

Finance Advisory Network (FAN)

Your network membership

2024/25

cipfa.org

The network offer

The CIPFA Finance Advisory Network (FAN) supports practitioners working in local government finance and accounting to address their current and future challenges.

FAN offers a wide range of workshops and network events to support practitioners in their roles, providing expert support and guidance, and centred on all aspects of best practice in public finance and accountancy.

As well as our 'open' events programme, our regular and ad-hoc workshops, including our 'Introduction to' Essentials workshops, can also be delivered on-site (webinar or face to face), at a special discounted rate for subscribers.

Subscribing to FAN also includes access, at no extra charge, to the Excel Collection Fund Accounting Models to help you in this complex area of local authority accounting, as well as regular updates on all emerging issues relating to the Collection Fund. CIPFA FAN is also developing a business rates budget monitoring tool, which will be free to use for subscribers once development and testing is complete.

Our website contains the documentation written to accompany FAN open events along with briefing notes, newsletters and archive material from previous years, all of which can be downloaded free of charge by subscribers.

Our monthly subscriber newsletter contains updates on changes to relevant accounting and financial reporting requirements, details of scheduled events and conferences, alerts on key CIPFA and Government consultations, and links to news stories that might be of interest to practitioners.

FAN aims to support public sector organisations in promoting good practice in financial management and reporting and ensuring practitioners are well informed and appropriately skilled to tackle the challenges they face. For those with specific accounting questions, our advisors are on hand to help and can be accessed via email or telephone. For queries, we aim to respond within three working days, and we will inform you if it's likely to take longer to consider the issue.

How to join?



If you would like further information about the benefits of subscribing to the FAN or would like a quote, please contact [David Ellis](#) 020 7543 5648, [Mark Catlow](#) 020 7543 5735 or [Jennifer Bevan](#) 020 7543 5615, who will be delighted to assist you.

Features and benefits

- Technical accounting support and guidance from expert advisors
- Collection Fund accounting spreadsheet models to give you assurance on year-end accounting transactions and treatment of Council Tax and Business Rates, including access to regular collection fund updates
- Business rates budget monitoring tool to help with in-year performance and forecasting
- Attendance at a wide selection of network events and workshops using pre-purchased places or on a pay as you go basis at special reduced subscriber rates
- Regular newsletters to keep you updated on the latest accounting and financial management and reporting issues affecting your work and the sector in general
- Timely updates and briefings on relevant political, financial and legislative issues and how these will affect you and your organisation
- Exclusive website access to a wealth of published information including past briefings, newsletters and current and past FAN event materials
- Sharing of knowledge and best practice with peers to create an environment where the key financial and policy issues of the day can be debated and addressed
- Access to the FAN LinkedIn group for additional advisor updates and networking opportunities
- Opportunities for networking, career development and CPD
- Discounts off any CIPFA Essentials or other open training events run by other CIPFA Networks
- Preferential rates for any on-site (webinar or in person) network workshops including FAN Essentials workshops
- Access to other network events when bought under a corporate membership arrangement

What our members say



“The FAN subscription, it is a great asset and I want to make sure the team uses it to best advantage”
Danae Fiedler, Mole Valley District Council



“You are like the fourth emergency service! CIPFA FAN is the ‘gold standard’ for public sector specialist advice and support”
Richard Hunt, North Kesteven District Council

Programme of events

Our planned headline events below are complemented by alerts and briefings, monthly newsletters and dedicated advisor support for practitioners in subscribing organisations. Prepaid places can be used to attend any events (webinar or face-to-face) set out in this service plan.

New events may be added during the year and details of these, along with options for use of pre-paid places, will be confirmed as part of the event promotion materials, FAN newsletters and alerts.



January/ February 2024

Local Authority Closedown and Financial Reporting Webinars 2023/24

The essential accounts closedown series for local authority practitioners.

Collection Fund Accounting and closedown for 2023-24 (England)

This event will cover everything you need to know about accounting for council tax and business rates and the general fund implications. It will focus on closedown 2023-24 to support those undertaking the task for the first time, or those who may need a refresher.



March 2024

Completing and Accounting for the NNDR 3 2023/24

Completing the NNDR 3 form, the accounting implications of each section and finalising the NNDR 3 process.

Understanding the 2023/24 FAN Collection Fund Models

How to complete the FAN 2023/24 collection fund closedown models, including what has changed and tips on how to use the model on your working papers.

Introduction to Local Authority Accounts and Closedown

These events are for delegates new to local authority accounting and closedown or who would like a refresher on the fundamental concepts and approaches (additional event in November 2024).



April 2024

Introduction to Local Authority Capital Accounting

Providing delegates with a solid understanding of local authority capital accounting concepts and principles (additional events July and October 2024).

Introduction to Budgeting

This Essentials workshop provides delegates with a good basic understanding of how to set, monitor and report on their local service budgets (additional event in October 2024).



May 2024

Introduction to Local Government Reporting – Principles and Practices

These events are for those delegates who are new to local authority reporting or who need a refresher on the fundamental concepts and principles which underpin the financial reporting framework within local government (additional event in November 2024).

Introduction to Financial Planning

As budgeting and medium-term financial planning skills become increasingly essential to the finance practitioner, these events will benefit anyone new to this topic or in need of a refresher (additional event in September 2024).



June 2024

Introduction to Local Government Finance

This introductory course provides an overview of local government, its structures and how it is financed, perfect for anyone who has recently joined a local authority (additional event in November 2024).

Introduction to Collection Fund Accounting (England)

Everything you need to know about accounting for council tax and business rates and the general fund implications (additional event in October 2024).

Introduction to Business rates budget monitoring

This new series of events is aimed at those looking to developing their understanding of the Business Rates Retention System, including top-ups, tariffs, safety nets and levies and how it all operates to influence the General fund outturn and budget forecasts. It will also introduce the FAN Business rates monitoring tool which aims to help practitioners with business rates budget monitoring.



July 2024

Understanding Local Authority Accounts for Councillors

This unique FAN workshop is designed to increase awareness and understanding of local authority financial statements to assist elected members in fulfilling their governance responsibilities (additional event in August 2024).

Introduction to Local Authority Capital Accounting

Providing delegates with a solid understanding of local authority capital accounting concepts and principles (additional events April and October 2024).



September 2024

Local Authority Capital Hot Topics Series

The annual FAN capital series assists authorities to properly account for the ever-changing capital accounting and financing agenda for organisations needing to comply with the local authority accounting Code and legislation.

Introduction to Financial Planning

As budgeting and medium-term financial planning skills become increasingly essential to the finance practitioner, these events will benefit anyone new to this topic or in need of a refresher (additional event in May 2024).

Introduction to Business rates budget monitoring

This new series of events is aimed at those looking to developing their understanding of the Business Rates Retention System, including top-ups, tariffs, safety nets and levies and how it all operates to influence the General fund outturn and budget forecasts. It will also introduce the FAN Business rates monitoring tool which aims to help practitioners with business rates budget monitoring.



October 2024

Introduction to Collection Fund Accounting (England)

Everything you need to know about accounting for council tax and business rates and the general fund implications (additional event in June 2024).

Introduction to Local Authority Capital Accounting

Providing delegates with a solid understanding of local authority capital accounting concepts and principles (additional events in April and July 2024).

Introduction to Budgeting

This Essentials workshop provides delegates with a good basic understanding of how to set, monitor and report on their local service budgets (additional date April 2024).



November 2024

Preparing Local Authority Group Accounts and Accounting for Collaborative Arrangements

This introductory course considers one of the more complex aspects of financial reporting – identifying the need for and preparation of group accounts and accounting for collaborative arrangements in single entity accounts.

Introduction to Local Authority Accounts and Closedown

These events are for delegates new to local authority accounting and closedown or who would like a refresher on the fundamental concepts and approaches (additional event in March 2024).

Full details of these events will be available at www.cipfa.org/events or contact one of the advisors for further details.

Further support

On-site delivery

Most FAN workshops are available as an on-site delivery. Contact us for more information.

CIPFA Essentials

Our '*Introduction to ...*' Essentials programme is designed to help support those who may be new to the sector, or perhaps working in a new role, and may also benefit non-finance staff and elected Members. These interactive workshops are a great way to help develop knowledge and awareness of a specific service area and are proving increasingly popular with staff development programmes.

Specialist support

The FAN can offer local authorities help with collection fund closedown and reviews of their approach to collection fund accounting.

Please contact [Mark](#) for further information.

Our networks

Looking for more support from our networks?


We offer a number of other networks across a range of topics. We also offer corporate subscriptions for your organisation allowing you and your colleagues to access events and support across multiple CIPFA networks according to your needs.

For any other network enquiries, or for details about our corporate network support package, please contact:

customerservices@cipfa.org

Our current networks are:

- Better Governance Forum
- Benefits and Revenues Service
- Social Care Finance Advisory Network
- Finance Advisory Network
- Pensions Network
- Police and Fire Network
- Procurement and Commissioning Network
- Treasury Management Network



77 Mansell Street, London E1 8AN
+44 (0)20 7543 5600

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