







ADSO Conference 2018 - speakers and biographies

<p>John Austin, Chair ADSO</p>  <p>Leading the way for democratic services Giving a voice Encouraging professional excellence Support</p>	<p>Prior to his retirement in June 2016, John was Assistant Director, Corporate Governance at the London Borough of Enfield. He was also the Council's Monitoring Officer between 2004 and 2014.</p> <p>John had the ambition for some time to work with others to set up a professional association for the democratic services sector which was realised in 2009 with the inception of ADSO. Since then, ADSO has gone from strength to strength. John is the founding Chair of the Association and acts as an advisor for the ADSO Certificate and a specialist advisor for the Diploma. He is an independent investigator for complaints against councillors and also facilitates a number of training courses both within and outside of the Association.</p> <p>In his spare time, John is trying to improve his golf handicap, which is proving more difficult than he ever imagined.</p>
<p>HELEN BAILEY Chief Executive (Interim), North Somerset Council</p> 	<p>Helen is an experienced Chief Executive who has worked at a senior level in local, central and London government. She is currently interim Chief Executive at North Somerset Council. Prior to this she was Chief Executive of iMpower Management Consultancy. She served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime; was Chief Executive of Local Partnerships; Director of Public Services at HM Treasury and Chief Executive of the London Borough of Islington. During her six years there she helped move the council up the CPA ratings from poor to good.</p> <p>Helen started her career with the Greater London Council after which she worked as a consultant for PWC.</p>
<p>JOANNA BOALER Head of Democracy and Transparency, Essex County Council</p> 	<p>Joanna has worked at Essex County Council since 2004, supporting members and the organisations' governance framework in various roles.</p> <p>Having read Politics and Sociology at university and working for a number of MPs, Joanna is passionate about local democracy. In her current role, she has responsibility for a wide range of areas including Democratic Services (Committee, scrutiny, statutory school appeals, civic services, member support and development and corporate governance), Member Enquiries (MPs, MEPs and councillors) and Transparency (Information governance, freedom of information, subject access requests) and has led Essex County Council to achieve and retain Charter and Charter Plus status. She is also Essex's Statutory Scrutiny Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer and Deputy SIRO.</p> <p>Joanna was awarded the Diploma of Local Democracy in 2013 and received her Data Protection Practitioner Certificate this year, supporting the requirements of GDPR.</p> <p>As a Regional Representative for the East of England, Joanna is an ADSO Board Member and an Assessor for the ADSO Certificate.</p>

<p>SUSAN DALLISON Democratic Services Manager, Dorset Councils Partnership</p> 	<p>Susan has been working in Democratic Services for nearly 25 years; after completing a degree in Social Policy she took up a post as a Democratic Services Officer at the London Borough of Barnet learning her trade administering planning committees, housing benefit review boards and school admission appeals.</p> <p>Having grown up in Somerset, she moved back to the West Country to take up a post in democratic services for West Dorset District Council based in Dorchester and taking up the post of Head of Democratic Services in 1999. Since that time Susan has managed democratic services through a number of major changes, moving to a Leader and Cabinet authority in 2001 and merging the service when West Dorset District Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council became a partnership in 2011, shortly followed by a further merger in 2015 with North Dorset District Council. In her current post she works for three sovereign councils with 111 councillors.</p>
<p>SAM DYER Executive Coach and Trainer</p> 	<p>Sam Dyer is an NLP Master Practitioner and trainer. NLP is Neuro-Linguistic Programming - sometimes defined as the art and science of communication. He is a mindset coach and has consulting rooms London's prestigious Harley Street as well as in Cornwall, near where he lives.</p> <p>He lives with his wife, Cara, and has four daughters ranging in ages between 6 and 14. As well as being a self-confessed 'foodie', he enjoys spending time in and on the water.</p>
<p>JON EVANS Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance), Richmond and Wandsworth Councils</p> 	<p>Jon Evans has a 17 year career in Local Government and is currently an Assistant Chief Executive jointly employed by Wandsworth and Richmond Councils. Wandsworth and Richmond created a Shared Staffing Arrangement (SSA) in October 2016 – a single staffing structure from the Chief Executive down serving two councils and half a million Londoners. The SSA has delivered savings of £10m per council through reductions in management, joint commissioning and streamlining the back office. Jon sat on the Programme Board that delivered the SSA, giving him a unique perspective on delivering shared services and designing joint teams. Jon's current responsibilities include policy, performance and democratic services which all operate as single teams serving two councils. He is also a new Monitoring Officer for Wandsworth. Prior to the SSA, Jon's career focussed on corporate policy, being responsible for policy, performance, and communications in Wandsworth. Jon has also worked at the Audit Commission where he supported councils navigating CPA and CAA performance assessments.</p>

**SIMON GOACHER,
Weightmans Solicitors**



Simon is an experienced local government lawyer and prior to joining Weightmans in February 2013, was a Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer at two large unitary authorities for the previous six years. Most recently he was Head of Legal and Democratic Services at Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council.

Simon has extensive experience of advising public bodies and other organisations on matters relating to all aspects of local government law. He has acted as the legal adviser to the full Council and Executive including the legal framework relating to the appointment and dismissal of senior and statutory officers.

Since joining Weightmans Simon has advised a number of authorities on sensitive political issues including a number of member conduct investigations and investigations into whistleblowing allegations. Simon also regularly provides training to senior officers and members on information governance, governance and conduct issues.

**PAUL HANSON
Democratic Services
Manager, Northamptonshire
County Council**



Paul Hanson has been Democratic Services Manager at Northamptonshire County Council since 2013. He has worked in the field of democratic services since 2005, having graduated from University College London in 2001. Paul has considerable experience of local authority governance and this has enabled him to contribute to the work of a number of other authorities, particularly in the field of members' allowances. Having been in post throughout Northamptonshire's well-publicised difficulties - including the issuing of two Section 114 notices, a Section 29 Auditor's Advisory Notice and subsequent intervention by the Secretary of State - Paul is uniquely positioned to share his insights into the role of democratic services in supporting an authority through a through a period of crisis and dramatic change.

**STEVE HEAD
Speaker, Trainer, Coach and
Author**



Steve Head is a full time speaker, inspirational trainer, coach and author

Steve created the Steve Head Ltd speaking and coaching company following 18 years' experience in the field of business management, people leadership and product marketing and training. His knowledge and skill take a broader spectrum when taking into account his 22+ years' experience as a top sports coach.

Over the past 17 years Steve has delivered over 2000 sessions in the UK and Europe to help organisations, teams and individuals deliver sustained personal, team and business success, and is now one of the most sought after speakers in the UK. He is known by his clients as a dynamic speaker with practical ideas that simply work.

Steve also coaches a number of executive team members to enhance personal impact. And is also coach to the England Wheelchair Rugby League Squad. Audiences will experience fast paced interactive and practical sessions.

JOHN HESS
Honorary Professor, School of Politics, University of Nottingham



John was the BBC's first political editor for the East Midlands reporting for 20 years from Downing Street, Parliament and on his local political scene. During his distinguished broadcasting career, he was nominated for three Royal Television Society awards and for two years running was a finalist in the Midlands Media Awards as TV journalist of the year.

He regularly brought his inside knowledge to the BBC's News Channel, Radio 4's Today programme and to viewers of both "East Midlands Today" and BBC1's "Sunday Politics".

He retired in 2015, but contributed to the BBC's coverage of the EU Referendum campaign and the 2017 General Election and now works part-time for BBC One's "Sunday Politics".

He is an Honorary Professor at the School of Politics and International Relations, University of Nottingham, running a series of weekly political talks for students. He also chairs the board of trustees for the "East Midlands-based Music for Everyone" charity and is a trustee of "Inspire", the charity that runs the library, cultural and archive services in Nottinghamshire.

PAUL HOEY
Co-Director, Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd



Paul is co-director at Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd which supports councils on standards issues. Since being set up in 2012 they have worked with 400 councils on training, investigation work and more detailed governance reviews.




Paul previously worked extensively for central government nationally and internationally for over 20 years in a range of policy roles including over ten years as the director in charge of strategy and stakeholder relations at Standards for England. He has been the acknowledged national expert on the local government standards framework for the last decade and has given expert evidence to both the Parliamentary Select Committee and Committee on Standards in Public Life enquiries into local government standards.

PHILLIP HORSFIELD
Vice President, Lawyers in Local Government



Phil is the Vice-President of Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) and currently the Deputy Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer at Rutland County Council. Prior to moving to Rutland County Council, Phil has held various roles in local government including at most recently at Broxtowe Borough Council. Working in local government has meant leading on reviews of the constitution including changing from a Cabinet to Committee system. He has also been the officer lead in relation to ethical standards.

Before his move to Rutland County Council he also fulfilled the role of Monitoring Officer at both Rushcliffe and Broxtowe Borough Councils. In addition to contributing to the Model Code of Conduct that was produced by LLG following the changes brought about by the Localism Act, Phil also provided evidence to the Committee for Standards in Public Life in their current deliberations.

<p>STEWART JACKSON Strategic Counsel and Advice on Brexit</p> 	<p>Prior to being elected as an MP, Stewart worked for Business Link and in the banking sector. He became a Councillor for the London Borough of Ealing and was elected as a MP for Peterborough in 2005. In the House of Commons, he has been a member of the Regulatory Reform and Health Select Committees, Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Pakistan, Vice Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Friends of Islam and appointed to the opposition whips office amongst other roles.</p> <p>Stewart currently provides Strategic Counsel and Advice on Brexit and has unique expertise, comprehensive knowledge and insight across the whole Brexit process. He has supported the Secretary of State, Ministers and senior Civil Servants by giving top level strategic advice on policy development, media and communications and engagement with Parliament, UK & EU business and commerce, think tanks, devolved administrations as well as No10 Downing Street and other Special Advisors and Government Departments.</p>
<p>LEAH MICKLEBOROUGH Service Manager – Democratic Services/Monitoring Office, Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils</p> 	<p>Leah Mickleborough is the Service Manager, Democratic Services, and Monitoring Officer for St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council, as well as the Interim Monitoring Officer for the Shadow West Suffolk Council. Leah is a qualified accountant, having trained as an external auditor with PwC.</p> <p>She joined South Norfolk Council in 2008, supporting their internal audit shared service partnership, before transferring to Democratic Services in 2012 and being appointed Monitoring Officer in 2014. Last year, she joined the West Suffolk Councils, and has held a key role in creating of one of the first District tier mergers in the Country. Leah lives in Norfolk and balances her enjoyment of exploring alternative governance models in local government with a love of baking!</p>
<p>LOUISE ROUND Chief Executive, Tandridge District Council</p> 	<p>Louise Round has been the Chief Executive of Tandridge District Council since 2013. She is a qualified solicitor and acted as Monitoring Officer for London Boroughs for many years. Other roles include a Board Director of the Gatwick Diamond Initiative Limited, Vice Chair of the District Chief Executives Network, Chair of Governors, Ricards Lodge High School, Merton, trustee of Surrey Youth Focus and Member of the Advisory Board of The Faculty of Business and Law, Kingston University (2010 – 2013). She is SOLACE spokesperson on elections.</p>

**Chief Executive,
Association of Electoral
Administrators**



Peter is Chief Executive of the Association of Electoral Administrators, having been employed by the AEA since April 2016. Alongside his daily responsibilities, he works as an examiner for the Association and is an accredited trainer.

He previously worked for two London Boroughs (including alongside John Austin for too many years to mention!) and two district councils and was seconded to the Electoral Commission on two separate occasions to advise on guidance and law.

At Enfield, in addition to managing the electoral process, he was responsible for the delivery of Democratic Services, Overview and Scrutiny, Mayoralty, Political Group Offices and Births, Deaths and Marriages, and was a member of ADSO. He is a strong advocate of those who deliver democratic services, whether in electing individuals to public office or ensuring good governance of the decision-making process.