience question and answer session

13:00: Lunch, Exhibition viewing

14:30: Session Three

Lessons from Buckinghamshire Council's Reorganisation Journey

- Reducing duplication and strengthening strategic decision-making across Buckinghamshire.
- Balancing expected efficiency savings against significant upfront transformation and integration costs.
- Importance of clear leadership, communication, and resident engagement to deliver long-term benefits from reorganisation.
- The complexity of merging systems, cultures, and processes.

Speaker: Cllr Thomas Broom, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport Buckinghamshire Council.

LGR: implementing change while maintaining essential service

- Forming joint ventures with local authorities to deliver essential services
- Maintaining day-to-day service delivery while simultaneously implementing structural change.
- LGR as an opportunity to modernise services, embrace digital transformation, and redesign delivery models

Speaker: Justin Galliford, CEO, Norse Group

15:30: Seminar close

Seminar Objectives & Booking Information

About the Seminar

The seminar aims explore how councils can navigate Local Government Reorganisation and ongoing financial pressures by strengthening leadership, workforce resilience, planning functions, social value delivery, and service transformation, while maintaining effective frontline services and long-term sustainability, helping to support resilient, inclusive, and sustainable councils.

Open to all interested in the future of local government services, this is an ideal opportunity to meet and engage with like-minded colleagues exploring service specific issues and strategies for local authorities.

Who should attend?

The event will be highly useful for officers and councillors with an interest in

- Council Leaders, Deputy Leaders and Cabinet Members
- Chief Executives and Senior Leadership Teams
- Elected Members and newly appointed councillors
- Directors and Heads of Finance
- Monitoring Officers and Governance Leads
- HR and Organisational Development professionals
- Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development officers
- Transformation and Change Managers
- Policy and Strategy officers
- Leisure, Environmental and Frontline Service Managers
- Procurement and Social Value leads
- Trade Union representatives and workforce leads
- Local authority partners, arms-length organisations and service delivery partners

Delegate packages Exclusive of VAT

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance and delegates' documentation.

APSE member delegate fee: **£195 + VAT per person**

Non-member delegate's fee: **£290 + VAT per person**

Commercial delegates: **£420 + VAT per person**

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by email to adminsouthern@apse.org.uk. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for nonattendance. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or mode of delivery should this become necessary. If due to emergency action by UK Governments/ Administrations or Public Agencies this event is postponed, for example for reasons of public health and safety, the organisers will transfer your booking to the replacement event or provide a credit voucher against a future event booking

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