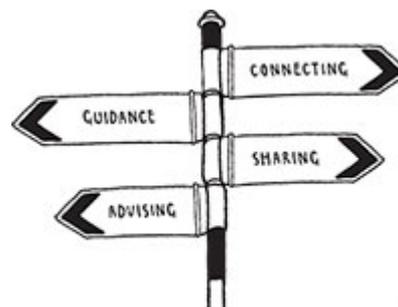


Finance Advisory Network Newsletter



29 April 2022

Advisor Update

Welcome to the April 2022 FAN Newsletter. As April marks the start of a new FAN subscription year, this month's newsletter is being sent to subscribers and non-subscribers, as we have some important details to share.

For subscribers the April newsletter contains the usual update on CIPFA announcements and network events, a commentary from the FAN advisors, and links to news articles that we hope are of interest to practitioners.

For non-subscribers it hopefully gives you a flavour of the service we provide to practitioners in subscribing organisations, and includes elements of the monthly newsletter you may not have seen before.

As an update on what we have been up to, David has been working closely with other members of CIPFA's Policy and Technical Team along with members of CIPFA's Accounting and Financial Reporting Forum to draft the CIPFA Year End Bulletin, which has just been published on the CIPFA website (see more details in the CIPFA News section of the newsletter).

David has also been delivering the first of his 'Introduction To' workshops for 2022 this week, and more of our events for 2022 will be confirmed shortly. Don't forget that the FAN 'Introduction To' workshops can be delivered for your authority for a fixed price (reduced rate applied for subscribers) either via webinar or face-to-face, depending on your preferences. If this is of interest please get in touch.

As some of you will be aware, Caroline Wright, who was supporting FAN on the Collection Fund side of things since January, has now left CIPFA. As an interim measure our Revenues advisor Adrian Blaylock has kindly volunteered to step in and assist with any Collection Fund queries, having worked closely with FAN for many years on local taxation issues. Adrian can be contacted via email

Events

Introduction to Local Authority Capital Accounting

[13 July 2022](#)
[18 October 2022](#)

Introduction to collection fund accounting for local authorities in England

[16 June 2022](#)
[10 November 2022](#)

Introduction to local authority financial statements and closedown

[8 November 2022](#)

Setting up your HRA in England from scratch

[17 May 2022](#)

[FAN Home](#)

adrian.blaylock@cipfa.org. Please bear with us if it takes a little longer to respond, as Adrian also has his own network support to fulfil, however we will do our best to respond to your queries in the usual timely and helpful manner.

On the staffing front, as mentioned last month, we have good news in that **Jen Bevan** joined the FAN team as an advisor. Jen has provided a short introduction below:

'It's such a pleasure to have started my new role within the FAN team here at CIPFA. Here is a little bit about me: I am a CIPFA qualified accountant and have been in local government for the past 7 years having undertaken the majority of my accountancy training at Blackpool Council, I have also worked at Oldham Council and Bury Council where I have been for the past 5 years. I most recently worked on the closure of accounts team and the capital team at Bury with a specific focus on non-current assets and production of capital notes to the accounts but was involved in all aspects of account closure and capital. I have also worked within revenue with a particular focus on Public Health and Adult Social Care, and have been involved in a number of special projects including transformation projects and levelling up. In my spare time I enjoy running, walking and board/computer games. I look forward to meeting and hearing from our network members, and in the meantime please feel free to connect with me on [LinkedIn!](#)'

Don't forget that subscribers can contact David or Jen on any technical accounting queries as part of your network benefits (with Adrian assisting on Collection Fund issues in the interim). Our contact details are listed at the bottom of the newsletter.

Finally, many thanks to Somir Ali for his assistance with some of your FAN queries over the past few months with the FAN team on reduced capacity. Somir is still involved in other parts of CIPFA's policy work, but his assistance to the FAN service is very much appreciated.

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

Stay safe and best wishes,

David and Jen.

Network and CIPFA News

CIPFA LASAAC Statement on deferral of IFRS 16 Leases

Following the issuing of its preliminary decision on 17 March, the CIPFA/LASAAC Local Authority Code Board issued a statement on 8 April setting out the proposed changes to be made to the Code.

The statement noted that the government's Financial Reporting Advisory Board had advised CIPFA LASAAC that it agreed with the deferral of IFRS 16 Leases until 1 April 2024 but that the Code had to allow and should encourage local authorities to adopt the standard before this date.

CIPFA LASAAC has therefore followed its preliminary decision with its formal decision: to defer the implementation of IFRS 16 until 1 April 2024 (and therefore in the 2024/25 Code). However, both the 2022/23 and the 2023/24 Codes will allow for adoption as of 1 April 2022 or 2023.

More details can be obtained on the [CIPFA/LASAAC webpage](#).

CIPFA Year-End Bulletin

The CIPFA Year End Bulletin for the 2021/22 accounts has just been published, having been delayed to incorporate the outcome of the emergency Code consultation (see above details and statement). It can be accessed via the [Bulletin page of the CIPFA website](#).

Apart from the deferral of IFRS 16 the Bulletin contains useful reminders and guidance on a wide range of issues likely to impact on the preparation of the 2021/22 financial statements, including the 2021/22 disclosures for accounting standards issued but not yet adopted, key audit topics such as working papers, asset valuations and judgements and estimates, accounts publication deadlines, COVID grant accounting, along with updates on other topical issues that practitioners will hopefully find helpful.

Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) 2020/21

HM Treasury have just confirmed that the (delayed) [2020/21](#) Data Collection Tool cycle is now open. The 2020/21 data collection will be carried out online using the OSCAR 2 platform for all Central and Local Government bodies.

Key deadlines:

- Cycle 1 DCT return (unaudited accounts) to be submitted no later than 31 July 2022
- Cycle 2 DCT return (audited accounts) to be submitted no later than 31 August 2022

Further details including guidance and associated forms can be found on the WGA pages of the [gov.uk website](#).

CIPFA Practice Oversight Panel - Advisory Note on Governance

One of the areas included in the Year End Bulletin is the Annual Governance Statement, so here's a short reminder that CIPFA has just published an advisory note formalising key messages on governance matters. The [Advisory Note](#) applies to all local government bodies in the UK and can be accessed from the CIPFA website.

CIPFA Position Statement on Audit Committees

CIPFA has issued an updated [audit committee position statement](#) on the website, which has the backing of DLUHC and Home Office.

To accompany the Statement there are some pointers on how the committee supports organisational effectiveness – one for [authorities](#) and one for [police bodies](#). These will hopefully be helpful to officers briefing councillors on what the committee is for and why they should support it.

CIPFA is also running a [free webinar](#) on the **untapped potential of Internal audit** on 17 May – which will be relevant to audit clients as well as internal auditors.

Public Finance Live - Liverpool 13-14 July 2022

Public Finance Live returns to ACC Liverpool following two tumultuous years since our last face to face conference. The Government has staked its reputation on reducing regional inequalities and improving the standard of living across the country. CIPFA's annual conference 2022 will be taking place at the midpoint of the current UK electoral cycle; set against the background of the COVID pandemic, continuing Brexit fall out and re-negotiations and, of course, the severe and growing challenges of the global climate emergency.

Through carefully programmed plenaries and workshops, Public Finance Live will offer insight, ideas and guidance on what the government has set out to achieve, how we can measure progress and manage challenges. CIPFA's annual conference is ideal for those looking at the big public policy picture and for more hands-on updates, discussion and insights into public finance and public service management. For details and to book places see the [conference webpage](#).

Integrating Care Hub

With Integrated Care Systems becoming statutory bodies in July, many questions still remain around what health and care integration will look like and how it will function. CIPFA is committed to being a trusted partner to help answer these questions.

CIPFA is launching a new online hub called 'Integrating Care'. This will be a space where key partners can come together to identify solutions, shape thinking, maximise outputs and inform the wider health and care sector. Join today!

Read more in Dr Eleanor Roy's recent [CIPFA Thinks blog](#).

To join the integrating care hub or for more information, please email integratingcare@cipfa.org.

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 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.

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](#).

FAN Tax Advisory Services (FANTAS)

If you subscribe to the Tax Advisory Service (TAS) as part of your FAN subscription and have any enquiries regarding the tax updates or suggestions for topics to be covered by FANTAS, please contact Sandeep Dey (sanddey@deloitte.co.uk) or Tom Smith (tomjsmith@deloitte.co.uk). Further information for subscribers to the TAS service can be found at our dedicated [website area](#).

CIPFA Thinks

[CIPFA Thinks](#) tackles the latest developments in public service finance, with commentary and analysis from subject experts, podcast interviews, guidance, and more. Don't forget also to periodically check out the issues specific to [local government](#).

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 great way to keep updated on key issues affecting local authority finance and accounting. Click to find [David](#) and [Jen](#) 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 [David](#) and [Jen](#) or (for subscribers only) you can join the [FAN LinkedIn Group](#).

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

CIPFA does not accept responsibility for the use of external websites and any external content hyperlinked, and accompanying text in this newsletter, does not represent CIPFA endorsement of any views or data presented.

[Inflation 'double whammy' for public sector](#)

Public Finance - 28.04.22

Public bodies could face pressure from growing direct costs alongside impacts from inflated prices for third party suppliers, according to the Office for National Statistics.

[Why infrastructure assets are the ugly ducklings of capital accounting](#)

Room 151 - 28.04.22

Stephen Sheen offers an avian analysis of how to resolve the current local audit delays caused by a "major" issue involving infrastructure assets.

[Local authority resources surplus falls](#)

Public Finance - 26.04.22

Councils received £700m more than they spent last year, down 90% on the 2021-22 surplus, while the overall public sector deficit fell by more than a half.

[The different accountancy qualifications explained](#)

AAT 22.04.22

The Chartered Institute of Public and Finance Accountancy (CIPFA) is a professional institute for accountants working in public services and in organisations where public money is spent.

[Government urged to help councils tackle fuel poverty](#)

Government Business 21.04.22

The government has been urged to implement an action plan to help local authorities take action on fuel poverty.

Get the balance right: Tackling inflation in the public sector

Public Finance - 20.04.22

Treasurers should avoid using their investment strategies to try and beat the impact of inflation, says Nick Harvey.

Options for funding the retrofitting social housing

Public Finance - 20.04.22

The need to improve the energy efficiency of social housing is clear – but the means of funding it is not.

'We need to shift the focus of local authority accounting'

Room 151 20.04.22

The chair of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code Board reflects on the decision to delay implementation of IFRS 16 and suggests that now is the time to address anomalies in the application of IFRS to the UK local authority sector.

Councils warn over energy rebate scams

Public Finance - 19.04.22

Local authorities in England have urged residents to remain vigilant over cold calling scams linked to the £150 energy rebates that councils are overseeing this year.

UK public sector finance departments suffering recruitment problems

Public Finance - 13.04.22

Covid-19 has exacerbated existing issues affecting the ability of the UK public sector to attract the best candidates to finance roles.

Councils 'cannot afford' government's waste disposal shake-up

Public Finance - 12.04.22

The local authority sector has warned that government plans to ban charges for disposing of DIY waste from households threaten to pressure council finances further "beyond breaking point".

Review calls for extra council finance data collection

Public Finance - 11.04.22

The Department for Levelling up Housing and Communities is considering proposals to publish the full value of local authority investments and data on subsidiary companies.

Councils banned from using capital flexibilities to fund redundancies

Public Finance - 06.04.22

Councils in England have been banned from using capital receipts to fund discretionary redundancy payments, the government announced, as it extended spending flexibilities for service reforms.

What future CFOs should know

PQ 05.04.22

Rob Whiteman has some top advice on how you can progress in your career in the public sector.

Welsh schools and public buildings to get solar panels

Government Business 05.04.22

Three schools, a care home and a crematorium in Newport will be among the first buildings to have solar rooftop panels installed as part of Welsh Government support to expand community owned renewable energy in Wales.

Council chiefs welcome £130m to tackle violent crime

LocalGov 04.04.22

Around £64m of the funding will go to the existing 18 Violence Reduction Units (VRU), which bring together local partners in policing, education, health, and local government to identify and help those who might become involved in crime.

The benefits of working in local audit

ICAEW 24.03.22

CIPFA's Sarah Sheen and ICAEW's Oliver Simms explain how working in local audit brings substantial benefits, including the opportunity to make a real difference to people's lives.

Publications

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

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

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

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

[Code Of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK Disclosure Checklist for 2021/22 accounts \(online\)](#)

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

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