Finance Advisory Network Newsletter



September 2020

Advisor Update

Welcome to the September FAN Newsletter for practitioners in organisations that don't subscribe to the FAN service.

As usual, the newsletter includes details of our planned events and workshops, together with the latest updates on consultations and other issues that may be of interest to finance staff working in organisations that account under the CIPFA/LASAAC Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice. We hope you find it helpful.

If other colleagues in your organisation would benefit from receiving this newsletter they can add themselves to the FAN mailing lists via the Preference Centre in MyCIPFA.

David, Caroline and Sandra

Events

FAN Capital and Leasing Workshop

30 September, Webinar 1 October, Webinar

Introduction to Local Authority Capital Accounting

8 October, Webinar

Special Councillor Conference: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on your council

9 October, Webinar

Introduction to Budgeting

27 October, Webinar

Introduction to Collection Fund Accounts

2 November, Webinar

Introduction to Housing Finance

<u>3rd November, Webinar</u> <u>4th November, Webinar</u>

Budgeting for Social Care Through COVID-19; 2021/21 and Future Years

3rd/5th November, Webinar

Capital Valuations: Avoiding the pitfalls

3rd November, Webinar 5th November, Webinar

10th November, Webinar 3rd December, Webinar

Social Care: Narrowing the gap between plan and actual. Improving value rather than financial collapse

17th/19th November, Webinar

Introduction to Local Government Finance

17 November, Webinar

Local Authority Accounting Conference Autumn 2020 Update

25 November, Webinar

Introduction to Accounting for Groups and Collaborative Arrangements

27 November, Webinar

FAN Home

Network and CIPFA News

CIPFAs Public Finance Live Annual Conference 2020: 19-22 October

CIPFA's annual conference <u>Public Finance Live</u> will be going virtual across four days – from Monday 19 to Thursday 22 October – allowing you to take part wherever you are, addressing this year's theme: COVID-19: Road to Recovery.

COVID-19 remains an ongoing threat to public health and the immediate future remains uncertain. We have made the decision to move our conference online this year and will be running live online sessions every day, available to view from your workplace or home.

To help you and your colleagues take full advantage of this easier access route to our virtual event, there are some really attractive rates that are available, with attendance from as little at £75 +VAT (based on 20 delegate attendance rate)

Local Authority Accounting conference – Autumn 2020 update – 25 November 2020

This Local Authority Accounting Conference is the key event for practitioners to find out about the very latest developments and issues for local government financial reporting both now and going forward. Hear directly from Sir Tony Redmond on the outcomes of the Redmond Review, as well as the latest on the potential outcomes of the consultations on PWLB lending terms, McCloud, and the PAC on commercialisation, as well as technical updates on IFRS 16 Leases, Code updates and the latest on COVID-19 impact on financial reporting.

To book please go to the FAN Events webpage.

New data resource - CIPFAstats+

For over 100 years CIPFA has worked with local authorities across the UK to build the most comprehensive, independent source of <u>data about local</u> <u>government and other public sector services</u>. CIPFAstats has been central to this work, helping councils explore and interrogate figures from their local area to help them make the best use of financial resources.

But the world has changed - and continues to do so at an ever-rapid pace. With this in mind CIPFA has begun an extensive transformation programme, including the introduction of a new cloud-based data management platform. Our CIPFAstats product suite will be the first to move onto the new platform, creating a new service – <u>CIPFAstats+</u>, which offers a completely fresh, visually compelling and accessible way to interrogate your data.

By utilising the new platform, CIPFAstats+ will allow you to visualise and more easily explore and interact with the datasets. CIPFAstats+ gives you access to comprehensive financial and non-financial data to not only help you understand your current position but how you arrived at that point and where you might go to next.

All current CIPFA stats subscribers are invited to access the new platform for a free one month trial.

CIPFA/LASAAC issues its consultation on the 2021/22 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom – Closes 23 October 2020

The 2021/22 Code will apply to accounting periods starting on or after 1 April 2021. The proposed amendments in the 2021/22 Code cover changes relating to the implementation of IFRS 16 Leases and changes in accounting standards on which CIPFA/LASAAC wishes to seek stakeholders' views.

CIPFA/LASAAC is also seeking views on the impact of the Redmond Review on financial reporting for local authorities and on its strategic plan.

Click here for more details and to access the Invitation to Comment.

CIPFA is looking for a new chair for its Local Authority Accounting Panel

The panel supports practitioners with guidance and information on accounting and financial reporting issues in the sector. The new chair will liaise with the secretariat to identify, lead on and respond to initiatives to strengthen accounting and financial reporting in public bodies.

A statement from CIPFA said: "The institute is looking for someone with experience in senior positions, with an understanding of the roles and requirements, accounting and financial management in local authorities and associated bodies. The new chair should be able to communicate effectively to a senior audience, with evidence of chairing meetings, courses and conferences in an effective manner."

The chair will also be required to lead on and or facilitate seminars, conferences or working groups as necessary. The role will typically require the overseeing of up to three panel meetings per year.

CIPFA will be accepting applications for the role until 9 October.

For more information on the role, contact CIPFA policy support officer Mark Mclean at mark.mclean@cipfa.org

CIPFA Thinks

Don't forget to periodically check CIPFA Thinks to see the latest set of articles, comments and publications covering topical aspects of public finance and issues specific to <u>local government</u>.

Follow FAN on Twitter and connect to us on LinkedIn

David, Sandra and Caroline regularly tweet details of relevant news stories, FAN event updates, CIPFA consultation alerts, COVID-19 updates, etc. We encourage subscribers to follow us on Twitter for the latest news, so even if you don't 'tweet' yourself, it's a great way to keep updated on key issues affecting local authority finance and accounting. Click to find David Sandra and Caroline on Twitter, or search for all our network advisor tweets using the hashtag #cipfanetworks.

We can also be found on LinkedIn and increasingly use social media for additional FAN updates, so if you are on LinkedIn then please feel free to connect to us: David, Sandra and Caroline or the join the FAN Linkedin Group.

LinkedIn Discussions

CIPFA has its own <u>LinkedIn group</u> where you can find up to date announcements and discussions on all the latest issues in the public sector. Why not join in one of the discussions or start a conversation of your own?

News Roundup

News stories are part of the subscriber service only.

Publications

IFRS 16 Leases: An Early Guide for Local Authority Practitioners

Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21

Financial Management Code

Financial Management Code Guidance Notes

Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: Disclosure Checklist for 2019/20 Accounts

Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities (2020/21 Edition)

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