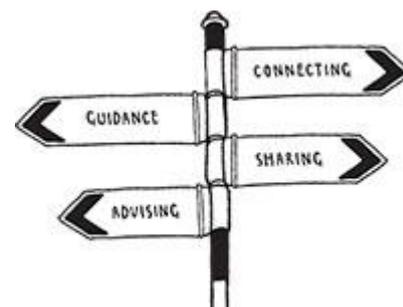


Finance Advisory Network Newsletter



Advisor Update

Welcome to the December CIPFA Finance Advisory Network (FAN) Newsletter, specifically designed for authorities that don't subscribe to FAN.

This month we are telling you about our new events for 2018 now open for booking and a host of new consultations that you might be interested in having your say on.

If you no longer wish to receive such updates, or indeed you wish to add other colleagues to these newsletter mailings, please do let us know by return of email.

Best wishes for the festive season from the FAN team.

David, Caroline and Sandra

Network and CIPFA News

Accounts Closedown Workshops 2017/18 – January/February 2018

FAN and EY 2017/18 Accounts Closedown workshops are now open for booking (see events listing). The series, designed for English and Welsh local authorities and police bodies, includes 30 dates scheduled between 9 January and 21 February, the earlier start date this year reflecting the need to meet ever tighter accounts closedown timetables.

The cost is frozen from last year, £295 plus VAT, which includes attendance and all documentation.

A full list of events and venues is available on the [website](#), and places are booked online in the usual way. We look forward to seeing you there.

Completing and Accounting for NNDR 3 2017/18 – 12/13/14/20/22 March 2018

This event is aimed at revenues and accounting practitioners who will be involved in any or all of the completion of the NNDR 3 2017/18, production of the collection fund for business rates and subsequent general fund accounting. If you are new to the NNDR 3 or require a refresher then this is for you.

Events

Accounts Closedown Workshops 2017/18

30 dates between 9 January and 21 February 2018

[More details](#)

Introduction to Collection Fund Accounting in England

26 January 2018 (London)

[More details](#)

Introduction to Internal Audit

[11 January 2018 London](#)
[26 April 2018, Manchester](#)

CIPFA Housing Conference

25 January 2018

[More details](#)

Completing and Accounting for NNDR 3 2017/18

12 March 2018, Leeds; 13 March Birmingham; 14 March, London; 20 March Bristol; 22 March Manchester

[More details](#)

Understanding and using the Collection Fund Accounting Models 2017/18

15 March 2018, London; 16 March Leeds; 19 March,

The day will start with a review of lessons learned and shared from the NNDR 3 in previous years and will be led by FAN advisor Caroline White (who developed the Collection Fund Accounting models) and CBRS Lead Revenue Advisor Adrian Blaylock. The event is structured around the sections of the NNDR 3 form, how these should be completed and what the accounting implications are of each section. It will then consider the remaining implications from finalising the NNDR 3 entries such as the collection fund surplus/deficit, S31 grants, safety net and levy calculations, and requirements for pooling authorities and implications specific to this business rates revaluation year.

If you are completely new to accounting for NDR then you may find it beneficial to attend FAN's Introduction to Collection Fund Accounting event on 26 January in London first. Please see events listing for details.

Understanding and using the Collection Fund Accounting Models 2017/18 – 15/16/19/21/23 March 2018

FAN developed the spreadsheet Collection Fund Accounting Models as key tools in giving authorities (and their auditors) assurance on year-end accounting transactions and treatment of Council Tax and Business Rates. Many external auditors consider the models good practice. If you decide you would like to start using the models, either by purchasing or joining FAN (see below), then you may be interested in our upcoming events 'Understanding and Using the FAN Collection Fund Accounting Models.' These events based on the models are only really relevant to those authorities using them, however our events 'Completing and Accounting for NNDR 3 2017/18' are relevant to all authorities whether they use the FAN models or not.

The 'Understanding and Using the FAN Collection Fund Accounting Models' events will guide you through completing the models and understanding the mechanics of how they work and what they produce so as to maximise their benefit, not only as a closedown tool (bearing in mind quicker closedown) but also in financial planning. During this series we aim to do just that, using worked examples to walk step-by-step through both the Council Tax and NDR Models, led by Caroline White who developed them.

Previously covered in half a day, these events now are a full day to allow more time to be taken over the fundamentals, the pooling element and also to include the functional changes to the NDR Model for the 1 April 2017 revaluation and 2017/18 100% Business Rates Retention pilots. The day is structured to allow practitioners to stay only for the elements that are relevant to them if they so wish.

The models to support 2017/18 closedown, if you would like to purchase these, are £2,500 each + VAT, or £4,000 + VAT for the pair, but if you subscribe to FAN for 2018/19, they form part of the subscription benefit at no extra cost.

Birmingham; 21 March
Bristol; 23 March
Manchester

[More details](#)

Here's an example of some feedback from an authority that is already using the models and benefited from on-site support and training that we can also provide:

"The Collection Fund model, training courses and on-site support provided by Caroline White and CIPFA has been exemplary – as a team we feel well equipped and supported in taking forward how we undertake Collection Fund accounting thanks to Caroline's sharing of her expertise and knowledge. "Nina Philippidis, Deputy S151 and Head of Finance, South Gloucestershire Unitary Authority.

To gain maximum benefit from the Model events, practitioners may wish to consider attending the NNDR 3 events first, especially if they are new to the area of Collection Fund accounting. Please see website for details.

If you would like any further information on the models or either of the events mentioned above, please don't hesitate to contact Caroline White.

FAN Open Training Programme 2017

There is still time to book places at our remaining open training course for 2017/18, with details on 2018 courses coming soon.

Course topics cover a wide range of areas and the full selection can be found at <http://www.cipfa.org/training/essentials>.

Coming up in January is *'Introduction to collection fund accounting in England'* - see links under our events listing for more details and to book your places.

Don't forget that each of these training course and all our other 'Introduction to' offerings are also offered as an on-site delivery option, which is charged at £1,250 per day plus VAT and expenses (£950 per day for FAN subscribers).

These prices can only be guaranteed for bookings made by the end of the month, so book now if you are thinking about it for 2018. Prices will be increasing to £1,500 and £1,250 for non-subscribers and subscribers for courses booked from January 2018.

CIPFA Housing Conference – 25 January 2018

Fixing our broken housing market is more than just a consultation paper. It has to be deliverable policy that enables an adequate supply of housing for those who need a home.

This conference challenges any barriers that prevent organisations achieving that goal. Barriers such as legislation, policy, finance and opportunity will all come under scrutiny. Seeking to identify what is attainable, this conference will look at sustainable and achievable funding, how working with other providers can deliver more homes and how, by examining the very latest research, we can see how others increase supply. See events listing for bookings.

Proposed changes to the prudential framework of capital finance

The Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for preparing the guidance on Local Authority Investments and the guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision.

Over the past years the regulatory and economic environment has changed significantly and led the sector to consider more innovative types of investment activity. The government has also monitored changes in the practices used for calculating Minimum Revenue Provision.

As a result the government proposes to update the guidance as part of the more general update of the statutory codes comprising the prudential framework. Please [access the consultation](#) and have your say by 22 December 2017.

The government has also issued some [FAQ on the consultation](#) to assist in your response and also an encouragement to contact them and discuss any concerns that you may have in advance of formally responding to the consultation.

The consultation on the Local Infrastructure Rate has concluded and the final outcomes and details of the bidding process can be accessed on the [gov.uk website](#).

Consultation on scale of audit fees for 2018/19

The [consultation document](#) sets out the proposed scale of fees for the work to be undertaken by appointed auditors in respect of the 2018/19 financial statements at authorities that have opted into Public Sector Audit Appointments' (PSAA) national auditor appointment scheme.

The consultation closes on 15 January 2018.

Follow FAN on Twitter

David, Sandra and Caroline tweet relevant news stories, FAN event updates, the latest CIPFA headlines, stories from Public Finance, etc. We encourage you to follow us on Twitter for all 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 on the links to see [David Sandra](#) and [Caroline](#) on Twitter, or search for all our network advisor tweets using the hashtag #cipfanetworks.

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