



Association of
Democratic Services
Officers

Board Member Profile

John Austin: ADSO Chair

Apart from four years after leaving school, my career in local government was within democratic services, culminating in my position of Assistant Director, Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer at the London Borough of Enfield. I retired in 2016.

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 we were able to establish ADSO in 2009 and since then, we've gone from strength to strength. The Covid 19 pandemic has confirmed my long-held view that those who work within the sector are dedicated professionals who deserve to be recognised as such. ADSO is fulfilling that role in so many ways and is highly regarded by its members and partners as being the voice for good governance.

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

In addition to my ADSO role, I carry out independent investigations into complaints against councillors. For my sins, I support Everton FC but have the pleasure of being a volunteer one day a week for it's amazing charity – Everton in the Community. This does fantastic work across all age ranges and sectors of society and I have met some fantastic people who have turned their lives around with the help of the charity. It's so rewarding and inspiring.