

Finance Advisory Network Newsletter: December 2022

Advisor Update

Welcome to a shortened December 2022 Newsletter for organisations that do not subscribe to CIPFA's Finance Advisory Network (FAN).

Whilst FAN is primarily a membership service for organisations who subscribe, we produce nonsubscriber content such as this newsletter to assist busy practitioners across the sector through highlighting key technical updates, consultations, events and services that we hope are helpful and relevant to making your job less stressful.

One of the main benefits of a subscription is having access to the FAN team to assist with technical accounting queries, so if membership is of interest please do get in touch with one of the team.

The monthly FAN newsletter includes details of our upcoming events and conferences, which we hope will be of interest to practitioners across England and Wales.

That's it for 2022, we will see you all in the new year – here's hoping that it's an improvement on the last few! If you are having a break over Christmas, have a wonderful time.

David, Jen and Mark.

FAN Homepage

Scheduled Events

Events

All CIPFA Events

Accounts closedown and financial reporting workshops

Tuesday 17 January
Wednesday 18 January
Thursday 19 January
Tuesday 24 January
Wednesday 25 January
Thursday 26 January
Tuesday 31 January (Wales)
Wednesday 1 February (Scotland)
Thursday 2 February
Tuesday 7 February
Wednesday 8 February
Thursday 9 February
Thursday 9 February
Tuesday 14 February
Wednesday 15 February
Thursday 16 February

Introduction to Police Finance Wednesday 22 March

Other 2023 training events to keep an eye out for

March 2023 Completing and Accounting for the NNDR 3 2022/23

April 2023
Introduction to Local Authority
Capital Accounting
Introduction to Budgeting

May 2023 Introduction to Local Government Reporting Introduction to Financial Planning

Network and CIPFA News

2023-24 Provisional local government financial settlement

Just in time for Christmas, the provisional financial settlement was published on the 19th December and can be found <u>here</u>

2023-25 Policy statement on Local Government Finance

The Government issued <u>a finance policy statement</u> on 12 December. The intent was to provide some certainty for financial planning over the next two years.

The statement includes guidance on referendum thresholds and updates on financing and funding. Importantly, whilst the government had previously committed to carry out a Review of Relative Needs and Resources and a reset of accumulated business rates growth, the policy statement confirms that these will not be implemented in this Spending Review period. The intention to improve the local government finance landscape in the next Parliament remains.

Finally, it also provided an update on the dedicated schools grant statutory override and the technical consultation on technical adjustment to the Business Rates Retention system.

DLUHC is also interested in greater transparency over local Authority reserves and are exploring how the data they collect can be used to aid transparency. CIPFA is currently updating LAAP99 (Local Authority Reserve and Balances) and considering DLUHC's comments, you may wish to keep an eye out for the publication of this update, hopefully early in 2023.

DLUHC confirmed that they are planning to publish the provisional Local Government Financial Settlement, including funding allocations for 2023-24, before Christmas.

CIPFA has issued a comment in response to the policy statement <u>here</u>.

Integrating Care report

CIPFA has <u>published a report</u> entitled 'Integrating care: policy, principles and practice for places'. The report provides an overview of the changes since the Health and Care Act 2022 was introduced and discusses what integration is seeking to achieve.

Collection Fund

DLUHC has issued both the 2023-23 NNDR1 and a <u>tool</u> to help you calculate the estimated January 2023 surplus or deficit split for Council Tax. The NNDR1 doesn't appear to be uploaded to the relevant <u>GOV.UK</u> page yet, but it was circulated from NNDR statistics on the 16 Dec via email to all NNDR contacts.

DLUHC have also published a <u>calculator</u> to allow Authorities to understand how their 2023-24 NNDR top-up or tariff has been calculated.

Blockchain Technology Survey

Can blockchain technologies facilitate effective collaboration within and across the public sector? CIPFA and the University of Oxford's Government Outcomes Lab are working together on a research project to assess the potential of blockchain to deliver better

outcomes. If you are interested in blockchain technologies, or have applied the technology in your projects or service delivery, please share your views on our survey here.

Follow FAN on Twitter and connect to us on LinkedIn

David and Jen will regularly tweet details of relevant news stories, FAN event updates, CIPFA consultation alerts, COVID-19 updates, etc. We encourage subscribers to follow CIPFA network advisors on Twitter for the latest news, so even if you don't 'tweet' yourself, it's a good way to keep updated on key issues affecting local authority finance and accounting. Click to find <u>David</u> and <u>Jen</u> 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 <u>David</u>, <u>Jen</u> or <u>Mark</u>. Subscribers can join the FAN Linkedin Group.

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?

CIPFA press releases

All CIPFA's latest press releases are available here

News Roundup

This service is only available to subscribers

Publications

Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23

Code Of Practice On Local Authority Accounting In The United Kingdom: Guidance Notes For 2022/23 Accounts (pre order)

Integrating Care: policy, principles and practice for places

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