



Finance Advisory Network Non-Subscriber Newsletter

November 2021

Advisor Update

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

The non-subscriber newsletter includes details of our upcoming events along with CIPFA news and updates that will hopefully be of interest to practitioners.

David will be involved in next week's Local Authority Accounting Conference (see final reminder details below) but before that will be delivering two new workshops on Introduction to Local Authority Financial Statements and Closedown. Originally scheduled as one webinar on 30 November, that date soon sold out so a second date on 1 December was added...and there is still time to book if you are quick. Details of the workshop can be found in the events listing.

Caroline will be leaving CIPFA at the end of December, after nearly 9 years in the advisor role. It has been a pleasure to work with and get to know so many of you. It would be lovely to stay in touch so if you haven't already and would like to, please do find me on [LinkedIn](#). December will be my last newsletter.

CIPFA are currently recruiting to replace both Sandra and Caroline in the FAN Team, so if you would be interested in finding out more about the roles, do take a look at the [advert](#). Closing date is 5 December.

Please note that we can deliver any of our [Essentials](#) 'Introduction to...' events exclusively for your authority, so please do get in touch with a member of the FAN team if interested in a 'local' delivery.

Don't forget that you and your colleagues can add or remove yourselves from the network mailing lists via the [MyCIPFA Preference Centre](#). Just make sure that any settings are **confirmed** so that the mailing list update process picks up your requested changes.

Events

Introduction to Local Authority Financial Statements and Closedown

[1 December, webinar](#)

Local Authority Accounting Conference

[2 December, Webinar](#)

Delivering zero carbon UK housing

[8 December, Webinar](#)

Accounts Closedown and Financial Reporting Workshop

[January/February, Webinar](#)

[FAN Home](#)

We hope you find the newsletter and updates helpful.

Best wishes,

David and Caroline

Network and CIPFA News

Local Authority Accounting Conference – 2 December 2021

Last chance to book for the traditional post-consultation local authority technical accounting update on 2 December. This extended half-day webinar (approximately 9.30am to 1.30pm) will provide an update on the changes that will be brought in to the 2022/23 Code, will explore the impact of the proposed changes to CIPFA's Prudential and Treasury Management Codes, consider the key issues impacting on local government finance in a post-COVID world, examine the lessons that can be learned on the levelling-up agenda, and finally will revisit a number of technical and practical focus points for the introduction of IFRS 16 on 1 April 2022.

Please see events listing to book.

2021/22 Accounts Closedown and Financial Reporting Workshops – January/February

This year's closedown workshops will cover the latest changes to the code's requirements and recent developments in relation to 2021/22 local authority financial reporting. They will also cover topical updates on key areas of relevance to those involved in the accounts closedown and preparation process. The workshops will consider a variety of accounting issues linked to COVID-19 and focus on the practical preparation issues for the IFRS 16 leases standard as the transition date approaches.

Attendees will have a chance to:

- improve understanding of the key considerations and accounting changes impacting on the preparation of the 2021/22 statement of accounts
- consolidate key learning points from the 2020/21 accounts closedown and audit process, as well as other topical or ongoing financial reporting issues, including the Redmond Review
- learn about the practical implementation issues to focus on for the introduction of IFRS 16 Leases in the UK Accounting Code on 1 April 2022
- be updated on how the principles and concepts in the code are applied to pandemic-related accounting issues
- discuss and ask questions on topical accounting and financial reporting issues affecting the 2021/22 closedown process
- network, share knowledge and good practice amongst fellow practitioners and CIPFA advisors

Please see the events listing to book.

Would you like to be involved in a roundtable on financial resilience self-assessment - 9 December? RSVP 6 December if you would.

CIPFA will convene a small group roundtable in partnership with the University of Essex to discuss a financial resilience toolkit that we are developing. You are

invited to join us on Thursday, 9th December from 10-11:30am via Zoom.

The project aims to operationalise research on local government financial resilience into a practical toolkit, co-produced and piloted with practitioners, that can (1) assess their resilience and (2) empower their capabilities in responding effectively to shocks from future events / crises. We would welcome your reflections and expertise on how the beta version of this toolkit can be made more useable to support informed decision-making by public managers.

If you would like to be involved, please email Mark.Mclean@cipfa.org by 6 December.

Delivering Zero Carbon UK Homes - HAN Event - Wednesday 8th December 2021

This course is aimed at local authority and housing association senior managers and practitioners who are responsible for the funding, planning, specification and design of low carbon housing developments. It will also be useful to those of you who are developing policies, strategies and action plans to meet the zero-carbon targets for their council or housing association.

At the end of the event you should:

- Have updated your knowledge in relation to some of the latest research and technologies in low-carbon homes.
- Know what to look for when planning, specifying or designing low carbon homes for social rent.
- Be able to make evidence-based decisions on the most effective low carbon modern methods of construction to deploy.
- Have some funding options for you to consider

Please see events listing to book.

Value in Public Finance peer learning group

As the economic situation following the COVID-crisis has exacerbated budgetary pressures, there has been growing public demand to demonstrate the 'value' of public expenditure. Join the next meeting of the Value in Public Finance peer learning group (2pm, 19th January), co-organised by CIPFA and Oxford's Government Outcomes Lab, to explore the theme of Economic Validity and Measurement. The group aims to create an inclusive, international community of individuals and organisations interested in improving public finance and how economies perform. If you are interested in joining us, please [fill in this form](#) to sign up.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub

[CIPFA's Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub](#) is a free online resource for anyone that needs help, information or support. It is free to use, anonymous, and no registration is required.

At the heart of the hub is Talking Heads, an always-growing collection of short videos where members of the CIPFA community and beyond share their experiences. The library also provides links to trusted local support services and resources relevant to the videos you view.

CIPFA's Chief Executive Rob Whiteman comments "With the nature of the workplace changing, we have looked at new and innovative ways to support

you. We hope this really adds value and we look forward to your feedback on the content."

CIPFA hopes its CIPFA Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub will assist in providing the support you, your friends or family might need in these challenging times.

Reviews and assurance

In June 2021 CIPFA was engaged by DLUHC (previously MHCLG) to support eight authorities who had requested capitalisation directions. CIPFA's role was to provide recommendations for how they can improve financial management and governance locally. These reviews are now complete and three have been published; [Wirral](#), [Peterborough](#) and [Slough](#) and can be viewed on the DLUHC website

Emerging themes include

- Insufficient focus at Member level to address the financial challenges
- Lack of clear understanding on the extent of the financial risks associated with regeneration and companies
- Needs to develop/ improve a long-term planning around assets

Additional COVID-19 advice and support for local authorities

CIPFA has an [online hub for COVID resources](#).

Essential [guidance for local authorities](#) on all aspects of the coronavirus support can be found on the GOV.UK website.

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 also those issues [specific to local government](#).

There is an interesting article by CIPFA's Local Government Policy Manager Joanne Pitt called '[The art of Reorganisation](#)' which looks at local government restructure and the drivers for change. CIPFA will be producing an Art of Reorganisation publication in December to capture the lessons learnt, speaking to those who have been involved and benefiting from their experience to improve the process for others. There is a [free briefing paper](#) that sets the scene.

Follow FAN on Twitter and connect to us on LinkedIn

David and Caroline regularly tweet details of relevant news stories, FAN event updates, CIPFA consultation alerts, COVID-19 updates, 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](#) 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](#) 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 Roundup

This service is for subscribers only

Publications

[Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22](#)

[The Prudential Code For Capital Finance In Local Authorities \(2021 Edition\)](#)

[Capital Strategy Guidance: A Whole Organisation Approach](#)

[Code Of Practice On Local Authority Accounting In The United Kingdom: Guidance Notes For 2021/22 Accounts](#)

[The Prudential Code For Capital Finance In Local Authorities: Guidance Notes For Practitioners \(2021 Edition\)](#)

[Treasury Management In The Public Services: Code Of Practice And Cross-sectoral Guidance Notes \(2021 Edition\)](#)

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