

apse annual seminar 2025

Local placemaking:

Cleaner, greener, resilient neighbourhoods

Seminar kindly sponsored by:



Enterprise Mobility™

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for APSE
members

Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 September

Glasgow Marriott



Join the conversation:

@apseevents #apse25

Programme: Wednesday 10 September

11:30 Registration, coffee and exhibition hub

A rolling lunch will be served from 12.00

Exhibition and innovation hub

APSE has a range of services to assist local authorities to respond to the challenges of a rapidly changing environment.

This is an opportunity for delegates to attend drop-in surgeries with APSE experts in:

APSE Energy (trading as APSE Synergy): Bespoke Local Authority Energy Collaboration

APSE Performance Networks: Largest voluntary public sector benchmarking service

APSE Solutions (trading as APSE Synergy): high-quality consultancy and interim management services

APSE Training: specialist training to support frontline local authority services.

Exhibition and innovation hub: specialist local authority suppliers

13.00 Plenary session one

Local placemaking - cleaner, greener, resilient neighbourhoods

Opening welcome: Councillor Archie Dryburgh, APSE National Chair 2024/25

Opening the challenge panel

Mo Baines, Chief Executive, of APSE will introduce a review of the year for local government and what we should look for in the coming year including finances, the local environment, public interest in procurement and insourcing. Following these opening remarks the challenge panel will respond with their thoughts.

The expert panel includes: -

Paul Bellotti, Chief Executive, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Cllr Susan Aitken, Leader, Glasgow City Council

Richard Baker, Chief Executive, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, APSE Overall Council of the Year 2024

Question time: An opportunity for a panel and audience Q&A

14.15 Coffee and Exhibition viewing

14.45 Session two

Frontline roundtable discussions

Delegates will have the opportunity to attend one of the following discussions:

Local Growth: What is the role for local councils in economic growth, jobs and skills?

A facilitated workshop with Professor Steven Griggs, Department for Business and the Regions, University of Staffordshire

Environmental services

Facilitators: Fiona Sutton Wilson, Head of Training, APSE and Bonni Jee, Principal Advisor, APSE

- Waste
- Recycling
- Streetscene
- Fly tipping

Communities, housing and homelessness

Facilitators: Phil Brennan, Head of Energy, APSE and Vickie Hacking, Principal Advisor, APSE

- Building remediation post Grenfell
- New homes targets
- Building safety: Damp and Mould
- Tackling homelessness

Leisure, Parks and wellbeing

Sponsored by Sixis Technology

Facilitators: Lindsay Airey, Head of Business Resources, APSE and Matt Ellis, Principal Advisor, APSE

- Physical activity
- Energy costs in wet facilities
- Grassland management
- Tree strategies

Technical services, highways, transport and fleet

Sponsored by Dynamon

Facilitators: Debbie Johns, Head of Performance Networks, APSE and Abi Ademiluyi, Principal Advisor, APSE

- Potholes and complaints
- Litigation and costs
- Climate preparedness

16.00 Plenary session three

Keynote address:

Introduced by Andrew Kennedy APSE National Secretary 2024/25

Making Local government finance work for our neighbourhoods and local economies

Professor Mark Gregory, Visiting Professor, Staffordshire University



Business economist Mark Gregory has over 30 years' experience in more than 40 countries as an advisor to Governments and industry. He recently retired after spending ten years as Ernst & Young's Chief Economist and has previously held roles at global organisations including IBM and PwC.

Mark's connections led to him being named LinkedIn 'Top UK Voice' in 2016, 2017 and 2018 which recognises individuals whose words have launched countless high-quality conversations locally, and globally.

Alongside his Visiting Professor role at Staffordshire University Mark continues to be a member of the UK Government's Investment Trade Advisory Group and is actively involved with the Made in Stoke-on-Trent Network.

APSE Annual General Meeting 2025

16.30 Annual General Meeting

17.15 Close, refreshments and exhibition hub

19.00 Evening reception at Glasgow City Chambers Lord Provost Welcome

Hosted at the historic Glasgow City Chambers, join us for a tour of the building, hot supper and light entertainment

Programme: Thursday 11 September

9.00 Registration for new arrivals and exhibition viewing for all delegates including sector innovations

10.00 Plenary session four

A view from across the UK

Chair: Cllr Tracey Dixon, National Chair Elect

How local authorities in Scotland are delivering on priorities

- A just transition to Net Zero
- Supporting fair growth and delivering for our communities

John Wood, Director of Membership and Resources, COSLA

The future of local government in Northern Ireland

- Meaningful devolution of powers
- The policy challenges ahead

Alison Allen, Chief Executive, NILGA

Where now for English local authorities

- The changing digital landscape and English Devolution
- Sector readiness for artificial intelligence and responsible digital adoption

Lisa Trickey, Digital Advisor, LGA

Working with councils in Wales

- Wellbeing and preventive approach in communities
- Creating sustainable neighbourhoods for Welsh citizens

Paula Walters, Head of Corporate Policy and Services WLGA

Question time: An opportunity for a panel and audience Q&A

11.15 Coffee and Exhibition Viewing

11.45 Plenary session five

Chair: Anita Brown, National Secretary Elect, APSE

Keynote address: Glasgow City Council – A case study in Placemaking

George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, Glasgow City Council

Rising to the challenges: Devolution, Local Government Reorganisation and future models

Local Government Reorganisation: The District Council Perspective

- What does this mean for the future of local neighbourhood services?
- Impact of the changes to planning and the delivery of new homes

Cllr Richard Wright, Leader, North Kesteven and Chair of the District Councils Network

Local Government Reorganisation: A Chief Executive's Perspective

- Impacts on finances and resources
- Getting the culture right - taking the workforce on the transformation journey

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive, South Kesteven District Council

What's next after re-organisation: Lessons from Cumberland Council

- Embedding the new authorities culture and ethos
- Delivering effective and sustainable frontline services post reorganisation

Cllr Lisa Hinton, Deputy Leader, and Colin Cox, Director of Public Health and Communities, Cumberland Council

13.15 Lunch and Exhibition Viewing

Question time: An opportunity for a panel and audience Q&A

14.15 Plenary session six

Climate Innovation Shorts: Case studies of best practice, innovations, adaptations and mitigations

Chair: Cllr John Clarke MBE, Gedling Borough Council, APSE Prospective National Chair

Solar PV on RCVs in Darlington

Margaret Enstone, Sustainability and Climate Change Lead Officer, Darlington Borough Council and Lisa Haetzman, Climate Change and Sustainability Officer, Redcard and Cleveland Borough Council

School Safe Haven Zones reducing traffic congestion and air pollution an Innovative Approach

Robert Shoebridge, Group Manager, and Kerry Griffiths, Digital Enforcement Manager, Derby City Council - Winner of the MJ, Best Service Team of the Year Award

Kerbside battery recycling

Julia Kerr, Technician Zero Waste and Janice Ireland, Neighbourhood Services Officer, Dumfries and Galloway Council

Soil Association Impact Report

Sarah Duley, Co-Director and Head of Food at Soil Association Scotland

15.15 Grill in the grill

The final refreshments will be taken through to the Grill room where our innovation presenters will be gathered in service hubs to answer your questions or swap contact details.

Make the most of this informal networking opportunity and a final opportunity to meet the exhibitors.

16.15 Seminar close

APSE Annual Service Awards Charity Dinner 2025

Glasgow Marriott

19:00 Pre-dinner reception

19:30 Service awards dinner

Carriages at midnight

In aid of Parkinson's UK

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.

Seminar Information

About the Event

This year, APSE's Annual Seminar and Service Awards Charity Dinner will take place in the vibrant and historic city of Glasgow on Wednesday 10 to Thursday 11 September 2025. Delegates will enjoy an opportunity to explore the regeneration of this wonderful city whilst gaining unique insight into how local councils can ensure their frontline services are green, clean, smart and sustainable.

One of the biggest events in the local government calendar, APSE's Annual Seminar offers frontline service providers the chance to learn from each other, network with sector experts and develop strategies for our vital local services. Delegates will get the opportunity to hear from industry-leading experts across UK local government cover topics including:

Frontline services

- Refuse, recycling and street scene
- Leisure, health and wellbeing
- Parks, open spaces and playgrounds
- Cemeteries and crematoria
- Policy developments
- Local government finance: Fairness for frontline services
- Green energy, flooding and climate change
- Digitisation and demand management
- Place-making and regeneration

Who should attend?

This highly interactive conference is the must attend event for all those looking to future-proof the frontline including recovery for local economies, those seeking to develop strategies and implement climate change objectives.

The event incorporates the APSE Annual General Meeting which we would encourage all member councils to attend, on Wednesday 10 September.

The Annual Seminar concludes with the APSE Service Awards Charity Dinner on Thursday evening, 11 September.

Booking information

Book your place at the Annual Seminar [here](#)

Seminar kindly sponsored by:

