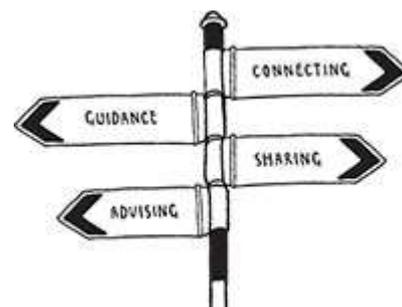


# Finance Advisory Network

## Newsletter



### Advisor Update

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

As usual, the newsletter includes details of our planned events and workshops (including our Closedown workshops for 2019/20), together with the latest updates on consultations and other issues that may be of interest to finance staff working in organisations that account under the CIPFA/LASAAC Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice. We hope you find it helpful.

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

That's all for this month's advisor update.

Best wishes from the FAN team for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David, Caroline and Sandra

### FAN 2019/20 Closedown and Financial Reporting Workshops

A quick reminder of the dates and venues for our upcoming Accounts Closedown series. We already have almost 600 delegates booked on so please do book your place now to secure your choice of date and location.

The series starts on 7 January and will include almost 30 events covering England and Wales. In England separate events are being provided for police and fire practitioners, and two tailored events are being run for all practitioners in Wales (including Welsh fire and police practitioners).

Prices are being held at the same level as this year's workshops (£295 plus VAT) and the usual use of pre-paid network places will apply. A full event line-up is included below, and bookings can be made on the [FAN website](#). The FAN team and associate Graham Liddell again look forward to seeing you early in the new year.

### Events

#### Closedown and Financial Reporting Workshops

[Various dates](#)

#### Housing Symposium 2020 – Opening Doors

[23 January, London](#)

#### Introduction to Public Procurement

[29 January, London](#)

[21 April, Leeds](#)

[22 September, Birmingham](#)

#### What does best practice contract management look like?

[11 February, London](#)

[14 February, Leeds](#)

[05 March, Birmingham](#)

#### Introduction to Collection Fund Accounting for Local Authorities in England

[7 February, London](#)

#### Completing and accounting for the NNDR 3 2019/20

[09 March, Leeds](#)

[10 March, Birmingham](#)

[11 March, Bristol](#)

[12 March, London](#)

Date	Town	Venue
7 January 2020	Liverpool	Novotel Liverpool Centre
8 January 2020	Leeds	Leeds Novotel
9 January 2020	London	Mansell Street
14 January 2020	Manchester	Novotel Manchester Centre
14 January 2020	Exeter	Mercure Rougemont Hotel
15 January 2020	Southampton	Novotel Southampton
15 January 2020	Birmingham	Novotel Birmingham Centre
16 January 2020	London	Mansell Street
21 January 2020	Birmingham	Hotel Indigo Birmingham
21 January 2020	Cardiff (Wales Authorities)	Novotel Cardiff Centre
22 January 2020	Lancaster	Lancaster City Council
22 January 2020	London	Mansell Street
23 January 2020	Cambridge	Doubletree by Hilton
23 January 2020	Chester (Wales authorities)	Hallmark Queen Hotel
28 January 2020	Edinburgh	CIPFA Offices
29 January 2020	Newcastle	Royal Station Hotel
30 January 2020	Cambridge	Holiday Inn Cambridge
4 February 2020	Leeds (English Police & Fire)	Park Plaza Leeds
4 February 2020	London	Mansell Street
5 February 2020	Ashford	Ashford Borough Council
5 February 2020	London	Mansell Street
6 February 2020	London (English Police & Fire)	Mansell Street
11 February 2020	London	Mansell Street
11 February 2020	Bristol	Doubletree by Hilton City Centre
12 February 2020	London	Mansell Street
13 February 2020	Birmingham	Hotel Indigo Birmingham
13 February 2020	Leeds	Park Plaza Leeds

[13 March, London](#)

[17 March, Durham](#)

[18 March, London](#)

**Understanding and using the collection fund accounting models**

[16 March, Leeds](#)

[19 March, Bristol](#)

[20 March, London](#)

### **MHCLG Safety Net Levy Calculator**

MHCLG have published the NNDR 3 2018/19 Safety Net and Levy calculator based on the NNDR 3 2018/19 forms submitted to date (final or draft if not yet audited). The calculator has been added to the Business Rates Retention Hub on the website

<https://www.cipfa.org/services/networks/finance-advisory-network/business-rates-retention-resource-hub>

### **NAO Code of Practice Changes**

The local audit code update will see key changes in what auditors of local public bodies will be required to do from April 2020.

Proposed key changes in stage 2 of the consultation which closed on 22 November included; clarified expectations about the importance of necessary skills and knowledge, a sharper emphasis on value for money and timely reporting, a move away from the provision of an overall 'binary' conclusion to providing commentary on financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness and more streamlined auditor reporting.

Full details of the consultation can be found [here](#) and CIPFAs response to stage 2 of the consultation can be found [here](#).

### **Redmond Review**

The Redmond Review, which sought views on the transparency and quality of local authority financial reporting and external audit has also now closed after seeing the deadline extended to 20 December.

The main objectives of the review were; to examine whether the audit and regulatory framework for local authorities in England are operating in line with policy intent in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, to look at whether reforms have improved the effectiveness of the control and governance framework, to ask if the statutory framework for local authority financial reporting supports the reporting of financial performance and enables users to hold local authorities to account, and to make recommendations on improving the accounts and audit framework to meet the needs of local residents and council taxpayers.

Read Rob Whitemans' article '*Readying ourselves for the Redmond Review*' [here](#) and see CIPFAs response to the consultation [here](#).

### **CIPFA/LASAAC Stakeholder Survey**

The CIPFA/LASAAC stakeholder survey on the use and preparation of local government accounts was conducted in summer 2019 and included separate questions for each of the following key stakeholder groups:

- Users interested in accountability for public resources
- Other users of local authority accounts
- Professional experts involved in local government accounts

Two additional discussion papers were developed for areas where CIPFA/LASAAC sought further dialogue with stakeholders covering the future strategy for the Code's development and the scope for applying differential reporting requirements to different types of bodies, either by size, or by type, or some other classification.

Feedback from the survey has been published and can be found [here](#).

### **Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement**

The 2020/21 provisional local government finance settlement arrived just in time for Christmas and has been called 'the biggest multi-billion pound spending increase for councils' in a decade' by the Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick.

Key messages include; the delay of the business rates reset from 2020 to 2021 with a full reset planned for 2021/22, the continuation of the New Homes Bonus for another year, an additional £1.5bn for social care made up of £1bn extra grant and a proposed 2% council tax precept, a continuance of the Rural Services Delivery Grant at £81m and a continuance of the Independent Living Fund Recipient Grant in 2020/21

Full details of the settlement can be found [here](#).

### **Vacancy – Chair of the Governance and Financial Management Panel**

Financial management, resilience and sustainability are at the core of public sector finance, following a number of years of continued reduced resources. Do you want to be at the core of CIPFA's work on supporting the sector on these key parts of accountability and governance?

CIPFA has a vacancy for the Chair of the Governance and Financial Management Panel. This Panel is integral to CIPFA's work on governance and financial management, which will include the internationalisation of CIPFA's new Financial Management Code. It is also responsible for responding to initiatives to strengthen governance and financial management in public services.

There are normally two to three Panel meetings per year (as appropriate to the Panel's objectives and work plans for the year). The meetings last for approximately half a day. The Chair would be anticipated to chair relevant conferences and represent the Panel.

For more details please consider the [person specification](#) and/or contact the secretary of the Panel for an informal discussion.

*If you think that you are the ideal candidate please send your brief letter of application together with your CV to [milan.palmer@cipfa.org](mailto:milan.palmer@cipfa.org) by Friday 17th January 2020. Successful candidates will be invited for interview in the end of January early February.*

**Public Finance Live 2020, 8-9 July – Booking now open**

Public Finance Live returns for 2020 bringing you the latest in public finance initiatives, insights and solutions. Join thought leaders, leading political figures, economists, financial innovators and commercial partners to develop blueprints for better outcomes and a sustainable public services and economy.

Welcoming over 700 delegates to the QEII Centre, London, this year's event will offer a variety of focused content streams for you to tailor the conference to your own personal needs and interest.

Content streams to include:

- Financial resilience and trust
- Talent and Skills
- Data and technology
- People and places
- Health and Social Care
- Counter Fraud

Early bird booking open till 30 April 2020. Click [here](#) to book.

### **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:

- [Insights into Integration](#)
- [Opening the door to diversity](#)
- [All CIPFA wants for Christmas is public services back on a sustainable financial path](#)
- [Planning in uncertain times](#)
- [The commercial trend revisited](#)

Take a look at the full list of articles [here](#).

### **Follow FAN on Twitter and connect to us on LinkedIn**

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

We can also be found on LinkedIn and increasingly use social media for additional FAN updates, so if you are on LinkedIn then please feel free to connect to us: [David](#), [Sandra](#) and [Caroline](#).

### **LinkedIn Discussions**

CIPFA has its own [Linkedin group](#) where you can find up to date announcements and discussions on all the latest issues in the public sector. Why not join in one of the discussions or start a conversation of your own?

News stories are part of the subscriber service only.

### **Publications**

1	<a href="#">Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities (2020/21 Edition)</a>
2	<a href="#">Financial Management Code</a>
3	<a href="#">IFRS 9 Financial Instruments: A guide for Local Authority Practitioners</a>
4	<a href="#">Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: Disclosure Checklist for 2019/20 Accounts</a>
5	<a href="#">Code Of Practice On Local Authority Accounting In The United Kingdom 2019/20</a>
6	<a href="#">IFRS 16 Leases: An Early Guide for Local Authority Practitioners</a>