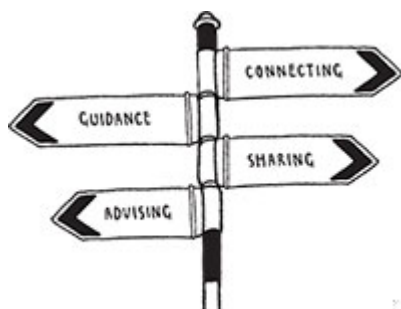


# Finance Advisory Network Newsletter



June 2019

## Advisor Update

Welcome to the FAN Non-Subscriber Newsletter for June.

Please [click here](#) to indicate safe receipt. We have received feedback that some of you are not receiving our communications and therefore clicking on the link will help us understand how many of you are receiving the emails and how many of our communications might be getting blocked through firewalls, etc. Many thanks for your assistance.

As usual, the newsletter includes details of our planned events and workshops, together with the latest updates on 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](#).

Best wishes from David, Caroline and Sandra

## Events

**Local Authority Accounting Conference** - The Latest Developments in Financial Reporting  
[27 June, London](#)

**The Value For Money Challenge Essential Skills For Successful Procurement Projects**  
[2 July, London](#)

**Introduction to Collection Fund Accounting for Local Authorities in England**  
[10 July, Manchester](#); [11 July, London](#); [22 October, London](#); [23 October, Leeds](#)

**Introduction to Local Authority Capital Accounting**  
[23 July, Leeds](#); [24 July, London](#); [5 September, London](#)

**Housing Finance Update days**  
[7 August, Leeds](#); [8 August, London](#)

**Introduction to Local Government Finance**  
[20 November, London](#); [21 November, Leeds](#)

**Introduction to Accounting for Groups and Collaborative Arrangements**

[12 November, Leeds](#); [13 November, London](#)

**Introduction to Public Sector Treasury Management**

[24 September, Manchester](#); [26 September, London](#)

[FAN Home](#)

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## Network and CIPFA News

### **Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) training and support**

The 2018/19 WGA Data Collection Tool (DCT) and guidance is now available on the [GOV.UK website](#) pages. Due to delays in issuing the DCT the submission dates for English local authorities have been pushed back to 28 June (stage 1 unaudited accounts) and 13 September (stage 2 audited accounts).

The [training video for 2018/19](#) is available to watch on the HM Treasury's YouTube page. The live training webinar can be also be accessed on [HM Treasury's YouTube page](#).

If you are interested in being part of the WGA Local Government User Group or wish to receive updates on the development of future WGA submissions via the OSCAR II project please contact HM Treasury on [lg\\_wgareturns@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:lg_wgareturns@hmtreasury.gov.uk)

Updated Highways Network Asset (HNA) toolkits have been produced and are now available on the [CIPFA website](#) (note that HNA data is only required for stage 2 WGA submissions).

### ***Understanding your Council's Financial Reporting Requirements – would your elected members benefit from this new FAN workshop?***

Please feel free to pass these details on within your authority....

Following the first open delivery of this new councillors workshop in London, it would be helpful to know if there is any demand for FAN to run this as an open workshop elsewhere in the UK (there were initial plans for an event in Leeds but this had to be postponed). Alternatively this workshop can be delivered onsite to your elected members in preparation for their approval of the 2018/19 accounts.

The materials were designed specifically to provide elected members with greater insight into the financial reporting requirements of their authority, giving them the knowledge and confidence to deliver effective engagement, scrutiny and challenge of the statement of accounts as part of their overall governance role. The workshops also consider the 2018/19 changes to local authority accounting and how that might impact on the financial statements they are required to approve.

If this is of interest please contact David to discuss options.

## **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficits**

FAN have received a number of queries in respect of DSG deficits and presentation in the accounts. Indeed, the issue has been raised with CIPFA by several CFOs and the matter is currently being considered by the Local Authority Accounting Panel. A CIPFA statement is expected to be issued in the near future (hopefully within the next week).

## **CIPFA Local Government Conference: The Latest Developments in Financial Reporting – London 27 June**

The summer [Local Authority Accounting Conferences](#) are the key events for practitioners to attend to find out about the very latest developments and consultation proposals for changes to local government financial reporting and how best to prepare for them.

Delegates attending this event will benefit from:

- hearing the latest updates on proposed changes to the Local Authority Accounting Code, enabling practitioners to better prepare for those changes, and have direct input into how those future changes are implemented in the Code
- gaining an insight into the actuarial process that supports local authority accounting for pension costs and how to ensure pension reporting for their authority is both timely and materially accurate
- understanding the latest policy developments affecting the sector including business rates retention, fair funding and gender budgeting and what that might mean in practice
- hearing how CIPFA's ongoing work is supporting authorities in resilience of service delivery and awareness of risk, given the increase in commercial activity in the sector
- gaining early insight into how the future streamlining and simplification agenda might impact on the Accounting Code requirements
- understanding the key audit considerations likely to impact on local authority practitioners and reflecting on how the faster closedown timelines are changing audit workload planning

See events listing for further details and to book.

## **Housing Finance Update Days – Leeds 7 August, London 8 August**

Following on from the successful Introduction to Housing Finance workshops that we now run annually in the late autumn, David is pairing up again with Steve Partridge of Savills to deliver two [Housing Finance Update](#) days in August for practitioners with specific responsibility for HRA accounting and finance.

The past few years has been a busy period in housing finance in England, with a wealth of changes in regulation, government policy and accounting. The 'Housing Finance Update' course will cover the following areas:

- The latest changes in government policy and regulation and how they impact on the Housing Revenue Account in practice
- Changes in the technical accounting requirements for the HRA, including capital receipts pooling, right to buy receipts consultation, the Item 8 Determination and the accounting for depreciation for HRA assets

- The prospects for development and regeneration in the HRA, exploring through a case study approach some of the options available to authorities to fund development and the factors that must be considered when evaluating those options
- The options available to invest in the HRA following removal of the self-financing debt cap in October 2018.

There will be the usual opportunity for participation, discussion and debate. Details of the programme and how to book can be found in the event listing links. Please note that we have already had over 40 bookings for these workshops, so please book soon to secure your place.

### **CIPFA Network Essentials Courses**

FAN continue to deliver a number of popular 'Introduction to' workshops designed for those new to the sector, new to specific roles, or simply looking for an update or refresher...these workshops cover areas such as capital accounting, collection fund and group accounts amongst others. The current events available to book can be found in the event listing in this newsletter and via [the CIPFA website](#). Note there is now limited availability at some of the Introduction to Capital Accounting workshops. All FAN workshops are available as an on-site delivery if the courses would benefit other colleagues in your authority, so please get in touch if this is of interest.

### **Chair of CIPFA/LASAAC Local Authority Code Board**

The CIPFA/LASAAC Local Authority Code Board is the accounting standard setting body for local government in the UK. The work of the Board ensures that the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting provides an IFRS-based framework that ensures financial statements are prepared to the highest global standards.

The Board is seeking to appoint a Chair for a three year (renewable) term. As well as chairing three meetings annually of CIPFA/LASAAC, the Chair will work closely with CIPFA's professional secretariat and will be expected to attend the Financial Reporting Advisory Board (FRAB). To be the successful candidate you will be a technically proficient public sector accountant and strategic thinker who is passionate about public sector financial reporting.

Further details and a person specification is available on the [CIPFA website](#) . Application deadline is 15 July 2019.

### **Free breakfast event at LGA Conference – 3 July**

CIPFA is holding a free breakfast event at the LGA Conference on 3 July in Bournemouth: 'Walking the line: How do we deliver quality services and financial resilience?'. The panel line-up includes Heather Jameson, editor of the MJ, who will chair the debate, involving CIPFA's chief executive Rob Whiteman, Joanna Killian, Chief Executive of Surrey County Council, Rokhsana Fiaz OBE and Mayor of Newham.

There is more information [on our event page](#)

The event is being held at the Highcliff Marriott, five minutes from the conference centre. We hope it will spark a debate - and insight, ideas and practical solutions - on what future innovative service provision could look like. If you have any questions on this event please contact Ashleigh Moore in CIPFA's corporate communications team on 020 7543 5600.

### **CIPFA Property Regeneration 2019 Conference – Birmingham, 10 July**

CIPFA Property's Regeneration 2019 Conference examines how those responsible for delivering regeneration can create long term, sustainable change to ensure the continued growth of our local communities. Through the four key sub themes of town centres, housing, infrastructure and economics it will provide practical advice and strategies that give both thought leaders and practitioners the tools they need to fulfill their roles better.

With key note sessions from inspiring thought leaders and prominent figures in both the public and commercial sector, this event goes further to examine in detail how projects that effect change are actually delivered. Through best practice case studies delivered by inspiring public/commercial project partnerships, delegates will be immersed in that which has been delivered across the country. [Regeneration 2019](#) delivers real insight, guidance and advice to meet today's challenge; the creation of better places to live, work and prosper.

### **CIPFA's Annual Public Finance Conference 2019**

The CIPFA Annual Conference and Exhibition this year remains the UK's premier conference for professionals working in public finance and accountancy. Now known as Public Finance Live, hear from global economists, thought-leaders, tech pioneers and change management experts discuss and debate the opportunities and challenges presented by the impact of technology.

Attracting over 700 attendees and with sessions on everything from tech culture to fraud, this two-day conference is not to be missed. Plus this year you have the opportunity to attend sessions at CIPFA Regeneration 2019, a CIPFA event running alongside which addresses the issues around public property and asset management. [Click here](#) to book your place.

### **TIS Online Editorial Boards (vacancies)**

CIPFA currently has vacancies on its TISonline editorial boards and would welcome expressions of interest from practitioners. We currently have vacancies on the following boards (click to see the list of current content):

[Adult Social Care and Health](#)  
[Budgeting](#)  
[Charity Accounting and Financial Management](#)  
[Social Enterprise](#)  
[Human Resources](#)  
[ICT and Business Transformation](#)  
[Leisure and Cultural Services](#)  
[Local Authority Housing](#)  
[Local Taxation](#)  
[Planning](#)  
[Police and Fire](#)  
[Risk Management](#)  
[Transport](#)  
[Treasury Management](#)

Here is some information about TISonline and what membership of a board entails:

- TISonline is CIPFA's Technical Information Service for public sector finance, a repository of essential information [across 36 topics](#) .
- Join a dedicated support network, benefitting both you and your organisation.
- Increase your knowledge of your specialism.
- Have your work published in a respected resource used by the majority of UK local authorities.

- Help guide other professionals to provide a better service and improve standards.
- Participation contributes to continuing professional development (CPD).
- Board members receive one free place per year on a CIPFA Network event.
- Board meetings are two or three times a year, with travel expenses paid and lunch provided.

If you or someone you know are interested, please email Jonathan Last:

[Jonathan.Last@cipfa.org](mailto:Jonathan.Last@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 [local government](#). Recent articles include discussions on preventative investment and top tips for new councillors.

### **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 news, stories from Public Finance, etc. We encourage practitioners 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](#).

## **News Roundup**

News stories are part of the subscriber service only

## **Publications**

[\*\*Local Authority Capital Accounting - A Reference Manual for Practitioners\*\*](#)

[\*\*The Guide To Local Government Finance \(2019\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Practitioners' Guide To Capital Finance \(2019 Edition\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*An Introductory Guide to Housing Finance in England and Wales \(2019 Edition\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Code Of Practice On Local Authority Accounting In The United Kingdom 2019/20\*\*](#)

[\*\*A Practical Guide for Local Authorities on Income Generation \(2019 edition\)\*\*](#)

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