



Head of Engagement Report to Council July 2025

RICS

Two days prior to Council, Dan and I are attending the RICS Public Sector Forum which Dan is chairing. The two key items we are promoting are:

1. CEO/CMT support for a property profession in authorities and recognition of RICS/ACES. Considering approaching a range of CEOs to get their views on property functions in authorities and support for professional subscriptions.
2. outplacements for APC candidates in partner organisations. I am in discussion with Lara Newman about writing to our respective private sector partners so see what they offer in terms of outplacements for APC candidates struggling to find certain experience for their APC.

We have prepared the key members of the Forum so hope to have a focus on actions rather than just a discussion. All of this is in the background of Local Government reform. We will report further on this at Council.

NB Morag Angus, also an ACES member is chairing the September event in her role as Chief Surveyor (Scotland).

MHCLG's Pathways to Property initiative

We have been supporting MHCLG and the LGA in their development of the property equivalent of Pathways to Planning. The planning version was established in 2023 to increase and diversify the pipeline of graduate talent coming into local planning authorities in England. By September 2025, the programme will have recruited more than 200 graduates to work as planners in local councils and complete RTPI accredited master's degree alongside work.

Their next campaign, launching in September 2025 for positions starting work in September 2026, will be recruiting graduates into surveying and construction project management roles within local authorities. The programme uses a job-predictive assessment process to find the best candidates for the job, designing tests based on input from high achievers currently working within the roles. I have asked the FACES community and members via eBrief to source some people who could spare an hour or two of their time to help their consultant occupational psychologist develop assessments this summer/autumn, please complete the simple form [here](#) It is probably best suited to those who have been in post for two or more years.

FACES

FACES registrations as I write this stand at 220. (213 people reported in April). Further updates:

- The Carter Jonas social event proved successful so we will look to do something similar in the regions.
- I have been approached by the Cabinet Office about an evolving early careers network in central government. Would be a very good complement to the FACES network.
- More “Ask the Expert” events planned.
- Next LocatED networking event is a full day (09:00-17:30) on 18th September as part of the Festival of Government Property '25. It will be held at the offices of Mills & Reeve (24 King William Street, London, EC4R 9AT). and tackles the vital intersection of government policy, property development and community impact.
[Register here](#) or email events@located.co.uk
- See separate note on Pathways to Planning above.

Corporate Memberships

Dan has confirmed that all our current members will be renewing their membership. Norse are taking the Platinum slot and the others Gold. We also have Hartnell Taylor Cook as a Silver.

Avison Young are hosting their next person Espresso on the day of Council. We hope several London based members will be able to attend but we did advise AY of the poor timing.

Their previous Espresso was online on 12th June - What next on the journey to decarbonisation?

I am in discussion with LSH about a regional event in Milton Keynes in October. Would be for all local branches (Heart of England, Eastern, London and South-East). Simon de Whalley (of London branch) has just joined Atkins Realis so that may be a good opening.

EG's Public Sector Forum

The EG's editor, Tim Burke, their head of events (Michelle Tallner), Jackie Sadek and I have a meeting on the morning of 23rd July. The new owners seemed interested in continuing so we will find out more detail after 23rd.

Year 9 initiative

I am planning to meet with the two key contacts in Bristol during the summer to help progress the SW event. Pieces in place for a London event.

Local Partnerships

I have approached them to see if they could present their Temporary Accommodation model to us following a discussion held on the topic at London branch

Government Property Function

We continue to keep a close working relationship with GPF. As well as our mutual participation in the RICS Public Sector Forum we engage with Lynda and her colleagues regularly. They have agreed to promote Dan's conference as part of Government Property month.

Branch Liaison

Marcus, Trevor and I continue to catch up every quarter.

Neil Webster

July 2025