



**ADSO Annual Conference and Awards 2023**

Leonardo Royal Hotel, Godstow Road, Oxford OX2 8AL

**Day 1 Programme - Thursday 23 November 2023**

11:00	<b>Arrival and Registration</b>	University Suite reception/Oriel lobby
11:30	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> <b>John Austin, ADSO Chair</b>	University Suite Main Hall
11:40	<b>Facilitated Discussions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Working in a Political Environment</b> - Mark Towers</li> <li>• <b>Steps into Management</b> - Peter Sass</li> <li>• <b>Open Surgery – ‘Ask the experts’</b> - James McLaughlin, Karen Widdowson, Vicky Wemyss-Cooke</li> <li>• <b>Professional Development for senior DSOs</b> - Susan Biddle</li> <li>• <b>How to attract good staff and keep them</b> - Tommy Shaw, Fiona Rae</li> </ul>	University Suite Main Hall/Charlbury/ Blenheim/Wolvercote
12:30	<b>Lunch</b>	Oriel Suite
13:30	<b>Presentation from Our Gold Sponsor, CIVICA</b>	University Suite Main Hall
13:40	<b>Workshops</b> <p><b>1. ADSO Qualifications</b> An insight into the ADSO Certificate and Diploma programmes, what they cover, how they work, what support is provided to learners and what learners will have at the end of their studies. <b>Speakers:</b> Michelle Beaumont, ADSO Qualifications Manger and Sarah Papper, South West Councils with Hans Rijs, IIMC/VvG</p> <p><b>2. Wirral Council – Team of the Year 2022</b> Wirral Democratic Services Team will describe their journey and lessons learned through periods of change, including moving to no overall control and a committee system, which led to them being the ADSO Team of the Year in 2022. <b>Speakers:</b> Dan Sharples and Anna Perrett, Wirral Council</p> <p><b>3. The English Devolution Accountability Framework and the Scrutiny Protocol: implications for local authorities?</b> This workshop will talk about the contents of DLUHC’s “Scrutiny Protocol” for combined authorities and what this means for all local authorities and their approach to scrutiny, oversight, accountability and transparency. <b>Speaker:</b> Ed Hammond, Deputy Chief Executive, CfGS</p>	Blenheim  Charlbury  University Suite Main Hall

	<p><b>4. The 5 Ways to Wellbeing</b></p> <p>The 5 Ways to Wellbeing are evidenced-based practical steps we can all take to reduce stress and improve our mental wellbeing. The mental health equivalent of 5 portions of fruit-and-veg a day! You will be encouraged to instigate a plan to embed these simple actions into your daily lives.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Katie de Bertrand, Workplace Wellbeing Training Manager, Oxford Mind</p>	Wolvercote
14:45	<b>Refreshments &amp; Meet the Sponsors</b>	Oriel Suite
15:30	<p><b>Plenary: The Future of Governance in Local Councils</b></p> <p><b>Caroline Green – Chief Executive - Oxford City Council and Paul Staines – Head of Programmes - Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal</b></p> <p>Caroline and Paul will reflect on the changes in local government models of delivery in response to financial challenges, and the Devolution agenda in the context of greater political uncertainty and increased government scrutiny. What does “good governance” look like in a world of change? What can we learn from when things go wrong? And the important role of Democratic Services Teams in helping councils navigate safely through change.</p>	University Suite Main Hall
16:45	<b>ADSO General meeting</b>	University Suite Main Hall
17:15	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>John Austin, ADSO Chair</b></p>	University Suite Main Hall
19.00	<b>Drinks Reception (kindly sponsored by Civico)</b>	Oriel Suite
19:30 - 12:00	<b>Dinner, Awards &amp; Disco</b>	University Suite Main Hall

### Day 2 Programme - Friday 24 November 2023

9:00	<b>Arrival and tea and coffee</b>	Oriel Suite
9:30	<b>Welcome and overview of the day</b>	University Suite Main Hall
9:40	<p><b>Question Time Panel</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Peter Stanyon</b> - Chief Executive, Association of Electoral Administrators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Hoey – Hoey Ainscough Associates</li> <li>• Councillor Imogen Payter - Assistant Cabinet Lead – Community Safety – Havant Borough Council</li> <li>• Martin Reeves – Chief Executive – Oxfordshire County Council</li> <li>• Karen Bradford – Chief Executive, South Kesteven District Council</li> </ul>	University Suite Main Hall

10:40	<p><b>Plenary: The Relationship between Democratic Service Officers and Councillors</b>  <b>Councillor Imogen Payter - Assistant Cabinet Lead – Community Safety – Havant Borough Council</b>  Understanding the widening role of a councillor and developing the relationship between members and democratic services officers.</p>	University Suite Main Hall
11:40	<b>Refreshments</b>	Oriel Suite
12:00	<p><b>Plenary: Governance Models – does it matter?</b>  <b>Mike Jackson – Chief Executive – London Boroughs of Richmond and Wandsworth</b>  Having held a variety of leadership roles across the civil service and local government, Mike will share some of his experience and insight from working across the central-local government interface, working in every variety of local authority governance models, across 3 core cities (Birmingham, Nottingham and Bristol), a rural unitary (North Somerset), two-tier working at Norfolk County Council and currently two London boroughs (Richmond and Wandsworth) operating with different models of governance.</p>	University Suite Main Hall
13:00	<b>Lunch</b>	Oriel Suite
14:00	<p><b>Workshops</b></p> <p><b>5. #CitizensNotConsumers - community engagement as whole council work</b>  This session will explore the narratives, rituals and totems that shape the practice and culture of local democracy - and invite you to consider the role DSOs might play in truly championing local democracy.  <b>Speaker:</b> Jon Alexander, Co-Founder, New Citizenship Project</p> <p><b>6. Standards/Code of Conduct</b>  This session looks at some of the key aspects of the Code of Conduct such as disrespect and bullying and examining, with case studies, where the line lies between robust challenge, freedom of speech and breaching the Code of Conduct. It will also cover member-officer relations and declarations of interest. Delegates are encouraged to bring any questions they might have around the code and complaint handling.  <b>Speakers:</b> Paul Hoey and Natalie Ainscough, Co-directors, Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd</p> <p><b>7. The value of the Civic Office</b>  As resources become increasingly stretched and DSOs are finding themselves asked to cover Civic duties, it is increasingly important to understand the value of the Civic Office and what the challenges are. Join Tracy, Michelle and colleagues to share ideas and experiences and learn about the support and resources available to NACO members.</p>	<p>Charlbury</p> <p>University Suite Main Hall</p> <p>Wolvercote</p>

	<p><b>Speakers:</b> Tracy Frisby, Chair, NACO and Michelle Beaumont, Democratic Services Manager, Richmond and Wandsworth</p> <p><b>8. The challenges of working in a Council with no overall control</b>  How do Democratic Services Teams manage the challenges thrown up in situations of no overall control in their political administrations? This workshop aims to provide an understanding of NOC and some examples of how NOC Councils run. It will give delegates practical examples of issues that may arise and how to manage them in their own authorities.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Priya Patel, Head of Democratic &amp; Electoral Services, Wokingham Borough Council and Karen Widdowson, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer, Charnwood Borough Council</p>	Blenheim
15:00	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b>  John Austin, ADSO Chair</p>	University Suite Main Hall
15:10	<p><b>Departure</b></p>	