



APSE Update

SOFT FM

25 September 2008

East Lothian

Pat Taggart, Principal Advisor, APSE

National update



- **National update**
- APSE has recently published its latest research paper on '*Governance, neighbourhoods and service delivery*'.
- This ground breaking piece of research examines the best operational arrangements for local authorities, delivering services at a neighbourhood level, and how to best secure due governance arrangements with the critical involvement of elected members.
- APSE has also provided detailed responses to many of the new National Indicators as part of the new CAA requirements and lobbying responses on the draft guidance to the Best Value and Duty to Consult. APSE is also now a member of the DCLG HRA review group.
- One day event at Hamilton Racecourse 21 August 2008



- New research launched at Annual Seminar in Nottingham
- *“Creating resilient local economies: exploring the economic footprint of public services”*
- *Based upon a case study in Swindon*
- *£1.64 for £1.00*

APSE RESEARCH CONTINUED



- Researchers who analysed procurement supply chains and staff spending patterns in the Commercial Services direct service organisation at Swindon Borough Council found that every £1 spent generated £1.64 in the local economy. The research, which included staff spending diaries and analysis of the knock-on spending of local suppliers, revealed strong local employment and supply chains. This created a virtuous circle and stopped funds leaking out of the area.
- Key findings of the research include:
 - 96% of Swindon's Commercial Services staff live in the borough.
- These employees re-spend 52.5 pence in every pound in the local economy.
- 34.4% of the service's expenditure upon suppliers goes to local companies and organisations.
- Local suppliers re-spend 30.8 pence in every pound in the local economy.

National update



- **England**
- APSE has lobbied MPs to support an amendment to the Housing and Regeneration Bill to provide greater flexibility and financial freedoms for councils to invest in housing stock. '*Governance neighbourhoods and service delivery*' was launched across the local government political party spring conference with communities minister John Healey and leader of the CCA, Cllr Margaret Eaton. DCFS have responded positively to APSE lobbying on school and dining kitchen design to improve outcomes under BSF. APSE is also closely watching the outcomes of the anticipated report from OFT due in late April concluding their investigations into alleged price fixing on public sector construction contracts.
- **Scotland**
- APSE has secured a major victory with the Scottish Executive changing the commencement of the Nutrition Act guidance coming into effect within secondary schools. It will now be delayed by one year to ensure that schools have sufficient time to implement the H4S message of healthy eating.

National update



- **Wales**

- The Welsh Data Unit has adopted APSE's performance networks definitions for part of its leisure performance indicators. APSE met with the Minister, Brian Gibbons on 11 March in relation to how APSE can contribute to the improvement agenda.
- Wales Audit Office are trying to get some baseline data for school meals as part of Appetite for Life (Wales equivalent of Hungry for Success) and have approached some local authorities who have suggested that they contact us. They are going to suggest that they use the apse performance networks to gather information.

- **Northern Ireland**

- APSE members in Northern Ireland are working towards the new administrative structures, following the declaration of 11 new councils. APSE is sitting on the Northern Ireland Review of Public Administration Working Group through NILGA. APSE has helped develop the new Northern Ireland Local Government awards with a range of partners which commence in autumn 2008.

For your diaries . . .



- **Forthcoming meetings 2008/09**
 - **Wed 14 January 2009**
 - **Wed 22 April 2009**
 - **HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, Hilton Dunkeld 6/7
November 2008**



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