

ADSO 2018

Annual Conference and Awards Ceremony
Nottingham | 22 & 23 November



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Sponsors and exhibitors



Conference information

We are delighted that you will be attending ADSO's annual conference on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 November 2018, it will be a great event.

Location and Directions

The event is being held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Nottingham, Nuthall Road, Nottingham, NG8 6AZ. You will find a map and directions [here](#).

There is free parking for those who are travelling by car. The closest train station is Nottingham which is a short taxi or tram ride away from the hotel.

AGM

The Association's AGM will take place at 4.20pm on Thursday 22 November, papers will be published on the website <https://www.adso.co.uk/adso-governance/>

Refreshments

Refreshments will be available at various stages during both days and a conference dinner and awards ceremony will take place in the evening on Thursday 22 November 2018. This will start with a complimentary drinks reception sponsored by Modern.Gov at 7.00pm followed by a three course dinner at 7.30pm.

If you have any additional requirements (including dietary) which were not included on your booking form, please let us know (info@adso.co.uk) as soon as possible.

Programme day one - 22 November

11.00 - Arrival and registration

11.30 - Welcome and introductions

11.40 - Facilitated discussions

An opportunity to discuss a range of topics with colleagues.

12.30 - LUNCH

1.30 - Presentation from main sponsor - Modern.Gov

1.40 - Workshops:

1) Relationship between Democratic Services and the Monitoring Officer role – *John Austin, ADSO Chair & Philip Horsfield, Lawyers in Local Government*

2) Would a better way to handle difficult conversations make you more resilient? - *Sam Dyer, Executive Coach and Trainer*

3) Members behaving badly: an update on standards issues - *Paul Hoey, Co-director, Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd*

4) Current Case Law: You be the judge - *Simon Goacher, Partner, Weightmans*

2.50 - TEA

3.10 - Plenary session 1: Beyond the beige weight of bureaucracy - governance fit for the 21st century

Dominic Campbell, CEO FutureGov

4.20 - Association of Democratic Services Officers, Annual General Meeting

5.00 -Closing remarks from ADSO Chair

7.00pm - Drinks Reception, Sponsored by:



7.30pm - Conference dinner and Award Ceremony

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Programme day two - 23 November

9.15 - Arrival and coffee

9.30 - Welcome and overview of day

9.45 - Question time:

Chaired by Peter Stanyon, Chief Executive, Association of Electoral Administrators

Panel: Helen Bailey, Chief Executive (Interim), North Somerset Council; Jon Evans, Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance), Richmond and Wandsworth Councils; Louise Round, Chief Executive, Tandridge DC; John Hess, Honorary Professor, School of Politics, University of Nottingham

10.45 - Plenary session: Implications of Brexit on Local Government

Stewart Jackson, Strategic Counsel and Advice on Brexit

11.30 - Break

11.45 - Plenary session: Making the 1% Difference – The 149 Effect (part 1)

Steve Head - Speaker, Trainer, Coach and Author

12.30 - Lunch

1.15 - Plenary session: Making the 1% Difference – The 149 Effect (part 2)

Steve Head - Speaker, Trainer, Coach and Author

2.00 -Workshops:

5) The Northamptonshire story: Delivering Democratic Services in a Crisis - *Paul Hanson, Democratic Services Manager at Northamptonshire County Council*

6) The Dorset Story - Partnership Working - *Susan Dallison, Democratic Services Manager, West Dorset District Council (Dorset Councils Partnership)*

7) The Road to West Suffolk- *Leah Mickleborough, Service Manager - Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer, Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough councils*

8) Member Development - The Essex Journey - *Joanna Boaler, Head of Democracy and Transparency, Essex County Council*

3.00 – Closing remarks from Chair

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Day One (Thursday 22nd November)

Workshop 1: The Standards Framework and the Relationship between Democratic Services and the Monitoring Officer role Philip Horsfield, Lawyers in Local Government and John Austin, ADSO Chair

This session will summarise the work of the Committee on Standards in Public Life in relation to the Standards Framework and will look at how legal and democratic services staff (through the Monitoring Officer and Deputy roles) can promote good governance amongst principal and local authorities and support the Monitoring Officer function more effectively.

Workshop 2: Would a better way to handle difficult conversations make you more resilient? Sam Dyer, Executive Coach and Trainer

During this session, we will learn Sam Dyer's AGREE Conversation Model, which is designed specifically for handling planned difficult conversations. We'll also learn techniques to manage your own state and the impact it has on others. Sam will then link both of these in with how you can become more resilient in all aspects of your life.

Workshop 3: Members behaving badly: an update on standards issues. Paul Hoey SLCC, Co-director, Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd

This session will update delegates on current standards issues including the ongoing review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life. It will give delegates a chance to discuss any live local issues they may have and look at a number of case studies, to discuss how difficult situations might best be handled and what support officers can draw upon to support them in dealing with challenging members.

Workshop 4: Current Case Law: You be the judge Simon Goacher, Partner, Weightmans

This session will be an interactive review of recent cases affecting local authorities, particularly those relating to administration and decision making. You can put yourself in the position of the judge; what decision would you have made and will it be the same as the decision made by the real judge(s). There will be an opportunity to discuss the cases and the implications for local authority decision making processes.

Day Two (Friday 23rd November)

Workshop 5; The Northamptonshire Story: Delivering Democratic Services in a Crisis. Paul Hanson, Democratic Services Manager, Northamptonshire County Council

This workshop will take delegates on a journey through Northamptonshire County Council's well-publicised financial and governance difficulties. Paul will focus on the role of democratic services in supporting the authority through a period of significant crisis and upheaval. Delegates will be encouraged to reflect on the role they might play in preventing a failure of governance in their own authorities. Themes to be covered will include:

- Dealing with a developing crisis, including handling a Section 114 notice, an auditor's Advisory Notice and managing political fallout;
- Re-prioritising resources in a fluid environment;
- The role of democratic services in ensuring the effectiveness of overview and scrutiny arrangements; and
- Working with commissioners and other new faces.

Workshop 6: The Dorset Story: Partnership Working Susan Dallison, Democratic Services Manager, West Dorset District Council (Dorset Councils Partnership)

In 2012 West Dorset District Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council agreed to work in partnership and a few years later in 2015, North Dorset District Council joined the partnership forming the first tri-council partnership in the country. On 26th February 2018 the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP agreed to the creation of two new unitary councils for Dorset. The two new authorities will replace Dorset's nine existing councils and will go live on 1st April 2019. One will cover Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, and the other, 'Dorset Council' will replace Dorset County Council and five district councils. The presentation will tell the story of how democratic services has transformed to meet the challenges of partnership working and the preparations to deliver a democratic service for Dorset Council on 1st April 2019.

Workshop 7: The Road to West Suffolk: Leah Mickleborough, Service Manager - Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer, Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough councils

This workshop will explore the journey of how West Suffolk moved from developing shared services to the point where creating a whole new District Council simply became the next logical step with over 70% of public support. Next March, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council will be abolished, and

Day Two (Friday 23rd November)...cont'd

replaced with West Suffolk Council. This is one of the very first District-tier mergers in the country, which presents exciting opportunities to explore political and community leadership – but also a huge amount of challenges in getting everything ready for the new Council to begin. This session may particularly interest those who are working in authorities exploring their shared service relationships with partners, or are looking at reforming their governance structures.

Workshop 8; Member Development - The Essex Journey

Joanna Boaler, Head of Democracy and Transparency, Essex County Council

This session will take you on the journey of member development at Essex County Council; on the way you will stop at Member Failure, Steering Group, Buy-in and Charter with your final destination at Charter Plus Reaccreditation. The session will navigate you through the developments and changes that member development went through at Essex, how we navigated the potholes and diverted to a successful path. The presentation will also cover the future plans for member development at Essex County Council.

Plenary Session 1

Dominic Campbell, CEO FutureGov
Beyond the beige weight of bureaucracy - governance fit for the 21st century

Corporate services, boring as they might be, are where the DNA of organisations exists. Yet, we focus on fixing the arms and legs of public services. What we need above all else, is to recode our governance frameworks with the same enthusiasm to release us from the beige weight of bureaucracy holding us all back from true change and innovation. Digital government is more than just technology. Full-stack organisation redesign requires new ways of working, new governance and thoughtful application of 21st-century business models. Because the future is owned by those with the vision, leadership, creativity, political guile and guts to both imagine a different world and push us towards it.

Plenary Session 2

Stewart Jackson, Strategic Counsel and Advice on Brexit
Implications of Brexit on Local Government

As a former Councillor, MP and most recently, Special Advisor and Chief of Staff to David Davies, Stewart's presentation to conference will focus on what Brexit might mean for local government: specifically, autonomy for local government; funding; laws and legislation; place-based improvement; and workforce and community cohesion.

Plenary Session 3

Steve Head Speaker, Trainer, Coach, Author
Making the 1% Difference – The 149 Effect

This session will take the audience on a journey of self-awareness that will enable them to more positively impact on others, outperform competitors, minimise conflict, maximise personal and team performance, increase resilience and enable you to handle frustrations and difficult people. It will enable you to build on strengths to build self-esteem and confidence in yourself and your colleagues, raise your self-awareness and understand the impact you have on others.

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