

CIPFA's Benefits and Revenues Service (CBRS)

# service plan for CBRS

Membership 2013-14



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# keeping you connected

Over 450 public sector organisations belong to a CIPFA Network. Every year they realise the significant benefits of belonging to this unique service which allows them to tap into a massive reservoir of technical knowledge and information – helping their organisation improve performance and keep abreast of the latest political, financial and service developments.

The political, financial and legislative landscape is constantly changing and CIPFA Networks are a vital tool for organisations seeking to keep up with this agenda, ensuring they are ready to cope with the challenges they are presented with.

CIPFA is at the centre of change in public services – influencing the policy agenda and issuing financial guidance. We are here to support you and your team through this radical change agenda – keeping you connected, keeping you informed, enabling evidence based decision making and supporting efficiency.

## What our members say about the CIPFA CBRS:

“For me there are five key words I associate with CBRS: Access, Approachability, Knowledge, Respect and Timing. I have direct access to people at CBRS who are approachable and have the knowledge. This in turn grants the network respect from us busy people who need instant responses and professional advice so we can manage the demanding and changing business environment that we inhabit. The network always tries to stay ahead of the curve so that communication, training and advice is provided in a timely manner, giving me confidence that I am on top of my workload.”

**Steve White, Head of Revenues and  
Payments Guildford Borough Council**

# welcome to the CBRS

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the CIPFA Benefits and Revenues Service (CBRS) which has now been established for over 25 years.

The CBRS offers expert support and guidance that is centred on all aspects of revenues and benefits.

During 2013, CBRS will not only continue to deliver valuable face to face events but also a series of thought provoking webinars with content led by our subscribers. New for 2013 is our case law series presented through bi-monthly webinars and supported by a briefing paper which can be downloaded at your convenience to support your decision making.

Our regular e-alerts service provides an update of changes in legislations and comments on policy and issues topical to our members – from chief executive to practitioners.

For those with specific questions our advisors are on hand to talk to over the phone or by email. Last year we responded to over 600 individual questions on technical and policy queries.

If you would like further information about the benefits of subscribing to the CBRS, please contact any member of our highly skilled and dedicated advisory team, listed below – they will be delighted to assist you.

**Sheldon Wood**  
Benefits Advisor  
E: [Sheldon.Wood@cipfa.org](mailto:Sheldon.Wood@cipfa.org)  
T: 01142 559 322  
M: 07747 788654

**Joanne Pitt**  
Revenues Advisor  
E: [Joanne.Pitt@cipfa.org](mailto:Joanne.Pitt@cipfa.org)  
T: 0208 399 2607  
M: 07831 199812

"I would like to just say how invaluable the work you do for us is in keeping us up to speed with these changes – you are a real asset to CIPFA and to members of the consortium!

**Mary Tam IRRV (Hons), Head of Revenue, Benefit and Pension Services  
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames**

# the benefits of membership for your organisation

Membership of a CIPFA Network offers organisations critical and timely advice and support to help them resolve the challenges they face. It also offers numerous opportunities, both face to face and on-line for public sector staff to develop their knowledge and skills in key areas. This is vital in the current climate, to achieve objectives and deliver essential services within tightening budgetary constraints and increasing stakeholder demands.

The benefits of CIPFA Networks membership include:

- Technical advice from expert advisors who can respond to requests from subscribers either by e-mail or phone
- Sharing of knowledge and best practice with peers to create an environment where the key financial and policy issues of the day can be debated and addressed
- Timely updates on relevant political, financial and legislative issues giving you all the facts at your fingertips, and information on how these will affect your job role, service delivery and your wider authority
- Opportunities for networking, career development and CPD
- Free attendance on a wide selection of events using pre-purchased places at regional network events and topical conferences
- A regional and national practitioner network for you to share your views and concerns in order to drive change and strengthen the voice of your authority
- On-line webinars, discussion forums, news updates etc. so there is no need to leave your desk. The provision of a dedicated LinkedIn sub-group for many of our networks
- Dedicated website access – Network websites contain a wealth of published information including regular briefings, newsletters and updates, as well as current and past event materials to allow you to engage with colleagues and members in your area and share best practice
- An exclusive 15% discount off all CIPFA open training courses (half day and one day courses)

# our 2013/14 programme

For 2013/14 our headline programme will comprise the following series of events, which will be supplemented by webinars, LinkedIn discussions, briefings and advisor e-mails and telephone support.

## On the agenda for 2013/14

### **Benefits Reform Technical Update, April 2013**

Updates and information on new developments including Welfare Reform, Universal Credit, Council tax and Benefit changes.

### **NNDR Audit Special - What is the Auditor looking for following the 2012 Act? May 2013**

Delegates will examine the potential challenges that will be faced when trying to audit the new scheme. What information is needed and where improvements can be made.

### **Dealing with Local Taxation in a time of Economic Downturn, June 2013**

These events will address key revenues challenges and avoidance issues and legislation.

### **Current developments in Benefits, June/July 2013**

Update on the latest legislation and policy developments that impact on benefits managers. Central policy issues will be examined in detail.

### **Business Rates - Putting together a sound approach, September 2013**

Delegate will explore the challenges of completing the NNDR1 form. What new legislation has influenced the approach?

### **Benefits Technical workshop – Uncut, September 2013**

Update on all topical changes and detailed legislation update.

### **Challenges in the Establishment of the Tax Base and other year end Activities, November 2013**

This series will look at the legislation surrounding these decisions, including the highly popular update on key changes.

### **Benefits changes - Challenges for Local Government, November 2013**

Looking at the latest legislation supporting welfare reform and how it impacts on Benefits managers and their customers. It also covers advice on reviewing your Council tax scheme for next year.

### **Benefits Consortium Master Class, January 2014**

These workshops take an in-depth look at a particular area of challenge addressing the subject from root to tip.

### **Revenues – Settlement Challenges, February 2014**

Looking at the legislation changes and appeals in recent months and addressing the current issues facing the sector and the importance of collection rates.

### **Events for 2014 will be available on the CBRS website at [www.cipfa.org/cbrs](http://www.cipfa.org/cbrs).**

All the above events series will also be covered by a summary webinar, accessible only to subscribers. The above key areas and more will be covered in tailored technical briefings. Any emerging issues which gain prominence during the year will also be addressed. Full details of these events will be available at [www.cipfa.org/events](http://www.cipfa.org/events) or you can always contact an advisor for further details.

# summary of benefits and how to join

CBRS provides frequent updates on topical issues related to public sector benefits and revenues. This information is vital in staying up to date on the latest policy, legislation and technical issues.

The CBRS website [www.cipfa.org/cbrs](http://www.cipfa.org/cbrs) provides access to documents, briefing and presentations that support our subscribers. It has a comprehensive search function to enable you to pinpoint what you are looking for.

It includes archived presentations and guidance from previous events so you have a comprehensive library of reference material you can always access at a convenient time for you.

The website will be constantly added to by our advisors during the year so you will be sure to find something new.

As a member of CBRS you will benefit from a range of services saving you time, money and effort. Membership of CBRS can pay for itself through the incalculable impact it has on improving your authority's knowledge and performance.

## How to join?

Please contact our Networks subscription team at [cipfanetworks@cipfa.org](mailto:cipfanetworks@cipfa.org) or call on **020 7543 5805** to discuss your options.

## Subscription prices for the CBRS. These prices are exclusive of VAT:

Joint Benefits & Revenues	Annual subscription	Benefits only	Annual subscription	Revenues only	Annual subscription
4 places	£1,865	4 places	£1,635	4 places	£1,275
6 places	£2,195	6 places	£1,970	6 places	£1,605
8 places	£2,525	8 places	£2,300	8 places	£1,935
10 places	£2,800	10 places	£2,575	10 places	£2,210
12 places	£3,080	12 places	£2,855	12 places	£2,490
14 places	£3,320	14 places	£3,090	14 places	£2,730

We look forward to welcoming you to the CBRS.



Registered office:  
3 Robert Street, London WC2N 6RL  
T: 020 7543 5600 F: 020 7543 5700  
[www.cipfa.org](http://www.cipfa.org)

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