



Board Member Profile

John Austin: ADSO Chair

Prior to my retirement in June 2016, I was Assistant Director, Corporate Governance at the London Borough of Enfield. I was also the Council's Monitoring Officer between 2006 and 2014.

I had the ambition for some time to work with others to set up a professional association for the democratic services sector. I am delighted that this was realised in 2009 with support and help from so many people. ADSO has confirmed my long held view that those who work within the sector are dedicated professionals who deserve to be recognised as such. I feel that ADSO is fulfilling that role in more ways than one.

I have been Chair of ADSO since its inception in 2009. I am also an advisor for the ADSO Certificate and a specialist advisor for the Diploma. I also facilitate a number of training courses both within and outside of ADSO.

Democratic Services faces challenges along with the rest of local government. We need to respond by being as flexible as possible and being prepared to expand what we do. We are in the fortunate position of being valued by members. We generally have their trust and confidence. We should use that to our advantage and make ourselves as valuable to them and our wider authorities as we possibly can. Again, ADSO can play an important part in responding to these challenges by promoting the sector and the good work we do.