



ACES Public Sector Challenge 2024 – Budget update.

ACES Council agreed a budget of up to **£5,000** for a team to take part in the Public Sector Challenge (PSC) 2024.

The budget was to meet the cost of ACES signing up as a Challenge Partner and supporting a team with travel and accommodation expenses to attend the event in Yorkshire on 6th September 2024.

The ACES team with representation from several branches comprised: Alan Richards, Dan Meek, Simon Hughes, Daniella Barrow, David Charlton, Sam Hoida and they were supported by Sara Cameron and Neil Webster as volunteers at the event after Neil unfortunately sustained a knee injury just before the event!



The PSC Yorkshire Three Peaks 2024 was attended by c.650 individuals from teams across the public sector and their partner organisations and was widely publicised and supported, including at the MJ Annual Awards where it was the charity of the year.

The team was also awarded ACES Team of the Year at the Awards for Excellence 2024.

Overall, the PSC 2024 raised **£214,528 plus £39,319 Gift Aid**) for Cancer Research UK as at 3.2.2-025.





The team, and ACES leadership used the opportunity to promote ACES, ACES members and the event across a range of platforms to a wide audience and also updated ACES members and partners at the Annual Conference in Norwich on 19 September 2024 with a full write up in the Autumn Terrier.

Some marketing materials were arranged for the event so ACES members taking part had ACES branded caps and two generic ACES flags were commissioned for the marquee where the challenge started and finished. These were designed so that they can be used for a range of future events and indeed they also attended the conference in Norwich!

In addition to the significant well-being and personal achievement benefits that PSC 2024 delivered for those who took part, it also provided significant exposure for ACES and the team raised a significant sum for Cancer Research UK.

At the time of writing (08/11/2024, the ACES team fundraising page showed **£3,651.50 plus £771.25 Gift Aid (total £4,422.75)** had been raised by the team for CRUK. ([Link to page](#))

The ACES budget out-turn position for PSC 2024 is set out below:

ACES Public Sector Challenge 2024 budget and expenses			
		Cost	Remaining Budget
Budget			£5,000.00
Challenge Partner Cost		£ 1,500.00	£3,500.00
Contribution to travel and accom for team		£ 1,055.96	£2,444.04
ACES Marketing and materials			
Caps (10)	£237.60 inc VAT for 10	£ 237.60	£2,206.44
Flags (2)	£585.60 inc VAT	£ 585.60	£1,620.84
Total		£ 3,379.16	£1,620.84

London Bridges 2025:

CMT agreed within their delegation that £310 of the remaining budget would be used to support a team in attending the London Bridges Walk on 18th January 2025 (details here: [2025 Challenge - Public Sector Challenge](#)). This is raising funds through registration fees towards the 2025 charities – Cancer Research UK and the British Heart Foundation.

The team raised a further £275 plus £30 Gift Aid towards the overall total of £10,821.50 (plus £1727.50 Gift Aid) raised for the whole event (as at 3.2.2025). ([Link to page](#)) This supported the two charities equally.

In total across both events, the team has raised £3926.50 (plus £801.25 Gift Aid) – total £4,727.75. Following London Bridges, the balance remaining is £745.96.



Looking ahead:

NOTE: Alan advised Council that since the challenge in September, he has been asked to represent both ACES and the Local Government Sector for the Eastern Region on the Board of the Public Sector Challenge, and he asked that this non-pecuniary interest be noted.

Alan Richards updated ACES Council on 31 January 2025, advising that this paper would be coming to April Council update on the success of the event and to set out recommendations for ACES to reiterate its support to be a Challenge Partner again for the Peak Pursuit Challenge on 5th September 2025 and the 2026 London Bridges Walk, with funding support comparable to the previous year, so that this can be considered by Council.

Alan also thanked Neil Webster for stepping in to organise the team for the London Bridges Walk and congratulated all the team for completing the walk once again.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

1. Council confirm its support for Public Sector Challenge and that it would like to be a challenge partner for the Peak Pursuit 2025 Event (Team of 10: £1,500).
2. Council confirm its support for a team to participate on a similar basis to 2025 (i.e. Challenge Partner, contributions to travel and accommodation), and for the participation fee for ACES members to participate in London Bridges 2026.
3. That the remaining balance of £745.96 be rolled forward and topped up (by £4,254.04) to £5,000 to cover the events at 2 above.
4. That within the £5,000 budget, authority sits with CMT to agree expenditure.

ACES support is recommended on the basis of the charitable aims, the profile for the Association and its members, the wellbeing of its members, the networking value and team collaboration.

Alan Richards and Neil Webster

3 Feb 2025