Spreadsheet

NOVEMBER 2013



in this issue

Ten apprentices told 'You're hired' in unique new training scheme

Time to renew your CIPFA Membership

Reporting back from Conference for the Regions

Northern Ireland wind Most Improved Region Award





Message from the President

ast month saw the welcome return of a stand-alone conference for the regions at Warwick University. The event was well organised and had a sense of high energy. It was great to see over 100 of our invaluable regional volunteers and hear their thoughts. I sensed a rekindled enthusiasm in response to our new emerging plan, set out by our new Chief Executive, Rob Whiteman. This is Rob's fourth Chief Executive post and he has certainly hit the ground running as he only took up the reins at the end of September.

Significant membership growth and ensuring our qualification is up-to-date and relevant to employers and students are absolutely central to the plan. This will ensure that CIPFA grows and thrives.

We are still in the early stages of a new plan which will move us at pace to confirming our position as the global body for public sector financial management and governance. CIPFA, like everyone else, has been severely hit by austerity and we now need to transform, to move at pace and scale, to reinforce our membership offer and harmonise UK and international qualifications to develop one global set of qualifications. It is also timely to refresh the syllabus and make sure it includes the commercial skills necessary to operate in today's public services where major contracts, commissioning,

outsourcing, shared services and special purpose vehicles are becoming the norm.

We need to support members better throughout their career. I believe that with the engagement of you all, together with our regions, we can deliver this challenging agenda. CIPFA needs to change and grow to be successful, to do that we need to help you, our members, be ambassadors for CIPFA and ensure that employers and students recognise our qualifications as the only choice for those working in public finance.

Both Rob and I believe that CIPFA should have a higher profile and stronger voice. We need to speak up on behalf of our members and to explain to politicians the implications of policy options – to speak truth unto power. This can already be seen in our commentary on the HM Treasury's review of financial management in central government.

At Warwick, we welcomed Stephen Thompson, Chief Executive of the Big Issue Foundation, which CIPFA members and staff are supporting through the year ahead. Stephen's impassioned address stirred delegates to raise nearly £600 and make pledges to all sorts of further fundraising and support – a great example of CIPFA members and volunteers' selflessness. Thank you all.

The Big Issue's strength is that it aims to put homeless people back in control of their lives and give them the skills and help to do this. Because the vendors buy the magazines they sell, they are helped to become self-supporting, so please take the magazine when you see one it's a good read.

I would also encourage you to donate to a sponsored walk, in memory of Ian Bowler, CIPFA course leader at Nottingham Business School on 17 November. The 'Bowlers Strollers' are carrying on with a walk across Derbyshire, which Ian had already planned, to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. Donate at: http://www.justgiving.com/teams/ bowlersstrollers.

And of course it's coming up to that time of year again, so have a lovely Christmas!

Jaki Salisbury, **President**



contents

Technical and policy 2-4

Governance and institute matters 5-11

Regions **12–15**

Students 16-17

Events 18-20

We welcome your feedback on Spreadsheet. Please send your comments and suggestions for future articles to danielle.holme@cipfa.org

Keeping up with CIPFA

You can now join us on Linkedin, follow CIPFA on Twitter at twitter.com/cipfa, or 'like' us on Facebook. Links are provided on the CIPFA website.







Spreadsheet

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Technical and policy round-up

CIPFA advises Scottish Parliament on Draft Budget 2014/15

As budget adviser to the Scottish Parliament, in September CIPFA's Angela Scott analysed the 2014/15 budget and provided a 30+ page Budget Adviser Report.

Within a few days of Scotland's £34 billion budget being produced the report had to be prepared and a presentation delivered to finance committee members on the key issues immediately before their formal scrutiny sessions commenced. This work was supplemented by a significant amount of advanced research we had undertaken over the summer months in preparation for budget scrutiny.

Angela is also adviser to the Welsh Assembly and provided the Assembly Finance Committee with a similar briefing report to supplement their own committee scrutiny, the first time that had been done. In return, she introduced the Scottish Parliament to the successful and challenging budget scrutiny format that we had previously introduced to the Welsh Assembly.



IMAGE © SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY CORPORATE BODY – 2012. LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT LICENCE V1.0.

Download the report at: www.scottish.parliament. uk/S4_FinanceCommittee/Final_Budget_Adviser_ Report_Scotland_WEBUPDATED.pdf

CIPFA Wales Sets Out Blueprint for Welsh Public Service Reform

CIPFA Wales submitted a consultation paper to the Welsh Government's Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery at the end of September.

The CIPFA submission contained a five point plan for public service reform in Wales and suggested ways in which the commission could start to lay the foundations of the future financial sustainability of Welsh public services.

CIPFA intends the blueprint to be a constructive intervention at a time when managing public sector finances in Wales continues to be challenging; with the Welsh Government budget set to be cut again by 2% (£11.5bn) in 2014/15.

'Our blueprint aims to assist the commission in its work and provide insightful and constructive analysis [and] lay the foundations for the future success of public services in Wales.'

Chris Tidswell

Chris Tidswell, Head of CIPFA Wales, commented:

"We all know that times are tough and that it is now more important than ever that we get as much value as possible from every pound of public money spent in Wales.

"Our blueprint aims to assist the commission in its work and provide insightful and constructive analysis from CIPFA on how best the Welsh Government can lay the foundations for the future success of public services in Wales."



Housing under Self Financingthree new CIPFA products

Three new CIPFA publications are available for local authorities seeking guidance as self-financing implementation gets underway after massive changes in 2012 to local authority housing finance.

Housing Finance under Self Financing – out in November (book and CD ROM) – provides the latest guidance on local authority housing finance in the new system. It takes into account recent changes and government announcements. It replaces and fully revises two previous CIPFA guides: An Introductory Guide to Housing Finance and The Guide to Housing Self-financing.



To support authorities in establishing principles and arrangements for the effective governance, financial and business planning that sustainable council housing relies on, CIPFA and the CIH have produced the (free) Voluntary Code for a Self-financed HRA.

And to accompany the new voluntary code, CIPFA has developed a unique 'on the spot' HRA Self-financing Performance Toolkit to help local authorities to have an accurate picture of their current performance against the principles in the code.

Further details of all three are available from the CIPFA website at: www.cipfa. org/policy-and-guidance/publications/h/ housing-finance-under-selffinancing-book



Closing date approachingapplications for local authority accounting panel chair

The Local Authority Accounting Panel is seeking a new Chair to provide a focus for its important role of supporting practitioners in delivering best practice in financial reporting. Applications must be made by 22 November.

The panel has oversight of the development and publication of the Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities (SeRCOP) and CIPFA's authoritative Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting: Guidance Notes. In addition in publishes its own bulletins on emerging accounting issues on which practitioners need urgent guidance.

More information can be found on the Panel's website www.cipfa.org/policyand-quidance/technical-panels-andboards/local-authority-accountingpanel/recruiting-new-panel-chair.

Make an Impact-**Central Government Panel Seeks New Vice Chair**

CIPFA's Central Government Panel is looking for a new vice Chair, who is likely to be the successor to the present Chair who will be stepping down on leaving the sector. The panel is looking for a CIPFA member already in a senior role in central government.

In either position you will have the opportunity to shape CIPFA's role in your sector and support its finance professionals to address their current and future challenges.

Candidates will need to demonstrate an informed understanding of the issues currently facing the sector. Above all they must demonstrate proven leadership skills. The closing date is 9 December 2013. For details of how to apply see http://www.cipfa.org/policyand-quidance/technical-panels-andboards/central-government-panel.

Council tax Support Schemes measurements of success

CIPFA Benefits and Revenues Service adviser Jo Pitt encourages authorities to measure the success of council tax support schemes by more than just collection.

Across the country revenues and benefit managers rose to the challenge of designing and implementing these council tax support schemes, in operation since April 2013, within a short time frame moving from a national Council tax benefit to the local support scheme.

This new approach has been subject to much debate, reflected in the CIPFA survey of CFO's who rated the financial burden of this new demand high at the top of their list of concerns. But in terms of a project how did authorities measure success in Year 1 and how will those measurements change in Year 2?



In very simple terms collection is a measurement of success but this is far too simplistic and local authorities might want to take time to consider some other success criteria factors. Links with corporate goals and aims or to the financial structure are equally important. Success takes many forms-make sure you know what it looks like at the beginning so you can measure it clearly at the end.

New Charities SORP arrives in 2014 but don't jump the gun

Following the consultation on a new draft Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) an agreed new version of the SORP is expected to be published in 2014. But charities need to be careful not to adopt it too early.

Before the new SORP can be adopted the regulations that set the accounting requirements of charity law need to be amended. Until relevant regulations are made, use of the existing 2005 SORP remains a requirement of charity law in England, Wales and Scotland.

The new SORP is expected to apply to accounting periods starting on, or after, 1 January 2015.

For more information visit the dedicated SORP micro site: www.charitysorp.org

International Financial Reporting for the Not-for-Profit Sector

The Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies (CCAB), of which CIPFA is a member, is supporting research aimed at identifying accounting practices in the not forprofit-sector across the globe. The research is part of a project looking into whether there is a need for international reporting guidance or standard(s) for the not-for-profit sector.

The project includes a team of researchers from four universities. The steering committee overseeing the project is chaired by Ian Carruthers, Policy & Technical Director, CIPFA.

A web-based questionnaire will gather the views of not-for-profit stakeholders from across the globe. CIPFA members engaged, either indirectly or directly, with this sector are encouraged to take part in the survey. A link to the questionnaire was available from the CCAB website from 11 November and will soon be available from the CIPFA Charities and Social Enterprises Panel website www.cipfa.org/policy-andguidance/technical-panels-and-boards/ charities-and-social-enterprises-panel

Further details of the project are available at: www.ccab.org.uk





Governance and institute matters

Renew your CIPFA Membership

CIPFA Members stand out as globally recognised Chartered **Public Finance Accountants** (CPFA) – experts and specialists in public financial management.

CIPFA membership can drive forward your career, help you perform more effectively in your role and connect you with the people and issues affecting public finance today. With access to a range of career-enhancing continuing professional development you can be sure you have the right skills and knowledge to succeed.

The 2014 CIPFA membership renewal notices will be with you soon. All members and students will be provided with a membership invoice in their MY CIPFA account on www.cipfa.org. We will email you when your renewal invoice is ready for collection. If we don't have an email address for you, or you have requested not to receive Institute notices by email, you will receive a renewal pack in the post. To ensure you get the full benefits of your CIPFA membership please make your payment on time.

STEPS TO RENEW

- 1 log in at www.cipfa.org
- 2 go to 'MY CIPFA' at the top of the page
- 3 click on 'my purchases'
- 4 pay by credit / debit card or print off your invoice and pass it to your employer for payment.

Answers to some common membership renewal questions:

WHY IS MY RENEWAL INVOICE IN MY CIPFA? To ensure we get your invoice to you as fast as possible we have developed this secure process in our website.

I HAVEN'T USED MY CIPFA, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

If like many members and students, you have registered on the website you simply need to log in and select MY CIPFA. If you have not registered please do so to gain access to your membership invoice and manage your membership details.

TIPS FOR REGISTERING

- Use the first name that your CIPFA membership is set up with.
- Don't use your email address as your screenname (username).
- Don't copy and paste your email address into the registration.
- Find out your CIPFA Contact Ref Number (PNID).
- If you think you have registered already, go to forgotten password.

WHEN DO I NEED TO PAY MY RENEWAL NOTICE? Membership fees become due on **1 January** and will need to be paid in full by 31 March. The Institute Council on 9 October approved the reduction

in the time members have to pau their subscriptions from 6 to 3 months to bring us more in line with other professional bodies. We appreciate this is a shorter time frame than previous years, but if you are paying by direct debit the payment period remains unaffected so we will collect your payment as usual. In addition if you would like to pay by direct debit we can take a one-off payment from 1 January 2014, or you can stagger your payment monthly up to 30 June.

Full details of the membership fees for 2014, methods of payment and applying for a reduction in membership fees can be found on our website at www.cipfa. org/membership/fees-and-subscriptions.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2014 Membership renewal fees to cover the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014 are as follows:

Full Member £310 Career Break/ Part-time Working Member £155 Practice Assurance scheme subscription £267 Retired Member £49 Life membership for retired members £310 (one-off payment Registered Student £151

ANNUAL MEMBERS' STATEMENT All CIPFA Qualified Members are required to complete an Annual Members' Statement by 31 March 2014. This meets your obligation to confirm your participation, in or exemption from, CIPFA's continuous professional development scheme and whether you need to hold a CIPFA Practising Certificate or not. Access your Statement by visiting MY CIPFA at www.cipfa.org.

KEY CHANGES YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF:

- Qualified Member subscriptions have increased bu 3.3% for 2014 to ensure we continue to maintain the level of support and service you receive as a Member. Associate, Affiliate and Registered student subscriptions remain unchanged.
- Subscriptions must now be paid within three months of them becoming due. If you pay by direct debit the payment period of six months still applies. So don't delay setting up your direct debit if you want to spread the cost of your membership. Simply access the direct debit mandate from the membership pages of the website, under "How to pay".



Rule changes for Supplemental **Charter and Bye-Laws**

Changes to the Supplemental Charter and Bye-Laws, approved by the 2013 AGM and the Privy Council, came into effect on 9 October 2013. The amendments concern:

- recognition of the way future changes can be made to the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) independent disciplinary scheme – consultation with accountancy bodies and the arbitration of disputes replacing a requirement for consent
- termination of the Institute's competency scheme with the disciplinary scheme now considering cases of insolvency
- one set of Bye-Laws applying to all current and former Member categories and Registered Students rather than Registered Students being addressed separately
- recognition of the role of statutory disciplinary schemes (that may apply to individuals regulated by CIPFA outside the UK) and any joint disciplinary scheme (such as the FRC scheme).

A fuller explanation of the changes can be found at www.cipfa.org/ Supplemental Charter and ByeLaws.

Changes to the Disciplinary and **Competency Regulations**

Changes to the Institute's Disciplinary and Competency Regulations were approved at the 2013 AGM and came into effect on the 9 October 2013. The amendments primarily reflect changes to the Supplemental Charter and Bye-Laws and concern:

deletion of the competency scheme – insolvency and bankruptcy cases being considered under the disciplinary scheme

- recognition that one set of Bye-Laws apply to all former and current Member categories and Registered Students rather than Registered Students being addressed separately
- standardising references to any statutory disciplinary scheme and joint disciplinary scheme in which the Institute participates
- amendments giving the Investigations Committee greater flexibility to discontinue parts of a case
- standardising the wording of tests applied during the investigation stage of a case

Fuller detail of the related changes to the Supplemental Charter and Bye-Laws can be seen at: www.cipfa.org/ SupplementalCharterandByeLaws and the Disciplinary Regulations can be viewed at: www.cipfa.org/membership/ membership-handbook

Action under CIPFA's Disciplinary Scheme

The Institute's independent regulatory committees have taken the following actions in relation to Institute Members / Former Members:

MR SIMON RILEY

With the consent of Mr Riley the Institute's Investigations Committee issued him with a reprimand on the 5 September 2012 in respect of matters relating to treasury management at North East Lincolnshire Council.

Fuller details of the matter can be seen at www.cipfa.org/simonriley

MR STEVE OGRAM

With the consent of Mr Ogram the Institute's Investigations Committee issued him with a reprimand on the 22 July 2013 in respect of matters relating to treasury management at Bridgnorth District Council

Fuller details of the matter can be seen at www.cipfa.org/steveogram

MR ALAN MADIN

After a hearing held on the 21, 22 and 25-27 March and 25-26 June 2013 the Disciplinary Committee imposed a 12 month suspension order on Mr Madin in respect of matters relating to treasury management at North East Lincolnshire Council.

Fuller details of the matter can be seen at www.cipfa.org/alanmadin

MR ALAN THOMAS

After a hearing held on the 21, 22 and 25-27 March and 25-26 June 2013 the Disciplinary Committee imposed a reprimand on Mr Thomas in respect of matters relating to treasury management at North East Lincolnshire Council

Fuller details of the matter can be seen at www.cipfa.org/alanthomas

Standard of Professional Practice for CPD revised

On 18 October 2013 the Members and Students Development Board approved revisions to the Standard of Professional Practice (SOPP) for CPD. The revision includes reference to CIPFA's CPD accreditation scheme for employers of CIPFA members and to remove some out-of-date procedural information and contact details.

The SOPP indicates that participation in an accredited employer scheme means members can submit paperwork from an employer scheme as evidence of their CPD activities allowing more time to be spent on development. Members who work for a CIPFA-accredited employer are still, however, required to confirm their participation in the CPD scheme annually by completing and submitting their Annual Members' Statement.

The revised SOPP is available at: www. cipfa.org/membership/membershiphandbook.



Welcome to new members

A warm welcome goes out to the people listed below who became CIPFA qualified members between July and October.

May we wish you a long and prosperous career. Don't forget that as a **CIPFA member** you can use the designation **CPFA** and term yourself a Chartered Public Finance Accountant.

Shahid Naseeb Ahmed

East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust

Thomas Alty East

Sussex County Council

Keiran John Armitage

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Saima Ashraf

Grant Thornton

Nicholas Daniel Atlay

Harrogate Borough Council

Richard Colin Baker

Dacorun Borough Council

Nicholas Ball

Academis Finance Limited

Amondeep Singh Basra

London Borough of Lambeth

Neil Robert Bramma

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Lyndon Bridgewater

Hertfordshire County Council

Cagdas Canbolat

Uttlesford District Council

Jonathan Castle

Network Rail

Michelle Ann Clunie

Halton Borough Council

Andrew Coles

Kent County Council

Victoria Dale

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

Rizwan Dhanani

West Midlands Pension Fund

Devrim Dirlik

London Borough of Lewisham

Catherine Edgecombe

Hampshire County Council

Victoria Ellis

KDMC

Thomas England

London Borough of Bexley

Robert Samuel Fish

Mid Devon District Council

Lynsey Gardiner

Northern Ireland Audit Office

Shelley-Anne George

Hampshire County Council

Michael David Godfrey

Department of Business, Innovation and Skills

Leanne Gordon

Northern Ireland Audit Office

Thomas David Hart

Education Funding Scheme

Barry Hastie

Coventry City Council

Chris Haugh

Financial Services Division

Emily Victoria Hope

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Christina Elizabeth Hornbuckle

Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council

Louisa Claire Ann Ingham

Cheshire East Council

Elizabeth Anne Jones

Halton Borough Council

Heledd Fflur Jones

Gwunedd Council

Sahr Donald Kamanda

Haringey Council



Claire Kelly

Social Security Agency

Tom Kelly

Cambridgeshire County Council

Christopher John Knell

Westminster City Council

Katrina Leighton-Hearn

Essex County Council

Amy Jane MacGregor

South Derbyshire District Council

Wayne Marriott

Derbyshire County Council

Marie Elaine McKissock

Suffolk County Council

James Julius Michelson

London Borough of Camden

Richard Ney

Department for Business Innovation and Skills

Michael James Nulty

Mersey Internal Audit Agency

Eilis O'Doherty

Northern Ireland Audit Office

Andrea Owen

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Saroj Pal

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Daniel Peattie

London Borough of Merton

Alan Alexander Rennie

Glasgow City Council

Bleddyn Rhys

Gwynedd Council

Kevin Riley

Capital Training College

Nerinder Samaria

Leicestershire County Council

Katie Louise Sheppard

Hampshire County Council

Kimberly May Slamon

Manchester City Council

Lucy Sofocleous

Islington Council

Daniel Jonathan Stephens

KMPG

Claire Ellen Reeves Swift

Leeds City Council

Michael James Wall

Cheshire East Council

Andrew David Walters

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Rosemarie Watson

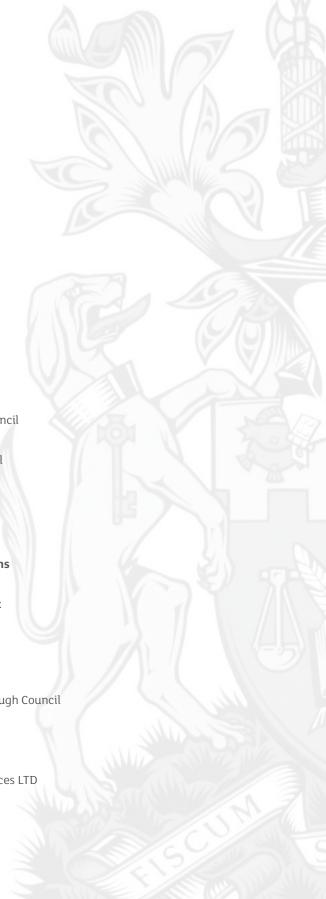
Learn Direct

Karl Watts

Sunny Accountancy Services LTD

Luke Webster

Greater London Authority







CCFA graduates

Welcome to the institute **CCFA** graduates

The latest cohort of Charity Finance and Accountancy Certificate (CCFA) students were welcomed to the Institute as affiliate members at a lunchtime event on Monday 23 September. The certificate is jointly run by CIPFA and London South Bank University (LSBU).

The event was presided over by CIPFA's Assistant Director of Education and Membership Steve Daniels and LSBU's Course Director Nigel Scott. Both congratulated the hard work and determination of the recent cohorts, acknowledging how the qualifying experience roots us all in a common professional development experience.

Congratulations and welcome to our new affiliate members: Jonathan Kuzipa, Anthony Edward Mitcheson, Elizabeth Olwen Hilton, Elizabeth Rachel Ollard, Alison Henderson, Alison Clare Burch-Hyson, Emily Campbell, David Hunter, Jehovana Riofrio Espinoza, Damaris McDonald, Jane Gray Smith, Margaret Clifton Black, Fiona O'Toole, Sally Ross, Diane Dukes, Rozalind Tate, George Hogg, Louise Alexandra Garner and James Otim-Obaya.

Job Seeking webinarhow to drive more interviews!

Are you frustrated that you are not getting interviews for jobs that you think you are more than capable of doing? Would you like to increase your interview hit-rate bu more than 50%?

If so, attend an exclusive free 60 minute online webinar 'How to Write a High Impact, Interview Winning CV', on 27 November 2013 at 19:15 - courtesy of CIPFA Rewards – that will provide highquality and leading edge information on creating a CV that will really open doors. The speaker is Matt Craven, Director of The CV & Interview Advisors. international speaker and thoughtleader on all things related to finding a new job. Matt's webinars are much more than a boring top 10 tips session; they have been described as 'outstanding' and 'truly inspirational'.

In this fast-paced and engaging webinar, you will learn how to:

- align your CV with the 'hot skills' in your market
- create a CV which will genuinely open doors
- transform your CV into a powerful business case
- harness the power of case studies in your CV
- create a winning personal profile / professional summary

This is a live webinar with a Q&A session at the end for you to ask Matt specific questions.

Register now at: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/ register/4169946580781989633

Log in details to access the webinar will be sent via email, all you need is internet access.

Peace of mind with latest **CIPFA Reward**

Through the CIPFA Rewards scheme, PG Mutual are offering CIPFA members 20% discount on their premiums for each of their first 3 years' cover*.

If you found yourself unable to work due to illness or injury, would you be able to live off state sickness pay? Would £286.80[†] a month cover your rent or mortgage, utility bills and groceries? If not, PG Mutual can provide protection for your income if you are unable to work due to an accident or illness.

PG Mutual is a not-for-profit membership organisation specialising in providing income protection for professional people. They offer a plan that provides a regular income if you are off work sick, as well as building up an investment element for you at the maturity of the policy.

View more information or call 0800 146 307 (quote CIPFA12)

- * Please note this offer is subject to PG Mutual's terms and conditions, applies to new PG Mutual Members only and excludes uplifts. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offer expires 31st December 2013. Registered office: 11 Parkway, Porters Wood, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6PA. Incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Friendly Societies Act 1992, Registered Number 462F. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Firm Reference Number 110023
- †£286.80 is calculated on a 4-week month, based on Employment Support Allowance at £71.70 a week for the first 13 weeks, age 25 or over. Taken from www.gov.uk, June 2013.



FREE Datashare Software

With many councils still struggling to be transparent when it comes to allowing citizens the opportunity to scrutinise spend, the LGA are sponsoring an innovative piece of software developed by London Borough of Redbridge that makes the whole process easier. The first 100 English local authorities will get the software free of charge.

It also helps with Freedom of Information requests that can be time consuming for busy finance departments. To find out more about the software visit: www.cipfa.org/services/ research-and-statistics/datashare and to make sure you don't miss out, email: datashare@cipfa.org to get hold of this new software.

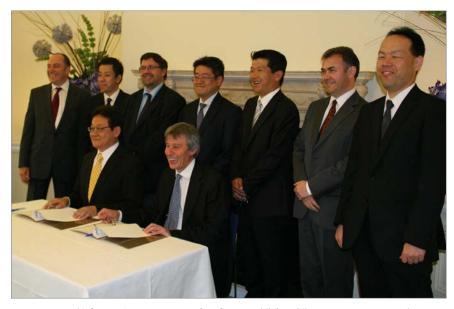
Ian Ball appointed as Chairman, **CIPFA International**

Ian Ball, the former CEO of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), was appointed as Chairman of CIPFA International on 1 October, 2013. He will work with the Institute Council and Management Team focusing in particular on CIPFA's international growth and development.

After ten years at the helm of IFAC, Mr Ball will bring tremendous knowledge of the global accounting profession to CIPFA. However, his name is also synonymous, like CIPFA's, with the drive to improve public financial management in governments around the world.

Speaking about his appointment, Ian Ball said

'It's a tremendously exciting prospect to be working with CIPFA and supporting its work to improve global public financial management. The Institute is uniquely placed to help governments develop stronger financial management practices...



Former CIPFA Chief Executive Steve Freer and Professor Toshihiko Ishihara, CIPFA Japan Branch President signing the constitution.

"...I relish the opportunity to be part of a team committed not only to promoting urgent action on reform, but also offering practical solutions.'

CIPFA Japan signing ceremony held in London

CIPFA held a signing ceremony in London on 1 October to authorise the constitution of CIPFA Japan branch, which is expected to commence business on 1 January 2014.

CIPFA Japan will further the development and promotion of principles of good public financial management in Japan and support public sector organisations in the country as they strive to implement good public financial management practices.

The signing was attended by the incoming President of CIPFA Japan, Professor Toshihiko Ishihara of the Institute of Business and Accounting, Kwansei Gakuin University.

Speaking at the launch Rob Whiteman said:

'The formation of the CIPFA Japan branch is a very exciting development and we are particularly grateful for the leadership and support of Professor Ishihara and for the remarkable enthusiasm and commitment of his team.

'Japan is a critically important economy and its Government and public services face significant challenges. CIPFA relishes the opportunity to work with them to bring to bear the benefits of stronger public financial management.'

CIPFA announces Bangladesh partnership

CIPFA has announced a training partnership with LCBS Dhaka a major training provider in Bangladesh's capital city: Dhaka. This is CIPFA's first accredited training partnership.



The partnership will allow accountancy students in Bangladesh to study for CIPFA's international public financial management professional qualifications. These qualifications allow students worldwide to achieve chartered public finance accountant status, and are the only ones based on International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

LCBS's Chief Executive, said, 'we hope LCBS Dhaka, being the very first global ATP, will be a role model for all future ATPs established elsewhere. I wish this new CIPFA ATP scheme great success'.

Speaking of the partnership, CIPFA's International Director, Alan Edwards, commented, 'CIPFA's continued international growth will help ensure that the next generation of public sector managers has the skills and expertise necessary to effectively lead and manage their country's public services.

'Our new partnership with LCBS Dhaka in Bangladesh is another example of how CIPFA is working to strengthen the accountancy profession around the world'.

CETC training manager relocates to Bangladesh until July 2014

Nicola Campbell, International Training Manager – formally of CETC and now CIPFA's International team – has relocated to live and work in Dhaka to support a number of activities in Bangladesh and significant potential opportunities in India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

In addition to the agreement CIPFA has signed with LCBS Dhaka, the first CIPFA students in Bangladesh will be completing their certificate in International Public Financial Management exams in December of this year. Just over 100 students from the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General will be taking these exams at

the Financial Management Academy in Dhaka.

Having a presence in Dhaka is an exciting opportunity for CIPFA to build its presence in the region and to drive forward its international strategy.

CIPFA accountant's Cambodian career-break

CIPFA member Joanna Dufton recentlu returned from a career-break in which she volunteered with three charities in Cambodia, through Accounting for International Development (AfID).

Joanna provided the charities with all-round accounting support. More specifically she performed a financial assessment, reviewed external audit manuals, and mentored staff on budgeting, financial processes and financial controls.

Joanna said:

'I was a bit worried that my work experience in UK public-sector-audit would not be relevant to a Cambodian charity. However, I soon realised this wasn't going to be a problem and that basic accounting and auditing was the same all over the world. So many of the skills I'd taken for granted, like using Excel, were the kind of things that the local staff wanted to learn about and develop.

'The best thing about the type of volunteering that AfID offer is that you are not filling a job that could be done by a local person. Instead, mentoring local staff allows individuals to learn from you and take over once you've moved on.'

CIPFA members regularly volunteer for AfID, which supports more than 150 charities in Africa. Asia and South America. Find out more at www.afid.ora.uk



A girl writes on the board at Phare Ponley Selpak, where Joanna volunteered. The children at the artistic centre and school benefit from a nutrition program, medical support, education support, as well as from cultural and artistic activities.



Regions

Reporting back from CIPFA Conference for the Regions 2013

This year the Conference for the Regions came back into its own again as a stand-alone event in the CIPFA calendar. By all accounts this event was a great success, over 100 delegates attended from across the full spectrum of regions and really enjoyed the sessions and networking opportunities.

The programme this year themed '2020 Vision' provided some excellent insights into evolving volunteering methodologies. Speakers looked at new and innovative ideas around the co-design and co-production of service delivery models, explored new forms of partnerships that blurred the boundaries between traditional public versus non-public sector arrangements and considered new concepts around the provider/user relationship.

It also presented the first opportunity for CIPFA's new Chief Executive,



Rob Whiteman, to give members his thoughts on the future strategy of the Institute and the role of members in the regions and branches in supplementing and complementing CIPFA's extensive range of products and services. It was heartening to hear Rob's commitment

to working with the membership as he develops his vision for the Institute and 21st Century CIPFA Regions – Shaping the Future.

It provided an opportunity for all who attended to demonstrate their commitment to the future work and success of each region and Branch, to input into the future strategy and direction of CIPFA and the regions themselves.

In addition, it provided a platform to recognise and thank those individuals and regions that have gone above and beyond in delivering a great service to members over the past year. Find out more about the great things the awardwinners achieved below.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's Conference for the Regions.

Northern Ireland wins Most Improved Region

The Northern Ireland region received the Most Improved Region Award 2013 at this year's Conference for the Regions.

The regional branch was recognised for a standout year of excellence, in which they: held a very successful conference; increased students' prospects of exam success; laid on an impressive awards ceremony; and he received a ringing endorsement from the Finance Minister of the Northern Ireland Assemblu.

Despite the economic climate, their annual conference was a great success thanks to the branch's active involvement, high quality of speakers, and Chairman Jonathan Adams who presided over the whole event.

The branch's impressive awards ceremony, in the magnificent surroundings of the Harbour



CIPFA President Jaki Salisbury presents the Most Improved Region Award to Jonathan Adams Northern Ireland branch chair

Commissioners' building, showed what is best about the Institute-recognising success, organising a professional and high quality event and fostering greater fellowship amongst members and the wider public finance community.



And Finance Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly – Minister Simon Hamilton publicly paid tribute to the value of CIPFA and the important role of its members on a number of occasions, and most recently at the annual conference.

Region of the Year is CIPFA Midlands

CIPFA Midlands were the winners of the Region of the Year Award for their tireless efforts in establishing and promoting a ground breaking apprentice scheme, a tremendous opportunity to profile CIPFA regional activity and CIPFA qualifications.

The apprentice scheme provides finance training opportunities for young people, in particular NEET's. It supports government apprenticeship targets, provides finance training schemes at minimal cost to employers. Find out more about the scheme on p.15

They have continued with the success of the 6th Form Management Games in their region and this has resulted in significant engagement from schools as well as positive media coverage in a host of local newspapers, increasing CIPFA's overall public profile.



Chris Gill receives Hedley Marshall Award



Lisa Commare and Sean Pearce (President, CIPFA Midlands) receive the Region of the Year Award from Jaki Salisbury

The time and energy of regional volunteers in setting-up and promoting these games has been amazing and it is a brilliant way to create interest and awareness in CIPFA among young people, leading to increased student membership going forward.

Chris Gill wins Hedley Marshall Award

Chris Gill won the Hedley Marshall award this year for many years of being at the heart of organising the 6th form games, being responsible for a joint trainee scheme and a coach of prize-winners, all carried out alongside a demanding role as a management accountant.

Chris Gill has for a number of years devoted his life to create, develop, administer and run the brilliant CIPFA Midlands 6th form games mentioned above. Chris retired from regional council a couple of years ago, but

has continued to be at the heart of regenerating the games and helping extend them to other regions.

Chris is lead development manager responsible for training at the Staffordshire County Council (where he works), with responsibility for the joint Staffordshire Trainee scheme with Stoke City Council and a number of local District Councils.

Staffordshire is one of the largest employers of CIPFA students and Chris has proudly been the coach for recent prize winners. In addition, Chris is involved in a number of local community activities outside work. Chris always finds the time to reply to queries and chivvy on colleagues who are working with him on the 6th form games.

Chris's enthusiasm over the years, building CIPFA's profile amongst schools and colleges across the



region, encouraging other members to volunteer, and sustaining CIPFA's student base across the region is a shining example to us all.

Cramlington Learning Village manage their way to victory

Five teams competed in the second CIPFA North East Region 6th Form Management games held at South Tyneside College on Friday 11 October 2013.

As employees of the fictional Unitary Borough of Emmstone the teams had to identify revenue savings of £10m (which increased as the day went on) whilst simultaneously creating schemes and bidding for a further £2m from the Regeneration Capital fund. They then had to build in the revenue costs arising from their proposed schemes. Their two main deliverables were a report outlining their proposals and a presentation to the Board of Governors.

Throughout the day they were interrupted by people trying to influence their decision making including: a very irate union official, the local press and a disgruntled old boy MP. This exposed the teams to everyday working life in the public sector, at the moment, with constant interruptions and changing goalposts.

After a very close competition between St Thomas More. Heaton Manor School. Cramlington Learning Village, Conyers School, Yarm and South Tyneside College and only eight points between all five teams Cramlington Learning Village came out on top.

CIPFA extend their thanks to the volunteers who gave up their day to help the students, their teachers and the students themselves who embraced the challenges and made the whole day so much fun whilst being a full on pressure for everybody involved.

Find out more about the day.

Cross-sector working for better patient care

Over 40 delegates from local authorities and health organisations across the

North East attended Health and Social Care – Working together for better patient and client care, a workshop organised jointly by CIPFA in the North East and the Healthcare Financial Management Association's (HFMA) Northern Branch.

North East President, Michael Brodie. Finance Director of Public Health England welcomed delegates to this workshop to bring together local authority and NHS finance professionals to ensure they are ready to support service managers in developing seamless health and social care services.

There were presentations by James Duncan. the Executive Director of Finance at Northumberland Tune and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, and Patrick Melia, Corporate Director at South Tyneside Council.

Workshop sessions were held to discuss the issues that create barriers to better integration, and opportunities for improved integration.

Read the full write up % fi

CIPFA Wales Cymruengaging with our students

Two of our executive members recently hosted a 'lunch n learn' session with our CIPFA students studying in the Welsh capital, Cardiff to listen to CIPFA student concerns and to explain how being part of a CIPFA network is rewarding and career enhancing.

Rebecca Nelson, a senior manager in PwC's Government and Public Sector group, and Tony Era, Finance Officer at the National Assembly for Wales, met with students at the Wharf restaurant to discuss engagement with CIPFA, regional events relevant to students and support whilst training.



All the volunteers for the day at CIPFA North East 6th Form Games



The lunch was very well attended, with some excellent points raised that both Rebecca and Tony promised to take back with them to the next Executive meeting.

For further information on CIPFA student engagement in Wales, please contact Rebecca.l.nelson@uk.pwc.com.

Regions raise money for **Big Issue charity**

The generous delegates at the Conference for the Regions, 18-19 October, raised over £500 and pledged over £1000 for the Big Issue Foundation.

The donations were made after Stephen Robertson, Big Issue Foundation CEO, gave an after dinner speech at the conference. Delegates were moved by his sobering thoughts, so much so that eight people volunteered to join the charity's team for the 2014 London to Paris Bike Ride, cycling 230 miles over three days finishing in Paris in time to see the Tour de France final.



The Big Issue Foundation supports and encourages vendors to make changes to their lives so they can move away from homelessness and back into main stream society. CIPFA is working in partnership with the foundation to raise money through a programme of volunteering and fundraising activities.

Find out more about The Big Issue Foundation: www.bigissue.org.uk.

The ten apprentices

Ten Apprentices Told 'You're Hired' in Unique New Training Scheme

CIPFA is piloting a unique and innovative apprenticeship scheme in the West Midlands, designed to attract individuals to a career in public finance.

Ten apprentices have joined the scheme; four at Grant Thornton's Birmingham office, two at Birmingham City Council, two at Coventry City Council, one at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and one at Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust.

The one-year apprenticeship is managed by CIPFA, allowing employers to focus on nurturing new talent within their organisations and apprentices on gaining valuable work experience while studying for a professional accountancy qualification.

Apprentices will work and study, developing their skills and implementing their knowledge throughout the contract. Training will be for a recognised Level 4 accountancy qualification and will be taught at the CIPFA Education and Training Centre (CETC) in Birmingham on day release. Applicants to the scheme require either an AAT Level 3 qualification or equivalent (A Levels, NVQs)

For further details visit the CIPFA website apprenticeship page.



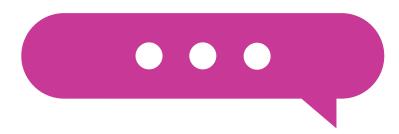
Students

NSF review: have your say

Your National Student Forum (NSF) is under review: volunteer to join the committee to help shape the future of the NSF.

The National Student Forum was formed over 10 years ago by a group of students who wanted to ensure that student views were represented across CIPFA. The NSF is well positioned to represent students within CIPFA with a seat on CIPFA Council, Members and Students Development Board and Board for the Regions.

Terms of reference were signed off at the Members and Students Development Board (MSDB) meeting in October for the NSF to be reviewed, this will include:



- How the NSF can become more accessible and engage
- How the NSF interacts with regions
- How the NSF can support the institute to achieve greater student numbers both in the UK and internationally
- How the NSF can ensure student views are represented on the issues that really effect students such as syllabus and exams



If you have some great ideas of how the NSF could be run, you can join the committee to have your say in person, or email suggestions to: NSF@CIPFA.org

CIPFA Midlands Student Society update

The eagerly anticipated AGM and Annual Dinner took place in July 2013.

The AGM was held at Grant Thornton in Birmingham and was a jam-packed event including speakers from the Private and Public Sector.

This was followed by the student society annual dinner, which was held at San Carlo Restaurant in Birmingham and attended by students, members and Presidents alike. Notable guests included Past President Sir Tony Redmond and his wife.



Students listen to Past President Sir Tony Redmond.





In memory of Ian Bowler

A special mention must be made to Ian Bowler, lecturer, who died in July 2013. Ian played an integral part in rejuvenating the Student Society, encouraging ideas and helping with several events for students.

Ian was a well-known and approachable character in the Midlands and will be sadly missed. He was also a very deserving winner of the Tom Sowerby award 2012, given for his outstanding service to students.

Victoria Hundleby

Chair of CIPFA Midlands Student Society for 2012-13

To get involved with CMSS, or to find out about upcoming events then please use the contact details below:

Email: cmss@cipfa.org.uk

Facebook: CIPFA Midlands Student Society

Twitter: @CIPFAMidlandsSS

Professional Qualification key dates

CANDIDATE ADMISSION EMAILS SENT 13 November 2013

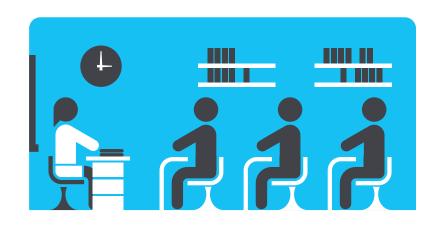
EXAMINATIONS 27 November – 5 December 2013

EMPLOYER CONTACTS EMAILED FOR CONFIRMATION AHEAD OF EXAM RESULTS 6 January 2014 (to be returned by 17 January)

EXAM RESULTS PUBLISHED 31 January 2014

Strategic Leadership sample exam script now available

A high scoring exam script is available to download which shows students what can be achieved within the time by a well prepared candidate, and provides insight into what the examiner is looking for in order to award a high mark. Download the script.



Financial Management exam tips from examiner

In three sittings of the CIPFA Professional Oualification Financial Management (FM) module a relatively clear pattern has emerged. Around one third of candidates demonstrate the right knowledge, technique and understanding. Another third show that they have the knowledge and technique but although they do not always demonstrate sufficient understanding they often do just enough to pass. Around a third appear to lack both technique and understanding which makes it impossible to award enough marks to allow them to pass... read more

Up to 2 months free membership

Register now as a student to get up to 2 months free student membership. If a student registers before January, the portion of their membership before that time will be free of charge. So the quicker students register the more free membership time they will gain.

Register to be a CIPFA student at: www.cipfa.org/registerasastudent



Events

Conferences

CIPFA SCOTLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014 06 & 07 March 2014. New venue: Beardmore Hotel, Clydebank, nr. Glasgow

CIPFA Scotland's Annual Conference is a key event in the calendar for all those working in the public services in Scotland. Further details will be published online. Please email any queries to Scotland@cipfa.org.

HRA ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS PLANNING MASTERCLASS 26 November, York 27 November Manchester 29 November, London

This masterclass explores a raft of post self-financing issues: from depreciation & componentisation, to alternative thinking about 30 year business plans; from effective financial management to capital programming; and from governance to sustainability. This is your opportunity to refine and enhance your own financial management and accounting skills. With sessions on general fund, performance, and policy, this will be a comprehensive learning day.

To book your places and download a full Programme: www.cipfa.org/events?tab =service&filters={71819B4B-9BD1-4B10-8410-7AD0BC643CD7}

LGPS ACTUARIAL CONFERENCE 14 January 2014

This event will help you to put the results of the 2013 Triennial Valuation in the context of implementing a new Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in 2014 and consider all of the issues facing individual funds as well as the LGPS as a whole.

http://www.cipfa.org/event/l/lgpsactuarial-conference-2014-20140114



MANAGING PUBLIC SECTOR ASSETS HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT 21 November, Birmingham Crown Plaza-**BOOK NOW**

Demand for property assets is the theme of this year's flagship property conference, brought to you by CIPFA's Asset Management Planning Network.

Our experts will talk on a range of topics that all look at how we can make more of the assets we have and re-model them so that the customer has efficient and modern services for the future.

Confirmed speakers

Roger Latham, past CIPFA President and visiting fellow at Nottingham Business School and Malcolm Prowle looking into effective forecasting

Jess Steele of Jericho solutions will look at how customer demand allowed the pier at Hastings to be restored and how that has had a positive effect on surrounding services.

Andrew Coleman – Local Partnerships

Colin Whitehouse – Independent government advisor

Noel O'Neil – Head of Locality, Chester, Cheshire West and Chester Council

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING CONFERENCE 14 November, Birmingham

Covering a wide range of high-level accounting and financial management issues, this flagship local government finance event will provide senior finance officers with the information they need as they face the challenges ahead. Our speakers not only understand changes, they are responsible for implementing them, and are therefore ideally placed to explain their impact.

AMP NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2013 – THE POINT TO DEMAND 21 November, Birmingham

A range of leading speakers will share their experiences to demonstrate how a better understanding of asset demand can make a difference to capital planning, asset strategy, the customer experience, regeneration, localism and much much more.

INCOME GENERATION SUMMIT 27 November, London

There has never been a more challenging time for authorities to 'balance their books' than now. This annual summit themed 'More Cash, Less Cost: Options to authorities on how to balance the budget' is our offer to you on how best to manage the challenges and financial pressures that all of these changes bring, by presenting some options and innovative approaches underpinning better resource management; greater VFM or even a more fundamental review on how services can be delivered. www.cipfa.org/events/i/incomegeneration-summit-20131127



CIDEA AUDIT LIPDATE 2013 28 November, London

This annual event will help public sector internal auditors to keep up with the latest developments at a time of enormous change in public sector internal audit. It is the perfect opportunity to hear from leading audit practitioners as well as networking with other organisations.

www.cipfa.org/events/c/cipfa-auditupdate-2013-20131128

Training

ACCOUNTING FOR THE NEW NDR REGIME IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT 18 November. Preston www.cipfa.org/events/a/accountingfor-the-new-ndr-regime-in-localgovernment-20131118

21 November, Leeds www.cipfa.org/events/a/accountingfor-the-new-ndr-regime-in-localgovernment-20131121

26 November, Bristol www.cipfa.org/events/a/accountingfor-the-new-ndr-regime-in-localgovernment-20131126

and search under NDR Regime for manu more.

ADVANCED AUDIT COMMITTEES 20 November, London www.cipfa.org/events/a/advanced-auditcommittees-20131120

AN INTRODUCTION TO CREATING SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC SECTOR SHARED SERVICES 4 February, London www.cipfa.org/events/a/shared-servicesintroduction--1-day-20140204

BUSINESS PARTNERING: MAKING THE TRANSITION 3 March, London www.cipfa.org/events/b/ business-partnering-making-thetransition-20140303

19 May, London www.cipfa.org/events/b/ business-partnering-making-thetransition-20140519

CERTIFICATE IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE Starts 11 December, Cardiff www.cipfa.org/events/c/certificate-incorporate-governance-20131107

Starts 06 February, Edinburgh www.cipfa.org/events/c/certificatein-corporate-governancescotland-20140206

CERTIFICATE IN CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

MANAGING CONTRACTS 19 November, Edinburgh www.cipfa.org/events/c/ccm-managingcontracts-20131119

FINANCIAL APPRAISAL OF CONTRACTORS 11 December, Edinburgh www.cipfa.org/events/c/ccm-financialappraisal-of-contractors-20131217

EXITING, CHANGING AND MIGRATING CONTRACTS 22 January 2014, Edinburgh www.cipfa.org/events/c/ccmexiting-changing-and-migratingcontracts-20140122

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT 27 November, London www.cipfa.org/events/c/contractmanagement-20131127

ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR BOARD MEMBERS 3 December, London www.cipfa.org/events/e/essential-skillsfor-board-members-20131203

IMPLEMENTING SUCCESSEUL PUBLIC SECTOR SHARED SERVICES 11 March, London www.cipfa.org/events/i/implementingsuccessful-public-sector-sharedservices-20140311

NEGOTIATING OUTSOURCING & JOINT VENTURES WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR 19 February, London www.cipfa.org/events/n/negotiatingoutsourcing--joint-ventures-with-theprivate-sector--2-day-20140219

NEW BUSINESS RATE FORMS AND OTHER END OF YEAR CHALLENGES 3 December, London www.cipfa.org/events/n/new-businessrate-forms-and-other-end-of-yearchallenges-20131203

4 December, Manchester www.cipfa.org/events/n/new-businessrate-forms-and-other-end-of-yearchallenges-20131204

14 November, Winchester www.cipfa.org/events/n/new-businessrate-forms-and-other-end-of-yearchallenges-20131114

and search under 'new business rate' for many more.





PRINCE2 FOUNDATION

1..." OA27R/38=1D467° www.cipfa.org/events/p/prince2foundation-20140317

24 February, Cardiff www.cipfa.org/events/p/prince2foundation-0140224

PRINCE2 PRACTITIONER 20−21 March, Edinburgh www.cipfa.org/events/p/prince2practitioner-20140320

27-28 February, Cardiff www.cipfa.org/events/p/prince2practitioner-20140227

PRINCE2 FOUNDATION AND PRACTITIONER 17–21 March, Edinburgh www.cipfa.org/events/p/prince2foundation-and-practioner-20140317

24-28 February, Cardiff www.cipfa.org/events/p/prince2foundation-and-practitioner-20140224

Many of our courses can be offered as In-house at your location

e-learning

All of the following courses are available to study online, starting at any time:

PRINCE2 ELEARNING FOR THE PUBLIC **SERVICES** www.cipfa.org/events/accredited-

training/prince-2-e-learning

GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE www.cipfa.org/events/e/elearninggood-governance-in-the-publicservice-20130903

IPSAS E-LEARNING PROGRAMME www.cipfa.org/events/i/ipsas-elearningprogramme-20130902

CERTIFICATE IN INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS 2013 www.cipfa.org/events/c/certificate-ininternational-public-sector-accountingstandards-20130301

Regional events

CIPFA NORTH EAST 3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE 22 November 2013, London

We live in a small world and CIPFA North East's 3rd annual conference themed 'Local, National, Global' will consider the interplay between local, national and international economies. It will consider how we can innovate and look to our international neighbours for solutions to regional issues, and how bringing policies down to a local level can make a real difference to local economies and people.

This unique one day conference draws on the rich experience and perspectives of prestigious speakers from a range of sectors and professions each with a shared passion for making a difference to local economies and people. It promises to be our best and most thought provoking conference yet.

FIND EVENTS IN YOUR REGION USING THE FOLLOWING LINKS:

Scotland

Northern Ireland

Republic of Ireland

North West

North East

Yorkshire and Humber

Wales

Midlands

South West

South East

Channel Islands

Europe

