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# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Seminar 2026

Delivering Inclusive Public Spaces



**Wednesday 20 May 2026**

Microsoft Teams

# Programme

## 10:00 Session One

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

### **Reassessing Workplace Diversity Measurement: Are Current Methods Inclusive?**

- Differentiating between the measure of diversity and the measure of inclusion.
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of current methods in capturing disabled and neurodiverse employees' voices and experiences.
- Analysis of the potential gaps between reporting practices and actual progress in fostering inclusion.

**Angela Matthews, Head of Policy and Research, Business Disability Forum**

### **Challenges Facing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives**

- Going beyond the employer's basic EDI responsibilities.
- Moving EDI forward in the UK.
- Understanding impacts and creating fairer, more representative environments.

**Julie Dennis, Head of Inclusive Workplace Strategy and Policy, Acas**

### **Building an Inclusive, Values-Led Culture in Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service**

- Modelling organisational values with visible senior leadership
- Promoting an inclusive and respectful culture across all levels.
- Prioritising fairness to improve inclusivity, ensuring policies and practices reflect diverse needs and encourage innovation.

**Su Matthews, Head of Culture and Inclusion, Greater Manchester Combined Authority**

### *Audience question and answer session*

11:30 Virtual Coffee Break

11:45 Session Two

### **Developing Oxford City Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy**

- Focusing on embedding inclusion in practice.
- Working with, instead of to communities, and improving how impact is measured.
- Addressing systemic disadvantages and improving outcomes for under-represented groups.

**Cllr Chewe Munkonge, Cabinet Member for A Healthy, Fairer Oxford & Small Business, Oxford City Council**

### **Safer Plymouth Modern Slavery Toolkit 2026 – Strengthening Identification and Response**

- Supporting practitioners and partner organisations to recognise and respond to modern slavery and human trafficking.
- Multi-agency and public health approach to prevention, early identification and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals.
- Recognising warning signs, reporting concerns, and using the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to ensure victims receive protection and support.

**Speakers: Cllr Chris Penberthy Cabinet Member for Communities and Steve Foale, Technical Lead for Community Safety, Plymouth City Council**

### *Audience question and answer session*

12:45 Virtual lunch break

13:15 Session Three

### **UNISON Anti-Racism Charter: Building Actively Anti-Racist Workplaces**

- Actively challenging racism, promoting diversity, and regularly reviewing strategies to improve equality and inclusion.
- Implementing visible anti-racism policies and structured programmes of action.
- Reviewing recruitment, promotion, and disciplinary processes to eliminate racial disparities.

**Tim Roberts, Regional Secretary, Unison Southwest Region**

### **Making Green Spaces Accessible for All in North Herts**

- Accessibility improvements across parks and nature reserves.
- Inclusive infrastructure and access points.
- Accessible play areas for children.

**Cllr Amy Allen, Executive Member for Environment and Chair of the Cabinet Panel on the Environment, North Herts Council**

### **Lambeth national push to tackle heart health inequalities**

- Ensuring community needs and day to day experiences are reflected in how new ideas and approaches are developed.
- Putting community knowledge at the heart of national research.
- Focus on reducing cardiovascular risk in high-risk and deprived communities through community-informed research and action.

**Cllr Nanda Manley-Browne, Joint Cabinet Member for Healthier Communities, Lambeth Council.**

15:00 Chair wrap-up and seminar close

### *Audience question and answer session*

# Seminar Objectives

## About the Seminar

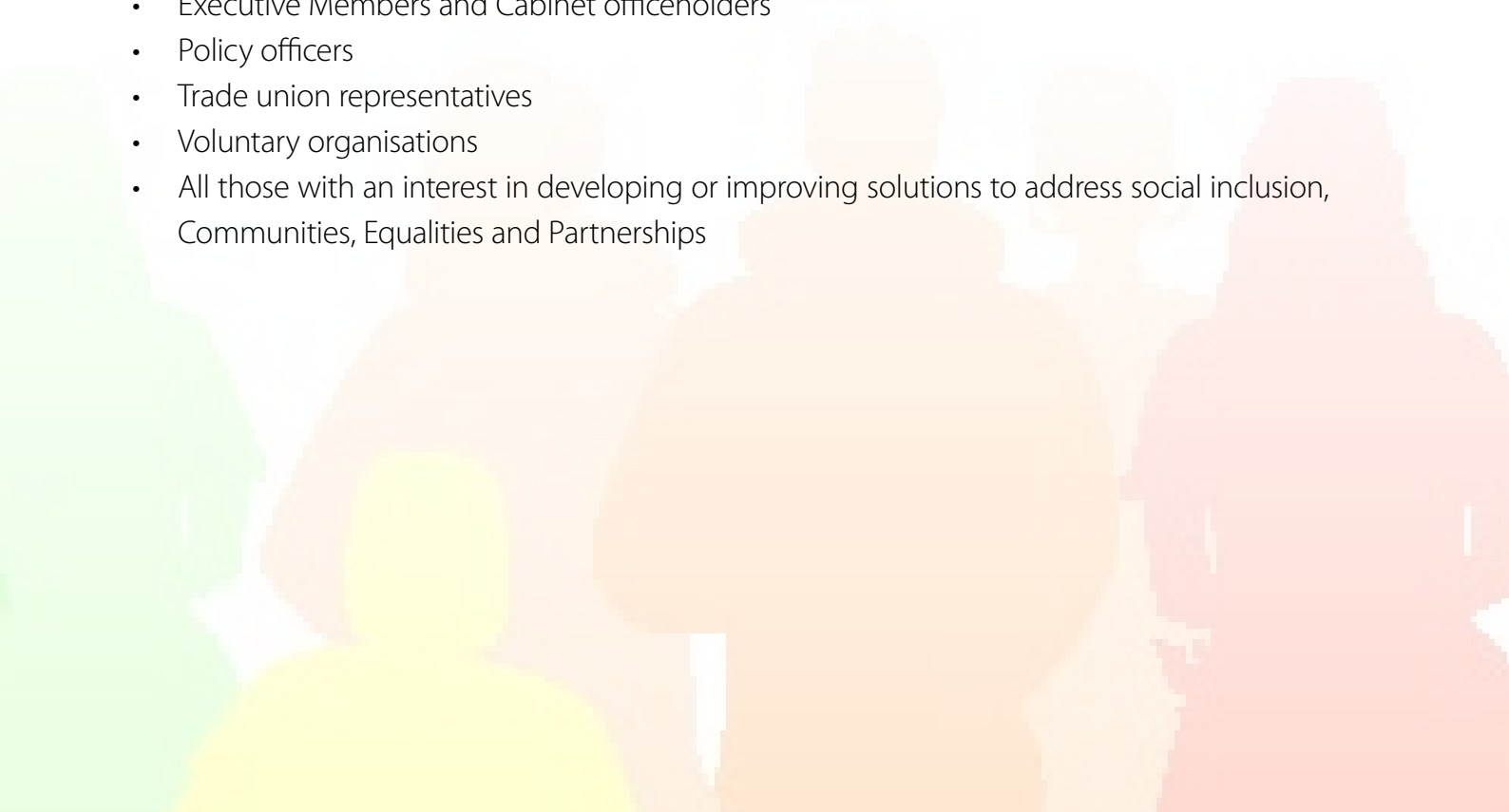
Local authorities continue to play leading roles in addressing issues around inequality. Join us for an insightful seminar bringing together expert speakers from local government, policy and public services to explore how we can drive meaningful progress in equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). The day will examine key challenges and opportunities—from improving how inclusion is measured, to tackling systemic inequalities, strengthening responses to modern slavery, and creating actively anti-racist workplaces.

Speakers will also share practical examples of building inclusive organisational cultures, improving accessibility in public spaces, and addressing health inequalities through community-led approaches.

The event offers valuable learning for anyone working to create fairer, more inclusive services and communities.

## 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 developing or improving solutions to address social inclusion, Communities, Equalities and Partnerships



# Booking Information

## Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

### What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance and delegates' documentation.

APSE member delegate fee: **Free for APSE Members**

Non member delegates fee: **£99 + VAT per person**

Commercial delegates: **£149 + VAT per person**

## [Click here to book your place on this event](#)

**CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY:** Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by email to [adminsouthern@apse.org.uk](mailto: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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