



Benefits and Revenues Service

# Horizon Scanning Briefing

**January 2019**

Welcome to the first CIPFA Benefits and Revenues Service (CBRS), non-subscriber newsletter of 2019.

CBRS delivers practical and technical advice on revenues and benefits issues. Working closely with central government and other public sector bodies to give subscribers advice, and provide support to help in the day to day administration of benefits and revenues services as well as taking on the challenges that business rate retention and welfare reform bring.

For more information about the services offered by CBRS please visit our website <https://www.cipfa.org/services/networks/benefits-and-revenues-service>

Adrian & Sheldon

## Benefits News

There has been a delay in providing information regarding the next two series of benefits events scheduled to be run before the end of March.

This delay is because Sheldon has been selected for Jury Service from the start of February which means finalising and confirming event dates is a little difficult. A programme and intended dates will be available very soon.

Of the two series of events, the first will be an update on housing benefit and universal credit changes and their impact, along with a review of local authorities' approach to their council tax support schemes for 2019/20.

This series will run at all the usual regions, currently scheduled to start in the first week of March.

The other series of events will be the usual annual guide to completing the housing benefit subsidy claim for 2018/19 which is scheduled to run during the last week in March in London, Birmingham and Manchester.

## Revenues News

The annual joint FAN and CBRS events for completing and accounting for the NNDR3 will be taking place in March at the following venues.

These events are hugely popular so please book early to avoid disappointment.

11 <sup>th</sup> March	<a href="#">Leeds</a>
12 <sup>th</sup> March	<a href="#">Birmingham</a>
13 <sup>th</sup> March	<a href="#">Bristol</a>
20 <sup>th</sup> March	<a href="#">Manchester</a>
27 <sup>th</sup> March	<a href="#">London</a>
28 <sup>th</sup> March	<a href="#">London</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> April	<a href="#">Newmarket</a>

The next series of CIPFA Benefits and Revenues Service (CBRS) revenues events are scheduled for April 2019. These events continue our commitment to keep you up to date with the latest news and government policies affecting local authority revenues services.

This series will focus on the various consultations that have taken place recently as well as the information sharing agreement and protocol that have been updated by the Valuation Office Agency and are due to be re-launched at the end of January 2019.

The dates and venues for this series of events are as follows-

2 <sup>nd</sup> April	<a href="#">Winchester</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	<a href="#">London</a>
5 <sup>th</sup> April	<a href="#">Newmarket</a>
9 <sup>th</sup> April	<a href="#">Exeter</a>
10 <sup>th</sup> April	<a href="#">Birmingham</a>
11 <sup>th</sup> April	<a href="#">Manchester</a>
12 <sup>th</sup> April	<a href="#">Durham</a>

## Introduction to Council Tax

This event offers a comprehensive introduction to council tax for local authority staff. It is ideal for revenues staff new to the area of council tax and for staff wanting to know more about council tax administration.

To ensure delegates have a fundamental understanding of the key areas of council tax legislation and administration the event covers the following areas:-

- introduction to council tax
- liability (including joint and several liability)
- discounts and exemptions
- billing, collection and enforcement
- appeals

26 <sup>th</sup> February	<a href="#">Leeds</a>
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## Introduction to National Non-Domestic Rates

This event offers a comprehensive introduction to NNDR for local authority staff. It is ideal for revenues staff new to the area of NNDR and for finance staff wanting to know more about NNDR administration.

The event begins with an introduction that puts NNDR in context. The current rates retention scheme is explained, giving delegates a greater understanding of why NNDR have become so important to local authority finances since 2013.

The following areas are then covered, ensuring delegates have a fundamental understanding of the key areas of business rates legislation and administration:

- how NNDR are calculated
- liability – rateable occupation
- valuation
- completion notices
- relief and exemptions
- billing, collection and enforcement

27 <sup>th</sup> February	<a href="#">Leeds</a>
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More information and details of how to book are available by clicking the relevant link.

### Follow CBRS on Twitter and connect on LinkedIn

Adrian tweets details of relevant news stories, CBRS event updates, CIPFA news, stories from Public Finance, etc.

We encourage you 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 issues affecting local authority revenues teams.

Click to find Adrian on [Twitter](#) or [linked in](#), or search for all our network advisor tweets using the hashtag #cipfanetworks.

## **Publications**

1 – Council Tax Base 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/council-taxbase-2018-in-england>

2 - National non-domestic rates collected by councils in England: 2017 to 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-non-domestic-rates-collected-by-councils-in-england-2017-to-2018>

3 – Valuation in Practice – Issue 51

<https://www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/VIP-Issue-51.pdf>

4 - 2017 Central Rating List at September 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/non-domestic-rating-challenges-and-changes-2017-and-2010-rating-lists-september-2018-experimental>

5 - Challenges and Changes 2010 and 2017 rating lists at September 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/non-domestic-rating-challenges-and-changes-2017-and-2010-rating-lists-september-2018-experimental>

6 - Business Rates Information Letter 5/2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/52018-business-rates-general-information>

## **Consultations**

1 - Business rates treatment of self-catering accommodation (closed 15-01-19)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/business-rates-treatment-of-self-catering-accommodation>

2 - Breathing space scheme: consultation on a policy proposal (closes 29-01-19)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/breathing-space-scheme-consultation-on-a-policy-proposal>

3 - Review of enforcement agent (bailiff) reforms: call for evidence (closes 17-02-19)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/review-of-enforcement-agent-bailiff-reforms/>

4 - Review of local authorities' relative needs and resources (closes 21-02-19)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-local-authorities-relative-needs-and-resources>

5 - Business rates retention reform (closes 21-02-19)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/business-rates-retention-reform>

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