



APSE Southern Sports and Leisure Seminar 2026

Sustaining Leisure, Strengthening Communities



Thursday 4 June 2026

**Madejski Stadium (now Select Car Leasing Stadium) M4,
Junction 11, Reading, RG2 0FL**

Programme

9.00: Registration and Coffee

10.00: Session One

Welcome from the chair – Cllr Paul Gittings, Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care, Reading Borough Council

Integrating leisure with public health outcomes

- Embedding leisure services within public health frameworks to support prevention and wellbeing goals.
- Strengthening partnerships between councils, NHS services, and community organisations.
- Designing inclusive programmes that address inequalities and reach inactive or vulnerable groups.

Speaker: Steve Welch, Strategic Lead - Leisure Operations, Sport England

Creating an Active City: How Local Authorities Lead System Wide Action on Inactivity through Transport, Leisure and Health

- Using transport planning to normalise everyday movement, making walking, wheeling, and cycling the easiest choice through integrated active travel networks and public transport connectivity.
- Positioning leisure facilities as delivery partners for preventative health, working with health services and community organisations to support inactive populations through accessible, place-based provision.
- Applying system wide data and community insight to shape both strategy and operations, ensuring decisions are targeted, inclusive and responsive to local need

Speaker: Guy Fishbourne, Principal Public Health Specialist Bristol City Council

A How to keep leisure services viable under extreme cost pressure.

- Driving income without pricing out communities.
- Managing energy costs, staffing models, and asset utilisation to reduce expenditure without compromising service quality.
- Protecting and evidencing social value

Speakers: Simon Sen, Operations Director, Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL)

Audience question and answer session

11:30: Coffee, exhibition viewing and networking

12:00: Session Two

Word from our Sponsor

Opening of Lichfield Leisure Centre (2026), Community Impact & Council Vision

- Highlighting investment in local sport facilities.
- Promoting health and physical activity.
- Long-term investment to increase participation in sport and support local residents.

Speaker: Adrian Turner, Founder and Director of Client Success, The ReCreation Group.

Audience question and answer session

13:00: Lunch, exhibition viewing and networking

14:00: Session Three

Decarbonising Leisure: How Oxford is Cutting Energy Use and Carbon While Supporting Healthier Communities

- Delivering significant climate impacts, contributing to wider net-zero targets.
- Transitioning to low-carbon technologies like heat pumps and energy management systems.
- Reducing operational costs while maintaining high-quality leisure services, supporting long-term financial sustainability.

Speakers: Cllr Chewe Munkonge, Cabinet Member for a Healthy, Fairer Oxford and Small Business Champion

Implications of cost of conflict to council sports and leisure budgets.

- How global economic pressures and conflict are reshaping local authority leisure and sports budgets
- Maintaining access, participation, and inclusion under tightening budgets.
- Energy costs, inflation, and funding gaps across council-run facilities.

Speakers: Andrew Donald, Business Development Manager, Equity Energies

Audience question and answer session

15:00: Seminar Ends

Seminar Objectives & Booking Information

About the Seminar

Local authority leisure services continue to face challenges, rising costs, public health priorities, climate commitments, and increasing demand for inclusive, community-focused provision. The seminar brings together leading voices from across the sector to explore how councils and partners can respond to these pressures while continuing to deliver services and meaningful social value.

The seminar will examine the growing integration of leisure with public health, the role of active travel in creating healthier cities, and the challenge of maintaining financially sustainable services under extreme cost pressures. Speakers will also highlight innovative approaches to decarbonisation, major capital investment in community facilities, and the wider economic pressures impacting local authority budgets. Packed full of ideas and forward-thinking initiatives, we look forward to welcoming you to this **MUST ATTEND EVENT**, to explore with likeminded colleagues and partners.

Who should attend?

- Leaders
- Chief executives
- Elected members
- Service directors
- Scrutiny Members
- Executive Members and Cabinet officeholders
- Policy officers
- Trade union representatives
- Voluntary organisations
- All those with an interest in Sports and Leisure Services

Venue

Madejski Stadium, (Select Car Leasing Stadium), M4, Junction 11, Reading, RG2 0FL

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**

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