



District Councils' Network Annual Conference 2024

Thursday 14 – Friday 15 March **Sopwell House, St Albans**



#dcnconf2024



Welcome from the DCN Chairman



Welcome to the DCN Annual Conference 2024!

This year promises to be an exceptional gathering, with more participants from across DCN member councils than ever before. I eagerly anticipate the chance to meet new friends and reconnect with familiar ones.

Our focus for this conference extends beyond the immediate horizon, aiming to cast our gaze toward the year 2030 and beyond. It's an opportunity for us to collectively lenges ahead, how to overcome these and the myriad opportunities awaiting us in the

contemplate the challenges ahead, how to overcome these and the myriad opportunities awaiting us in the years to come.

While we've curated a lineup of truly inspiring speakers, the heart of this conference lies in your active participation. I encourage each of you to engage fully in the sessions, pose probing questions and contribute your insights. The discourse will undoubtedly extend beyond the formal agenda, continuing informally during breaks, over coffee, and during our communal dinner.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for supporting DCN Conference 2024, to our members, to our strategic partners and exhibitors for their unwavering support, and to our brilliant speakers for enriching our discussions with their expertise. Local Government is the backbone of this country supporting everyone within our communities.

May this conference be a resounding success, brimming with fruitful exchanges and new perspectives.

Best wishes

Sam Chapman-Allen

Sam

Councillor Sam Chapman-Allen, Chairman of the District Councils' Network and Leader of Breckland District Council

About the District Councils' Network

The District Councils' Network (DCN) is a cross-party network of 169 district and unitary councils. We are a special interest group of the Local Government Association, providing a single voice for all district services.

DCN member councils deliver a wide range of local government services to over 21 million people – 37% of England's population. They cover 59% of the country by area. DCN councils are home to 39% of England's businesses and 32% of national Gross Domestic Product.

DCN councils play a unique role in shaping local places to make them more prosperous. They drive local economic growth and the resurgence of local pride that goes with it. They hold vital keys to improving health and wellbeing and reducing pressure on the NHS. They have an unparalleled ability to support local residents who need it most and help prevent the social problems of tomorrow.



DCN Annual Conference: useful information

Sopwell House emergency instructions

Action on hearing the fire alarm (a continuous bell ringing for more than 2 minutes):

- Please vacate the building via the nearest fire exit (car park)
- Report to the organiser at the assembly point which is located in the car park
- Do not use the lifts
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings
- Wait at the assembly point until given the all-clear to return to the building

Wireless network and Twitter

- Get talking about our conference on social media! Join the conversation on #dcnconf2024.
- There is a complimentary private wireless network in the conference area
- Wi-fi: C&E Password: sopwellh

Luggage and coach times: for guests staying at Premier Inn

All guests can leave their luggage in the cloakroom at Sopwell House Conference and Banqueting Centre when they register at the start of the conference.

For guests staying at Premier Inn or Travelodge, coaches will be available at Sopwell House after the first day of the conference to take you to your hotel, allowing you to check into your room prior to the drinks reception and dinner. Coaches will return to the venue in time for the drinks reception and take you back to your hotel at the end of the evening. Note that the Premier Inn and Travelodge are right next to each other.

- Depart from Sopwell House outside the reception at 5.55pm
- Depart from outside Premier Inn at 6.45pm and at 7.10pm
- Depart from Sopwell House outside the reception at 10.30pm and 11:30pm

Coaches will be available on Friday morning outside Premier Inn to return you to the conference at Sopwell House. Please check out of your hotel before leaving to return to the conference.

Depart from outside Premier Inn at 8.00am and at 8.10am.

Taxi firm details

Abbey A Star Taxis

Contact details: abbeyastar@hotmail.com or 01727867777

There is a taxi rank outside the main entrance of St Alban's station (note there are two entrances).



Strategic Partners

















Vistry Group

Conference Exhibitors











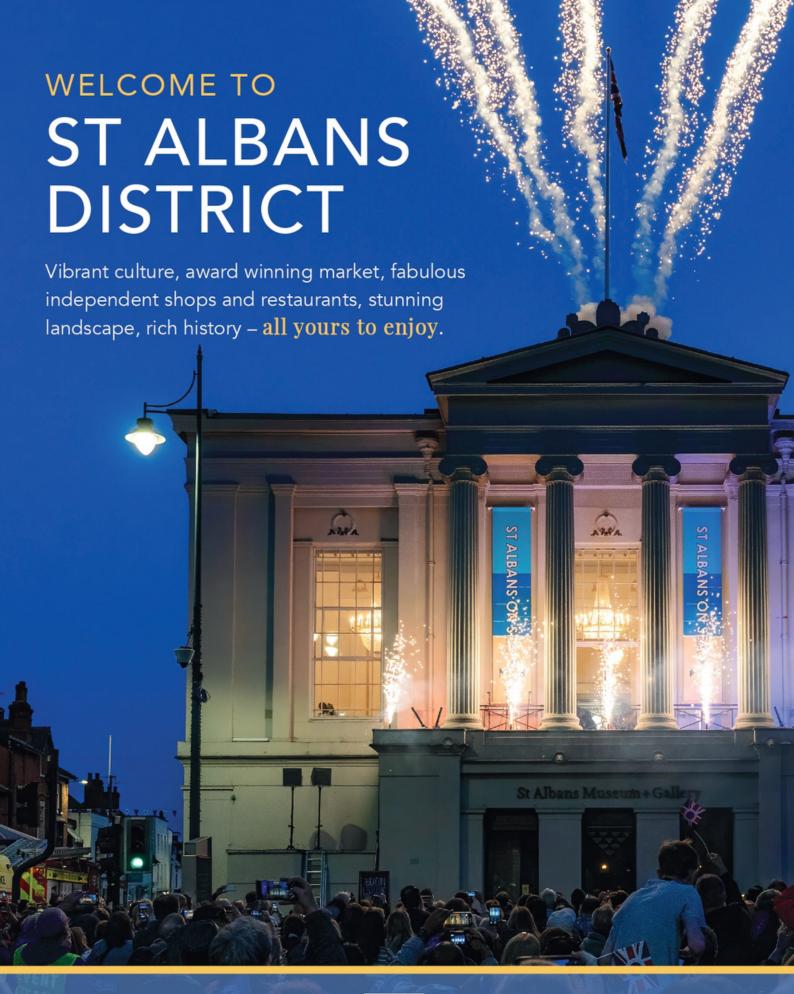
























Programme

Thursday 14 March

11.30am	Registration opens	
11.45am	Exhibition and lunch	
12.30pm	Conference starts: Welcome Trevor Holden, Chair of DCN Chief Executive Group and Managing Director, Broadland and South Norfolk Councils	
12.35pm	Opening address Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen, DCN Chairman	
12.45pm	Panel discussion: Seizing the initiative on the environment Dr Lucy Hubble-Rose, Deputy Director, UCL Climate Action Unit Professor Adam Beaumont, Environmentalist and entrepreneur Cllr Andrew Mellen, Leader, Mid Suffolk District Council Chair: Adele Gritten, Chief Executive, Local Partnerships	
1.25pm	Keynote speech: the Liberal Democrat view Helen Morgan MP, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Housing, Communities and Local Government Chair: Cllr Bridget Smith, DCN Vice Chair (Liberal Democrat) and Leader, South Cambridgeshire District Council	
1.45pm	Ministerial keynote speech Simon Hoare MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Chair: Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen, DCN Chairman and Leader, Breckland Council	
2.15pm	Breakout sessions Session 1: Oflog and the future of sector-led improvement (Princess Victoria) Session 2: Mind the detection gap! How to avoid the cyber danger zone (Mountbatten Suite) Session 3: Districts driving the skills and employment agenda (Princess Alice)	
3.00pm	Refreshments, networking and exhibition	



panel discussion: Investing in our places Lord Harrington of Watford, Chair, Review of Foreign Direct Investment Sarah Longlands, Chief Executive, Centre for Local Economic Strategies Chris Vann, Chief Operating Officer, Autolus Technologies Andrew Taylor, Group Planning Director, Vistry Group Chair: Rose Rouse, Vice Chair of DCN Chief Executive Group and Chief Executive, Pendle Borough Council Keynote speech Chris Boardman, National Active Travel Commissioner and Chair, Sport England Chair: Ian Fytche, Vice Chair of DCN Chief Executive Group and Chief Executive, North Kesteven District Council Keynote speech: the Labour view Liz Twist MP, Shadow Minister (Levelling Up, Housing, Communities and Local Government). Chair: Cllr Susan Brown, DCN Vice Chair (Labour) and Leader, Oxford City Council Panel discussion: Supporting our communities in difficult times Dame Clare Moriarty, Chief Executive, Citizens Advice Sumi Rabindrakumar, Head of Policy and Research, Trussell Trust Dr Simon Kaye, Director of Policy, Reform Chair: Cllr Hannah Dalton, Leader, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council 5:45pm Close of day one: exhibition, networking and free time Drinks reception Sponsored by: CCLA GOOD INVESTMENT Conference gala dinner Sponsored by: **CCLA** Conference gala dinner Sponsored by: **Conference gala dinner		
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After dinner speaker: Steph McGovern, Journalist and TV Presenter	,	eriergy
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Programme

Friday 15 March

8.30am	Refreshments and exhibition	
	Closed political group meetings (for councillors only)	
8.45am	Conservative Group (Lord Mountbatten Room)	
	Independent Group (Lady Patricia / Princess Alice Room)	
	Labour Group (Prince Louis Room)	
	Liberal Democrat Group (Princess Victoria Room)	
8:45am	Closed chief executive session (for officers only) St Albans Suite	
	Keynote: The Al revolution	
9.30am	Dr Chris Meah , Chief Executive, School of Code and Chair, West Midlands Al Strategy Board	
	Chair: Dr Catherine Howe, Chief Executive, Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council	
	Panel discussion: Preventing future problems	
10.00am	The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt, Former Secretary of State for Health	
10.00am	Sarah Perman, Director of Public Health, Hertfordshire County Council	
	Chair: Cllr Richard Wright, Leader, North Kesteven District Council	
	LGA Chairman's address	
10.45am	Cllr Shaun Davies, Chairman, Local Government Association	
	Chair: Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen, DCN Chairman and Leader, Breckland Council	
11.05am	Refreshments, networking and exhibition	
	Breakout sessions	
	Session 1: The next frontier in workforce transformation (Princess Victoria)	
11.30am	Session 2: Reimagining energy in our homes and communities (Princess Alice)	
	Session 3: Creating a high-performing culture in a political environment	
	(Mountbatten Suite)	



	Panel discussion: What voters think	
12:15pm	Gideon Skinner, Head of Politics Research, Ipsos	
	Professor Sir John Curtice , Professor of Politics, Strathclyde University and Senior Research Fellow, National Centre for Social Research	
	Chair: Laura Taylor, Chief Executive, Winchester City Council	
	Keynote: Embracing the challenge of leadership	
12.55pm	Luca Feser, Trans-Pacific Rowing Team	
12.55pm	Chair: Trevor Holden, Chair of DCN Chief Executive Group and Managing Director, Broadland and South Norfolk Councils	
1 25pm	Closing remarks	
1.25pm Clir Sam Chapman-Allen, Chairman, District Councils' Network		
1.30pm	Lunch and networking	
2.00pm	Conference closes	



Breakout sessions

Thursday 14 March, 2.15pm

Session 1: Oflog and the future of sector-led improvement

Speakers: Josh Goodman, Chief Executive, Oflog; **CIIr Abi Brown OBE**, LGA Deputy Chair and Chair, LGA Improvement and Innovation Board

Chair: Peter Fleming, former Leader of Sevenoaks District Council

Session summary: The creation of the Office for Local Government (Oflog) has been one of the biggest developments affecting local government in the past year. At a time when councils are under increasing pressure, Oflog's arrival has accentuated important questions about how councils sustain the vital services we deliver, how we measure performance, how we can anticipate problems early and how councils can innovate and improve.

Join this session to hear from Josh Goodman about his vision for Oflog and engage in a debate about how Oflog can work with local councils and fit with the wider ecosystem of sector-led improvement.

Room: Princess Victoria

Session 2: Mind the detection gap! How to avoid the cyber danger zone

Speakers: Kurtis Toy, Chief Executive of the Cyber Centre of Excellence; **Colin Jupe**, Managing Director of Assurity Systems; **Eileen Buck**, Commercial Director of Assurity Systems

Chair: Jon McGinty, Managing Director, Gloucester City Council

Session summary: As the delivery of local public services becomes increasingly cloud-focused and digitalised, it's more important than ever to have a layered defence approach to stop cyber threats and data breaches. iESE launched the Cyber Centre of Excellence (CCoE) to help drive major advances in the level of cyber protection in the public sector. Worryingly, the data shows that councils are being regularly attacked and successfully breached. Traditional cyber security solutions are being defeated by modern malware. This detection gap is a danger zone, but one that can be closed with ground-breaking technology.

We will reflect on the threats faced by local authorities and explore what good "layered defence" looks like. We will discuss what preventative measures councils should have in place to block malicious activity, and to provide the investigation and remediation capabilities needed to respond to security incidents and alerts – allowing your day-to-day operations to be as secure as possible.

Room: Mountbatten Suite



Session 3: Districts driving the skills and employment agenda

Speakers: Clir Nick Worth, Leader, South Holland District Council; **Scott Logan**, Chief Executive, Basildon Borough Council; **Bill Cullen**, Chief Executive, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Chair: Dr Susan Priest, Chief Executive, Folkestone & Hythe District Council

Session summary: District councils play a vital role in shaping the skills and employment landscape to meet the changing needs of communities and local economies. With advancing technology, shifting demographics, and economic changes, it is critical for councils to address skills gaps to create a strong and adaptable local workforce and to attract valuable inward investment.

This session will showcase the innovative strategies employed by South Holland District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, and Basildon Borough Council to drive skills, training, and technical education to ensure the resilience of their local economies.

Room: Princess Alice



Breakout sessions

Friday 15 March, 11.30am

Session 1: The next frontier in workforce transformation

Speakers: Peter Cheese, Chief Executive, Chartered Institute of Professional Development

Chair: Maxine O'Mahony, Chief Executive, Breckland Council

Session summary: Councils have long understood the imperative to keep developing their workforces and operations to continue delivering excellent services to their communities. In an age of rapid technological change, acute financial pressures, skills shortages and changing expectations of residents, how can councils innovate to genuinely transform how they operate and how they get the best out of their workforce?

What does the future of work look like? How can councils compete with the private sector to recruit and retain talented staff? How can we increase productivity? What does this mean for the culture of our councils and the way we lead them? Join this session to debate these questions and hear insights from industry expert Peter Cheese and district chief executives who are leading the way on transformation.

Room: Princess Victoria

Session 2: Reimagining energy in our homes and communities

Speakers: **Clir Michael Jones**, Leader, Crawley Borough Council; **Clir Jacqui Taylor**, Lead Councillor for Housing, St Albans City & District Council; Simon Smith, Assistant Director of Housing, St Albans City & District Council; **Douglas McKinnon-Snell**, Renewable Energy Expert, EBIS

Chair: Alun Parfitt, Strategy Director, Capital Local Public Services

Session summary: Join us to discuss how district councils can deliver the transition of housing from gas to renewable energy sources. We will hear from council leaders and housing directors about how they are leading the way in tackling the challenge of decarbonisation. We will explore the obstacles that stand in the way of decarbonisation and how councils can innovate to find alternatives to central government funding and capitalise on emerging trends in the energy industry to access renewable energy.

Room: Princess Alice

Session 3: Creating a high-performing culture in a political environment

Speakers: Facilitated by a team of specialists from Cratus Group

Chair: Nick Kilby, CEO of Cratus Group

Session summary: Join this interactive workshop, run by Cratus Group who specialise in supporting local government teams to reach their full potential. The workshop will help unlock insights into the unique challenges and opportunities of working in a political environment. We will delve into the interface of officer / member relationships and explore how to create a high-performing culture in the context of local government.

Room: Mountbatten Suite



DCN research project on the role of DCN councils in attracting investment: your chance to contribute!

DCN member councils play a vital role in attracting inward investment, creating local economic growth and jobs. Many district councils are doing impressive, innovative things to attract private investment.

But the potential of district councils to create and deliver valuable business opportunities is not as widely known among investors as it could be. And the role of districts in driving economic development is not always fully appreciated by central government.

DCN is partnering with Henham Strategy on an exciting new project to:

- showcase the pivotal role districts play in driving economic development and attracting investment; and
- produce a toolkit as a practical 'how-to' guide for DCN member councils to help you
 develop strong investment propositions and attract more investment, drawing on best
 practice and innovation from across DCN council areas.

To help us to produce research that is as comprehensive and compelling as possible, we are running a member survey to identify evidence and examples from a wide array of our member councils.

The survey seeks to analyse and quantify the inward investment secured by DCN councils as well as identify the challenges councils are encountering. It aims to understand the full range of experience for councils in landing inward investment. It covers what has happened, what has worked to make that happened, and what has prevented more from happening.

We'd be extremely grateful if your council could complete the survey: <u>District Councils'</u> Network Survey (surveymonkey.com). The deadline to respond is Monday 25 March.

We encourage your council to participate in the survey. The more evidence we gather from a diverse range of our member councils, the more powerful our research will be.

For further information please contact the DCN team (dcn@local.gov.uk) or Henham Strategy (dcn@henhamstrategy.co.uk).







Conference strategic partners

Capita

At Capita, we partner with our customers and the wider sector to address some of the most pressing challenges facing society to help create better outcomes for the UK. Our services touch the lives of millions of local residents, businesses and visitors across the country.

Whether it is maintaining community spaces, boosting local businesses, supporting people to build better homes, paying benefits, supporting safer housing, or finding shelter for homeless people – we help our customers create thriving communities. The impact of the cost-of-living crisis continues to grow which means increased pressures on demand for a range of services, especially those related to welfare, housing, and homelessness. This is why Capita is committed to working with the talented officers and political leaders within the District Councils' Network and third sector to tackle these challenges head on. We look forward to supporting you with tried and tested solutions, thought leadership, showcasing innovation from across the public and private sector, helping you with insight and best practice from across our client base, and highlighting how new technology can help provide financial sustainability and better customer experiences for your communities.

Dale Wood, Managing Director, Local Government & Housing, Capita https://www.capita.com/industries/government/local-government

Cratus group

Cratus Group is a leading communications consultancy, providing integrated strategic communications and campaigns across multiple sectors. Founded in 2009, we've helped some of the UK's best known brands and councils to deliver local and national campaigns, manage political and reputational risks, and influence national policy on some of the most important issues facing the UK.

Our expert Local Government team has an in-depth insight into local government and has worked with councils to solve complex issues as well as being a thought leader in the sector. Our team delivers strategic engagement programmes across devolved administrations, district and borough councils and unitaries – helping organisations to shape and deliver local policy at the highest level.

https://cratus.co.uk/



eEnergy is a market-leading full service, funded decarbonisation partner, revolutionising the path to net zero for the public sector. We empower councils, schools and the NHS to eliminate energy waste, reduce energy usage and transition to low

carbon energy solutions, without the need for upfront capital investment.

Our unique Net Zero fund, backed by NatWest, has been specifically designed to meet the needs of the public sector, providing a competitive, simple, flexible and compliant, off-balance sheet decarbonisation funding mechanism. This enables projects to be delivered rapidly, without



the need for upfront capital investment, delivering recurring revenue savings from day one.

Our end-to-end solutions help you overcome the challenges of identifying and delivering decarbonisation projects. From design and procurement, through to installation and ongoing maintenance, our experts help you navigate the complexities, while minimising operational disruption.

We help you make net zero possible in three ways:

- Reduction: Capital-free energy efficiency solutions including LED lighting at no upfront cost.
- **Generation:** Deployment of clean onsite solar energy generation via rooftop, ground mount or carport solar PV.
- Charging: Electric vehicle charging solutions for your fleet, staff and visitors.

All of this is underpinned by our data solutions, enabling effective management and reporting of your energy infrastructure. Our data services help you in identifying energy wastage, driving sustainability and unlocking operational efficiencies. With over 1000 decarbonisation projects successfully completed, eEnergy is your trusted partner to accelerate your path to net zero.

Learn More: www.eenergy.com



CCLA's clients are involved in many aspects of public life and their investments make an important contribution to their achievements.

GOOD INVESTMENT CCLA's ambition is to deliver trusted, responsibly managed, strongly performing products and services aligned to our clients' values and purpose. A description of Good Investment that most people would recognise.

CCLA provides opportunities for local authorities to work with the investment management industry to effect real, positive change in communities. Please come and talk to us about what more 'good' we could be doing, together, for a better world.

CCLA presently manages over £2.4 billion of local authority funds and a further £10.7 billion¹ of charitable funds, making us the largest manager of not-for-profit organisations in the UK.²

CCLA is part owned by The Local Authorities' Mutual Investment Trust (LAMIT), comprised of representatives from the associations of local government from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

CCLA Investment Management Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

www.ccla.co.uk

¹ as at Jan 24 ² Charity Finance Survey Nov 23





iESE is a not-for-profit organisation created by the sector for the sector, with a mission to enhance the improvement and efficiency of local public services.

We launched the Cyber Centre of Excellence (CCoE) in January 2023 to help drive forward major advances in the level of cyber protection in our local authorities and the UK public sector. With our vision of making the UK the safest place to live, work and play online, we have brought together the most knowledgeable and well-respected people

in the industry to understand the cyber threats we face and how to address them.

Through this expertise and member collaboration we aim to stay ahead of the growing and everpresent threat, offering peace of mind to our member organisations. We have made military grade support, products, training and advice available to the public sector by understanding what best-of-breed protection is and making this knowledge and these innovations available to procure simply at high street prices through our collective purchasing power.

Essentially, the CCoE offers a one-stop-shop to assist members throughout their cyber security journey from implementation and beyond. Over the last year, we have conducted a series of pilot programmes with councils, care providers and schools across the UK, and have conducted the first ever passive scan of all 382 UK councils which we are replicating on an annual basis. We have a number of services readily available for councils to purchase.

Kurtis Toy, Chief Executive of the CCoE. For more information about the CCOE, please visit www.ccoe.org.uk or contact us directly at enquiries@ccoe.org.uk.



Local Partnerships delivers value and efficacy for the public purse. As a key interface between local and central government, we provide expert advice and practical resources alongside project/programme delivery support, enabling public services to thrive.

As an in-house consultancy jointly owned by the LGA, Treasury and Welsh Government, we work solely for central government departments, the Welsh Government, councils and combined authorities.

Whether supporting and accelerating the delivery of major infrastructure, tackling climate challenges through waste efficiency and renewable energy propositions through to wider placemaking initiatives, we help transform services across the public sector ecosystem.

https://localpartnerships.gov.uk/





Like district councils, Penna are also celebrating our 50th Anniversary. 1974 was obviously a busy year for local government, and it has been our privilege to partner with hundreds of local authorities to help them find, excite, and secure diverse talent to drive forward their council priorities and plans.

We are also delighted to be supporting this year the DCN's Staff Development Programme and using our expertise, understanding and passion for career development to help the sector grow its own, and build sustainable talent pools for the vital roles in local government that make a real difference to people's lives.

Go to www.penna.com to find out more about our services:
Assessment • Candidate Management • Candidate Sourcing • Digital and Social • EDI Consultancy • Employer Branding • Employee Communications • Executive Interim • Executive Search • Performance Media • Recruitment Marketing

We look forward to seeing you and celebrating the great work of the District Councils at the 2024 Conference.



Norse Group is very different to most companies. Wholly owned by Norfolk County Council, it is the UK's leading local authority trading company, with a forward order book of £2 billion. Its ownership means that throughout the organisation there is a deep-rooted commitment to public service values, and its profits are returned to the public

purse rather than to private shareholders. Norse's annual turnover of around £350 million and workforce of more than 9,000 people make it a major force in the delivery of outsourced services.

The group comprises three primary companies: Norse Commercial Services - environmental, highways, transport, housing repairs and FM services; Norse Consulting - architecture, design, estates management and building consultancy; and Norsecare - care homes in Norfolk. Norse began trading in 1988 in response to compulsory competitive tendering, initially as Norfolk County Services, an arms-length company formed by the county council. In 2003 a sea change came with the formation of a joint venture with Great Yarmouth Borough Council – the first of many such partnerships. The company re-branded as Norse and continued to grow. Further council joint ventures were formed: there are now over 20, operating across the UK. The partnership model, pioneered by Norse, is now well-established as an attractive alternative to insourcing and traditional outsourcing.

CEO Justin Galliford believes that the partnership model represents the best of ethical commercialism. "It not only offers significant financial benefits for councils but will help them to meet the demands of the ESG agenda and net zero. Our mantra is 'Improving People's Lives', and by this I mean society at large, local communities, and our staff and suppliers. I firmly believe that our combination of commercial knowhow and public service ethos, and our commitment to collaborative working, offer the way forward to hard-pressed local authorities."

https://norsegroup.co.uk/



Vistry Group

Vistry Group was formed in 2020, and the combination with Countryside Partnerships in 2022 has strengthened our position as one of the country's leading homebuilders. As a business we deliver thousands of homes annually for both the open market and the affordable housing sector (16,000 in 2023).

We work closely with Governmental bodies, housing associations and local authorities to meet housing need, as well as selling homes directly to customers on the open market

through the Bovis Homes, Countryside Homes and Linden Homes brands. This makes us the UK's leading mixed-tenure developer, bringing together modern and efficient delivery methods to create sustainable communities where people love to live. We specialise in delivering complex projects and creating places. These projects involve land assembly, planning and technical expertise and construction experience as we strive to deliver value for our partners.

Our placemaking approach, not only builds high quality homes, but also thinks critically about the social and digital infrastructure, transport and green spaces needed to nurture a vibrant, connected, and healthy community. Engaging with and listening to local communities and partners are key to this work. Our approach incorporates building for life principles, notably creating a place that connects into the existing community. Our commitment to delivering social value through sustainable communities, ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, for now and for generations to come, is further supported by our social and economic programme of training, and the provision of local and wider employment opportunities.

https://www.vistrygroup.co.uk/



Exhibitors

Beauhurst

Beauhurst is the ultimate source of private UK company data.

Our data platform provides accurate, up-to-date data on every private UK company. By harnessing the power of AI and human data analysis, we have created a comprehensive data source that's trusted by county and district councils across the UK. Organisations use our platform to help them identify, track and support companies and local economies.



To learn more or speak to a team member, visit www.beauhurst.com or email clare.king@beauhurst.com.

Prodo

Prodo is an award-winning digital transformation agency that helps landlords to improve transparency, build trust with residents and unlock greater capacity through an accessible digital platform and its service transformation expertise.

Delivering frontline services that matter to every resident and business takes time. With digital access at the highest level for over a decade and support for digital exclusion more widely available, it's timely for members to strengthen connections, reach more people and ultimately save money through efficient service delivery. Collecting insight at every engagement and interaction point also helps to design services that you know will meet the needs of residents and businesses.

Rob Quayle is CEO of Prodo and has spent his whole career in fast-paced regulated consumer facing businesses. He is a sought-after thought leader on all things property, data and technology and is a passionate advocate for developing products that support customers challenges. Amanda Leonard has driven large-scale, global change, has led pandemic and disaster response teams across commercial and public sector organisations working with a broad range of stakeholders including lenders, commercial partners, central and local government, Housing Associations and membership bodies. As a Commercial Director for a data company she transformed the use of data to drive decision making and deliver efficiencies. We're all about using resident and business-led insight to transform the delivery of services and save money, cut out waste, simplify engagement and use insight to shape decision making and design services that matter. www.prodo.com





Zellar

Meet Zellar: accelerating cost saving and sustainability across local councils. Overwhelmed by climate goals, reduced budgets, and admin burdens? You're not alone. Local councils face a monumental task – reducing their environmental footprint – with limited resources and stretched teams. Sustainability seems like a massive undertaking. But what if there was a centralised system that made it simple, efficient, and affordable?

Zellar is a digital sustainability platform designed specifically for local councils. It guides you on a customised journey to reduce your environmental impact across all areas of your estate, including energy, water, waste, and even your supply chain.

Set-up takes minutes, freeing your teams from administrative headaches. Access real-time data and automatic reports to track progress effortlessly. Zellar is user-friendly and drives engagement and behavioural change, making sustainability a collaborative effort.

And the best part? Zellar saves councils money. At only £299 per year, per building, ROI is typically achieved within 3 months, making it a self-sustaining business case. Plus, you'll reduce reliance on expensive consultants. Our programmes are often financed through one of many central government funds, making it the simple, low cost solution to a big problem, that no council can continue to ignore.

Over 15 pioneering councils are already saving money and looking great on Zellar. Ready to join the leading pack?

Let Zellar accelerate your council's sustainability journey today.

www.zellar.com

Rentplus

Rentplus turns renters into homeowners. As an affordable rent to buy provider, we support your local key workers and aspirant homeowners into homeownership. They are unable to save because of lower incomes or high rents but move in with no deposit and pay an affordable rent to a Registered Provider for 5-20 years, giving them time to save and build good credit. At the point of sale, we gift 10% towards their savings. As at the end of 2023, 95% of our planned renters became homeowners, buying 100% of their home. Our model fully supports the NPPF criteria for affordable housing and routes to home ownership. We're already working with over 60 Local Authorities across England. Join us. www.rentplus-uk.com

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UK Power Networks

Our Local Net Zero, Flexibility, and Connections teams are collaborating to facilitate local authorities' low-carbon plans through support, planning, guidance, and data sharing. Come and talk to us to find out more about our free-to-access support.

UK Power Networks owns and runs the cables and substations which deliver electricity from the national grid to 8.4 million homes and businesses across London, the South East and East of England, serving approximately 20 million people.





Lunaz and Biffa

Maxine Mayhew, COO Collection & Specialist Services

"I am thrilled to announce Biffa and Lunaz's fleet electrification and upcycling partnership. As the UK's leading sustainable waste management company, we are committed to enabling the circular economy while reducing emissions and carbon expenditure in every aspect of our business. By working with Lunaz to meet our goal of buying no more fossil fuelled vehicles by 2030 while breaking the replace-with-new cycle, we pioneer an approach in this industry that saves millions of tonnes in embedded carbon. I am proud that every electric vehicle upcycled by Lunaz for Biffa's fleet will mean one less tailpipe emission emitting vehicle for our planet. This long-term partnership with Lunaz is a major pillar in our collective effort to achieve our 2030 commitments. We are proud to work with an innovative UK company to realise the transformational power of upcycling to save thousands of tonnes of embedded carbon in our transition to clean-air refuse truck fleets." https://www.biffa.co.uk/ https://lunaz.tech/





Alliance Leisure

Celebrating its 25th year in business, Alliance Leisure is the UK's leading leisure development specialist. Alliance Leisure work in partnership with local authorities and leisure operators to develop engaging place-based active environments that cater for everyone.

Alliance Leisure has delivered more than 250 projects, ranging from multi-site regeneration projects, involving new build or significant remodelling of leisure sites, through to outdoor spaces, 3G pitches and leisure centre modernisations. These projects represent an investment value over £370m.

https://www.allianceleisure.co.uk or email info@allianceleisure.co.uk





Visit Herts

Visit Herts officially launched in 2015 supported by core funding from Hertfordshire LEP and Hertfordshire County Council along with a range of private sector and district council partners and other externally leveraged funding to develop the Hertfordshire visitor economy. The team brought together tourism attractions, local businesses and public sector partners to collectively identify the county's unique position, and a programme of visitor and sector research has helped to inform activity to heighten the profile of the Hertfordshire offer. Marketing campaigns, an increased digital presence, a programme of travel trade distribution, targeted sector support and strong partnerships have all helped to drive domestic and international visitors to the county which pre-pandemic resulted in a visitor economy worth £2.4 billion, supporting 43,000 jobs and welcoming 29 million visitors a year. In 2022, Visit Herts were delighted to secure funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund enabling the team to successfully launch a brand-new project which capitalises on the world leading hub of film and TV studios located in the county to ensure that the wider community benefits from these assets. Visit Herts now has Local Visitor Economy Partnership status through the new VisitEngland scheme.



Visit Herts is part of Go To Places which also runs Visit Kent and provides consultancy and advice to other destinations across the UK.

https://www.visitherts.co.uk/



Delegate list

Name	Title	Council
Cllr Abi Brown	Deputy Chair	Local Government Association
Cllr Abby Brennan Deputy Leader		Rushcliffe Borough Council
Adam Chalmers	Chief Executive Officer	Elmbridge Borough Council
Adam Hill	Chief Executive Officer	Mansfield District Council
Cllr Adrian England	Deputy Leader	Dacorum Borough Council
Cllr Alex Rennie	Leader	Havant Borough Council
Alex Yendole	Strategic Planning Manager	Stafford Borough Council
Alison Potter	Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer	District Councils' Network
Alistair Cunningham	Chief Executive Officer	Tewkesbury Borough Council
Amanda Foley	Chief Executive Officer	St Albans City & District Council
Andrew Ferrier	Chief Executive Officer	Test Valley Borough Council
Cllr Andrew Mellen	Leader	Mid Suffolk District Council
Andrew Pritchard	Chief Executive Officer	Runnymede Borough Council
Mayor Andy Abrahams	Elected Mayor	Mansfield District Council
Andy Bates	Chief Executive Officer	South Hams District and West Devon Borough Councils
Angela Hutchings	Chief Executive Officer	Castle Point Borough Council
Annabel Ainsworth	Adviser to the Labour Party Leader	Labour Party
Cllr Anne Dorrian	Leader	Boston Borough Council
Annie Pickering	Chief Operating Officer	Climate Emergency UK
Cllr Anthony McKeown	Leader	High Peak Borough Council
Anthony Roche	Managing Director	North Herts Council
Anya Keiller	Events and Engagement Officer	District Councils' Network
Arthur Charvonia	Chief Executive Officer	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
Cllr Ashley Baxter	Leader	South Kesteven District Council
Cllr Barry Aspinell	Leader	Brentwood Borough Council
Cllr Barry Wood	Leader	Cherwell District Council
Cllr Ben Crystall	Leader	East Herts Council
Bill Cullen	Chief Executive Officer	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Bindu Arjoon	Chief Executive Officer	Exeter City Council
Cllr Bridget Smith	Leader	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Carl Smith	Leader	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Caroline Green	Chief Executive Officer	Oxford City Council



		DISTRICT COUNCILS' NE
Cllr Caroline Topping	Leader	East Suffolk Council
Dr. Catherine Howe	Chief Executive Officer	Adur & Worthing Councils
Catherine Silva Donayre Deputy Chief Executive Officer		Dacorum Borough Council
Charlotte Maguire	Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer	District Councils' Network
Charlotte Paine	Head of Environmental & Operational Services	South Holland District Council
Chris Bally	Chief Executive Officer	East Suffolk Council
Cllr Chris White	Leader	St Albans City & District Council
Christine Traill	Strategic Director	St Albans City & District Council
Claire Hamilton	Chief Executive Officer	Dacorum Borough Council
Cllr Claire Hodson	Deputy Leader	Torridge District Council
Cllr Tricia Gilby	Leader	Chesterfield Borough Council
Cllr Craig Leyland	Leader	East Lindsey District Council
Damian Roberts	Chief Executive Officer	Surrey Heath Borough Council
Damon Lawrenson	Interim Director of Resources	Pendle Borough Council
Dan Gascoyne	Chief Executive Officer	Braintree District Council
Cllr Dan Swords	Leader	Harlow Council
Cllr Daniel Elmer	Deputy Leader	Broadland District Council
Dave Heywood	Chief Executive Officer	South Staffordshire Council
David Blake	Managing Director	Worcester City Council
David Buckland	Chief Executive Officer	Stratford on Avon District Council
Cllr David Busby	Leader	Babergh District Council
David Ford	Chief Executive Officer	Tandridge District Council
Cllr David King	Leader	Colchester City Council
Cllr David Smith	Labour Group Leader	West Suffolk Council
Dee O'Rourke	Corporate Director	Eastleigh Borough Council
Donna Nolan	Chief Executive Officer	Watford Borough Council
Cllr Doug Pullen	Leader	Lichfield District Council
Edd De Coverly	Chief Executive Officer	Melton Borough Council
Eleanor Wallace	Adviser to the Labour Party Leader	Labour Party
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis	Leader	North Herts Council
Gareth Edmundson	Chief Executive Officer	Cheltenham Borough Council
Lord Gary Porter		Local Government Association
Cllr Giancarlo Guglielmi	Conservative Group Leader	Tendring District Council
Gordon Stewart	Chief Executive Officer	Cherwell District Council
Grant Taylor	Head of Culture and Health	Basildon Borough Council
Cllr Hannah Dalton	Leader	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Harry Graham	Senior Business Analyst	St Albans City & District Council



		DISTRICT COUNCILS' NE
Heather Jameson	Editor	The MJ
Heidi McDougall	Strategic Director	South Derbyshire District Council
Cllr Helen Campbell	Deputy Leader	St Albans City & District Council
Helen Murray	Principal Advisor, West Midlands	Local Government Association
Helen Standen	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	East Herts Council
Cllr Helen-Ann Smith	Deputy Leader	Ashfield District Council
lan Davidson	Chief Executive Officer	Tendring District Council
lan Duke	Chief Executive Officer	Crawley Borough Council
lan Fitzpatrick	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Eastbourne & Lewes Councils
lan Fytche	Chief Executive Officer	North Kesteven District Council
lan Gallin	Chief Executive Officer	West Suffolk Council
lan Knowles	Chief Executive Officer	West Lindsey District Council
lan Miller	Chief Executive Officer	Wyre Forest District Council
Cllr Ivan Henderson	Deputy Leader	Tendring District Council
Jackie King	Chief Executive Officer	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Cllr Jacqui Taylor	Leader	St Albans City & District Council
James Hood	Director	District Councils' Network
James Strachan	Chief Executive Officer	Eastleigh Borough Council
Jane Eaton	Chief Executive Officer	Horsham District Council
Cllr Jason Zadrozny	Leader	Ashfield District Council
Cllr Jeannette Thomas	Deputy Leader	Stevenage Borough Council
Jeff Stack	Chief Executive Officer	Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr Jeremy Newmark	Leader	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Jewel Miah	Leader	Charnwood Borough Council
Cllr Jim Martin	Leader	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Jo Bateman	Electoral Services Manager	St Albans City & District Council
Joanne Wagstaffe	Chief Executive Officer	Three Rivers District Council
Cllr Joe Harris	Leader	Cotswold District Council
Cllr John Burden	Leader	Gravesham Borough Council
Lord John Fuller	Leader	South Norfolk Council
John Richardson	Chief Executive Officer	Harborough District Council
John Robinson	Chief Executive Officer	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Cllr John Ward	Interim Leader	Babergh District Council
Jon McGinty	Managing Director	Gloucester City Council
Jonathan Stephenson	Chief Executive Officer	Brentwood Borough Council and Rochford District Councils
Joyce Hamilton	Strategic Head of Legal and Governance	Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
Julia Smith	Chief Executive Officer	Blaby District Council



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Cllr Julian Brazil Leader		South Hams District Council
Karen Bradford Chief Executive Officer		South Kesteven District Council
Karen Brimacombe	Chief Executive Officer	Mole Valley District Council
Karen Hanson	Chief Executive Officer	Bolsover District Council
Cllr Karen May	Leader	Bromsgrove District Council
Karl Roberts	Interim Chief Executive Officer and Director of Growth	Arun District Council
Katherine Marriott	Chief Executive Officer	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Kathy O'Leary	Chief Executive Officer	Stroud District Council
Cllr Ken James	Leader	Torridge District Council
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Leader of Conservative Group	Local Government Association
Laura McCartney	Strategic Head of Organisation & Transformation	Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
Laura Payne	Head of Network	New Local
Laura Taylor	Chief Executive Officer	Winchester City Council
Lesley Rollings	Deputy Leader	West Lindsey District Council
Liz Elliott	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Harborough District Council
Liz Watts	Chief Executive Officer	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Lou Matter	Senior Network Officer	New Local
Luci Mould	Director	Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
Luke Masters	Policy and Partnerships Officer	District Councils' Network
Cllr Maggie Wright	Deputy Leader	Blaby District Council
Cllr Mandy Ewings	Leader	West Devon Borough Council
Cllr Marcus Hart	Leader	Wyre Forest District Council
Mari Roberts-Wood	Managing Director	Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
Cllr Marianne Overton	Leader of Independent Group	Local Government Association
Cllr Mark Bools	Deputy Leader	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Cllr Mark Stephenson	Leader	Tendring District Council
Cllr Martin Boffey	Leader	Horsham District Council
Cllr Martin Tod	Leader	Winchester City Council
Matt Partridge	Chief Executive Officer	Stevenage Borough Council
Matt Prosser	Chief Executive Officer	Dorset Council
Cllr Matthew Boughton	Councillor	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Cllr Matthew Dormer	Leader	Redditch Borough Council
Maxine O'Mahony	Chief Executive Officer	Breckland Council
Cllr Michael Hoy	Deputy Leader	Rochford District Council
Cllr Michael Jones	Leader	Crawley Borough Council
Michelle Howard	Director for Housing & Communities (Deputy Chief Executive Officer)	Melton Borough Council



		DISTRICT COUNCILS' NE
Cllr Natalie Bennett	Leader	Stroud District Council
Cllr Neil Clarke	Leader	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cllr Neil Tilley	Deputy Leader	South Derbyshire District Council
Cllr Nick Clarke	Leader of the Conservative Group	West Suffolk Council
Nick Golding	Senior Policy and External Affairs Officer	District Councils' Network
Cllr Nick Worth	Leader	South Holland District Council
Oliver Somervell	Communications Specialist	Cotswold District Council
Pamela Donnelly	Chief Executive Officer	Colchester City Council
Cllr Paul Arnott	Leader	East Devon District Council
Cllr Paul de Kort	Lead Councillor	St Albans City & District Council
Cllr Paul Harvey	Leader	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Paul McCannah	Political Adviser to the LGA Conservative Group	Local Government Association
Cllr Paul Peacock	Leader	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Paul Shackley	Chief Executive Officer	Rushmoor Borough Council
Paul Wilson	Chief Executive Officer	Derbyshire Dales District Council
Peter Fleming		Local Government Association
Peter Holt	Chief Executive Officer	Uttlesford District Council
Mayor Peter Taylor	Elected Mayor	Watford Borough Council
Cllr Petrina Lees	Leader	Uttlesford District Council
Phil Courtier	Director of Place	South Norfolk Council
Cllr Phil North	Leader	Test Valley Borough Council
Phil Shears	Managing Director	Teignbridge District Council
Cllr Philip Knowles	Leader	Harborough District Council
Cllr Rachel Eburne	Deputy Leader	Mid Suffolk District Council
Cllr Richard Biggs	Leader	Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
Richard Cassidy	Chief Executive Officer	East Herts Council
Cllr Richard Cook	Leader	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Richard Siddall	Leader	Maldon District Council
Cllr Richard Wright	Leader	North Kesteven District Council
Rob Huntington	Chief Executive Officer	Rossendale Borough Council
Rob Mitchell	Chief Executive Officer	Charnwood Borough Council
Robert Barlow	Chief Executive Officer	South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership
Robert Cottrill	Chief Executive Officer	Eastbourne & Lewes Councils
Robert Walker	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Breckland Council
Robert Weaver	Chief Executive Officer	Cotswold District Council
Rodrigo Sanchez	Political Officer, Independent Group	Local Government Association



Cllr Roger Lees	Leader	South Staffordshire Council
Cllr Ron Tindall Leader		Dacorum Borough Council
Rose Rouse	Chief Executive Officer	Pendle Borough Council
Cllr Rowan Cozens	Deputy Leader	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Cllr Rowena Hay	Leader	Cheltenham Borough Council
Cllr Russell Savage	Cabinet member	Castle Point Borough Council
Cllr Ruth Brown	Deputy Leader	North Herts Council
Sajida Bijle	Managing Director	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Sallie Davies	Councillor	Babergh District Council
Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen	Leader and DCN Chairman	Breckland Council
Sally Burlington	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Local Government Association
Sandra Beck	Director of Finance	Broxbourne Borough Council
Sarah Calkin	Editor	Local Government Chronicle
Cllr Sarah Conboy	Executive Leader	Huntingdonshire District Council
Sarah Kingsley	Service Director for Place	North Herts Council
Cllr Sarah Nelmes	Leader	Three Rivers District Council
Scott Logan	Chief Executive Officer	Basildon Borough Council
Cllr Shaun Davies	Chair	Local Government Association
Cllr Shaun Macdonald	Leader	Surrey Heath Borough Council
Sheila Oxtoby	Chief Executive Officer	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Simon Fletcher	Chief Executive Officer	Lichfield District Council
Cllr Stephen Holt	Leader	Eastbourne Borough Council
Steve Dupoy	Assistant Director, Stevenage Direct Services	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Steve Flitter	Leader	Derbyshire Dales District Council
Steve Hearse	Chief Executive Officer	Torridge District Council
Steve Hems	Director of Communities	North Norfolk District Council
Steve Jorden	Chief Executive Officer	Havant Borough Council
Stuart Bobby	Chief Executive Officer	Gravesham Borough Council
Cllr Stuart Bray	Leader	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Cllr Sue Baxter	Deputy Leader	Bromsgrove District Council
Sue Hanley	Interim Chief Executive Officer	Bromsgrove District Council
Cllr Sue Holland	Leader	Broadland District Council
Cllr Susan Brown	Leader	Oxford City Council
Dr Susan Priest	Chief Executive Officer	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
Cllr Susan Woodward	Councillor - Leader of Principal Opposition Group	Lichfield District Council
Suzanne Jones	Strategic Director	St Albans City & District Council
Cllr Terry Richardson	Leader	Blaby District Council



Head of Liberal Democrat Group Office	Local Government Association
Chief Executive Officer	Ashfield District Council
Leader of Malvern Hills District Council	Malvern Hills District Council
Leader	North Norfolk District Council
Director - Planning & Building Control	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
Senior Adviser to the Chair	Local Government Association
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Stevenage Borough Council
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Stratford on Avon District Council
Managing Director	South Norfolk and Broadland Councils
Chief Executive Officer	Wealden District Council
Leader	West Lindsey District Council
Chief Executive Officer	Malvern Hills District Council
Independent Group Leader	West Suffolk Council
Deputy Leader	Castle Point Borough Council
Deputy Leader	North Norfolk District Council
Chief Executive Officer	Harlow Council
Leader	Lewes District Council
	Office Chief Executive Officer Leader of Malvern Hills District Council Leader Director - Planning & Building Control Senior Adviser to the Chair Deputy Chief Executive Officer Deputy Chief Executive Officer Managing Director Chief Executive Officer Leader Chief Executive Officer Independent Group Leader Deputy Leader Chief Executive Officer Chief Executive Officer



Partners attending conference

Name	Organisation
Adam Wrigh	Zellar
Adele Gritten	Local Partnerships
Alan Erskine	Biffa
Alun Parfitt	Capita
Amanda Leonard	Prodo
Amy Cluett	Alliance Leisure
Andrew Taylor	Vistry Group
Annabelle Atkin	iESE
Dr Anthony Leonard	Biffa
Archie Wallace	UK Power Networks
Ben Cox	Faerfield
Charles Johnston	Unify
Charlotte Platten	Cratus Group
Chris Styles	eEnergy
Colin Jupe	Cyber Centre of Excellence
Dan Humphreys	Cratus Group
Douglas McKinnon-Snell	EBIS
Edward Crouch	Capita
Eileen Buck	Cyber Centre of Excellence
Emily Lassman	Henham Strategy
Emily Mulvaney	Rentplus
Emma George	Rentplus
Flora Mavri	UK Power Networks
Gary Styles	Zellar
Geoff Tucker	Norse Group
George Agyemang	Penna
Jamie Charters	CCLA
Jenny Cooper	Cratus Group
Jessica Mullinger	SOLACE
Joe Ash	UK Power Networks
John Jory	Inspired Solutions
John Leaver	Alliance Leisure
Julian Seymour	Cratus Group
Julie Towers	Penna



Kathryn Brant	Lunaz
Kelly Hillman	Vistry Group
Kelly Watson	CCLA
Kurtis Toy	Cyber Centre of Excellence
Laura Payne	New Local
Lucie Marquis	Rentplus
Lucy Trueman	Trueman Change
Luke Allen	Capita
Mark Cotton	Lunaz
Mark Dolling	eEnergy
Mark Lloyd CBE	Impower
Matthew Jones	Penna
Neil Campbell	eEnergy
Nick Clark	eEnergy
Nick Kilby	Cratus Group
Nick King	Henham Strategy
Nikhita Govekar	Beauhurst
Paul Pawa	Norse Group
Paul Webb	Unify
Richard Gawthorpe	Norse Group
Rob Quayle	Prodo
Sarah McKee	Cratus Group
Seun Irefin	UK Power Networks
Simon Smith	Inspired Solutions
Stevie Pattison-Dick	Rentplus
Toby Brown	Beauhurst
Tom Fourcade	Local Partnerships
Yvonne Mills	Rentplus
Zoe Smith	Biffa





Customer response form

Your feedback is very important to us. In the next few days, you will receive an email from us inviting you to complete a brief online survey to let us know what you thought of the event. The survey can be accessed via a link at the end of the email and should take no more than five minutes to complete. Alternatively, you can write to us with your feedback to dcn@local.gov.uk