

APSE Parks Grounds and Street Services Meeting

Thursday 11th December 2008

Lothian Chambers, Edinburgh

1. Welcome from the Chair

Cllr Swan welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked City of Edinburgh Council for hosting it.

2. Attendance and apologies

3. Minute of meeting 19th September 2008

Agree as a true record.

4. Matters arising

None

5. APSE Secretariat Report – Pat Taggart, Principal Advisor, APSE

Pat delivered a concise and informative update on the following areas:

- (a) Seminar Schedule for 2009 – see APSE web site for further updates
- (b) Performance Networks – feedback on awards (2 Scottish winners) from 15 short-listed, discussions occurring in all advisory groups on reviewing templates and reports to meet member's needs. **Action - request for all members of the Parks, Grounds and Street Services working group to submit their revised templates**
- (c) APSE Publications – a number of new publications are available including "Governance, Neighbourhoods and Service Delivery" and Economic Footprint of Public Services"
- (d) Scottish Regional Council – a summary of discussions held at the recent meeting was provided including the opportunity for member councils to request and prioritise additional APSE research projects. **Action – councils to contact Pat Taggart to discuss topics.**
- (e) Green Tendering Toolkit, APSE/Environment Centre joint project – research paper being developed for publication in September 2009. Scottish Councils have an opportunity to input and participate in this. Eric Monson, South Ayrshire Council requested further information. **Action – Pat Taggart to supply this.**

6. Green Flag Sites – assessment of sites – G Law, City of Edinburgh Council

Gary provided a detailed presentation on the method used to apply the green flag scoring criteria to a number of parks within Edinburgh and a summary of the results.

He also explained how the results had been used to rank parks for improvements in infrastructure and general maintenance.

A further round of surveys is planned to assess how the improvement initiatives have changed the benchmark scores.

A number of parks will be submitted for green flag awards.

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

A copy of the presentation is available on the APSE web site.

7. LAMS – progress report, D Sneddon, South Lanarkshire Council

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances David and his team could not make the meeting however the sub group members gave a brief summary of the current position. Discussion followed and it was agreed that;

- (a) The trail is proving very successful and role out to further councils should be considered
- (b) Accreditation via APSE (Performance Networks), Chartermark, Improvement Agency or similar should be sought to validate the model and it's benefits
- (c) Partnership should be developed with Keep Scotland Beautiful
- (d) Presentation to Advisory Group with supporting paper should be an agenda item for the next meeting

Action - J Jack and P Taggart agreed to progress the above with D Sneddon.

8. Issues Roundup

Health and Safety Issues:

P Taggart updated the Advisory Group on the outcome of a recent Health and Safety workshop organised by the Building Services Advisory Group. It was agreed that members of the Parks, Grounds and Street Services group should be invited to the next meeting which will focus on the management of HAVs. **Action P Taggart to circulate information to Advisory Group Members.**

Invasive Species:

Advisory Group discussed control methods, legislation and enforcement against private landowners failing to initiate control procedures.

M McKenna (East Dunbartonshire Council) would be willing to share information if required.

Cemeteries Benchmarking

J Jack advised the group that he had been approached by the ICCM who wanted to explore opportunities for shared benchmarking processes and information. A Gaul (Clackmannanshire Council) provided a summary of the discussion at the recent ICCM meeting which he had attended.

Action – J Jack, P Taggart and A Gaul to arrange a meeting with the ICCM Secretary

Asset Management and Play Area Strategies

M McKenna discussed his plans to develop the above strategies and requested assistance from members of the Advisory Group who have developed similar strategies to share information.

Action – Members to contact M McKenna direct (0141 574 5545)

9. AOCB

- (a) Agenda items for the next meeting were discussed. Suggestions included; HSE presentation on HAVs, ICCM benchmarking request, Neighbourhood and management Models, Performance Networks Update and presentation from award winners
- (b) Potential to change format of the next meeting to a mini seminar with and afternoon session and evening meal followed by the Advisory Group meeting the following morning.

Action - J Jack and P Taggart to progress.

10. Date of next meeting

Friday 21st March 2009