



# REGIONAL NEWS *(ISSUE 7)*

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Here at CIPFA North East we would love to hear from you with comments, queries and suggestions, please get in touch via the contact links throughout this newsletter.

## Section 1 – Welcome from the President



Welcome to the 7th edition of the CIPFA North East Newsletter.

It has been an immense personal privilege to serve as President of CIPFA North East over the last 18 months. Working with a fantastic team of committed volunteers on the CIPFA North East Committee to deliver a programme of high quality CPD and networking events, both face to face and online, which I hope members and students have found valuable.

During my tenure I have had the honour of hosting the CIPFA Autumn Forum in Newcastle, welcoming CIPFA colleagues from around the UK and Republic of Ireland. I experienced my first Sixth Form Management Games in June which was a fantastic event and a thoroughly rewarding experience for the students and volunteers alike.

And more recently, it was my great pleasure to host a graduation ceremony in September to celebrate the achievements of our newest CIPFA members.

This will be my last newsletter before handing over the reins of North East President to Bruce Parvin – an experienced and passionate CIPFA volunteer who I know will continue to go above and beyond in support of our members and students.

This edition of the newsletter includes articles from the Secret Accountant and one of our CIPFA Students who attended the Public Finance Live Conference in Liverpool earlier this year. Check out our Upcoming Events section to see what we have planned over the next few months...

As always, thank you for continuing to read the newsletter and please get in touch if you have any suggestions for future editions.

**James Charlton**  
**CIPFA North East President**

## Section 2 – Upcoming Events



### SAVE THE DATES

CIPFA NE Annual Conference (Please see next page)	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November at the Crowne Plaza, Newcastle
Women in Leadership (More details below)	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Northumbria University
Neuroscience for Business Excellence Webinar	Thursday 26th January 2023
CIPFA NE Annual General Meeting	March 2023 (TBC)
CIPFA NE Annual Dinner	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 at the Crowne Plaza, Newcastle

### Women In Leadership Event

The Women in Leadership event returns on the 18<sup>th</sup> January at Northumbria University for what promises to be another inspiring day of engaging talks, workshops and opportunities to identify how you can develop your career. Tickets are priced at £35. To book your place please email [northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org). Further details on the programme will be announced soon.

Please contact [northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org) with any questions or suggestions and feedback on events.

[Keep up to date with CIPFA events in the North East](#)

## Section 3 – CIPFA Updates

Out of all the articles and links recently published by CIPFA, the following stand out:

- [Delivery of Property and Highway Asset Management](#). The first of a series of articles on CIPFA's Property Newsletter.
- [CIPFA's help with approaching PFI deals expiry](#).
- [Council Tax briefings](#). Always a joy!
- [The health of health finances](#). Can the NHS survive the pressures coming?
- [CPD Bites service](#). Useful to keep your CPD up to date.

You will find more information in the [CIPFA Thinks](#) and [CIPFA Speaks](#) part of the website.

Make sure you visit [CIPFA](#) to check out their guidance, all articles provide insight and support, definitely worth a visit.

For those that subscribe to the Technical Information Service ([TIS Online](#)) there are several updates to note, such as;  
As well as many lively discussions on the [forum](#) for you to join....



## CIPFA in the North East - Annual Conference

Friday 25th November 2022

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne

The day will undoubtedly be thought provoking and informative but also promises to inspire and motivate us all to go beyond outstanding in exploiting opportunities innovatively to overcome the challenges posed by the unprecedented stormy economic outlook facing our Public Services.

Confirmed Speakers include

**Rob Whiteman**, CIPFA Chief Executive Officer

**Kelly Watson**, CCLA, Head of Local Government Relationships

**Kevin Meaney**, New Tricks Advanced Training

**Greg Fell**, Vice President, Association of Directors of Public Health

**Jenny Nelson**, Newcastle City Council, Head of ICT & Digital Transformation

**Jon Ritchie**, North Tyneside Council, Director of Resources

The event will be chaired throughout the day by **Michael Brodie**, NHS Business Services Authority, Chief Executive Officer

Cost: £42 per delegate which includes lunch and drinks reception.

To book a place email [northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org)

or alternatively via the CIPFA website at [CIPFA North East Region Annual Conference | CIPFA](#)

## Section 4 – The Last 6 Months

### CIPFA NE 6<sup>th</sup> Form Management Games

Unable to host the games during the pandemic, it was with great delight the region reinstated this highly valued event in June. School's across the North East took part with energetic enthusiasm, rising to the challenges thrown at them during the course of the day. A team of volunteers did a marvellous job at initiating and executing tasks to ensure students were treated to a rewarding insight into the working life of public sector organisations.

Across two events, one at South Tyneside College and one at Tyne Metropolitan College, 57 students took part from 8 schools, each competing to be 2022 winners but alas there could only be one winning team on each day and congratulations goes to

- St Wilfrid's who came first at the South Tyneside game on the 24<sup>th</sup> June and
- Jesmond Park Academy for the Tyne Metropolitan game on the 1<sup>st</sup> July

The 2022 game was centred around the fictitious city of Midchester, teams were given some background information to the area and the

issues it was facing, which in essence was not unlike the economic, environmental and political issues currently facing our Public Sector Organisations. Students assumed a role of a Director within the organisation and set about completing the initial task, writing a report to bridge a £5m budget deficit. However, they soon realised a day in the life of a Public Sector Official is never without its interruptions and over the course of the day the teams were thrown a number of curveballs and challenges to overcome including meeting with an irate Trade Union representative who had heard rumours of job cuts.

The region is working hard to develop and expand on the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Game offer. The games could not be run without the many volunteers who promote and implement the games in addition to offering support and encouragement to the teams over the course of the day. The feedback received year after year is testament to the value both schools and volunteers have in the event. If you would be interested in joining in the fun and volunteering at our 2023 games please email [northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org) for more information.

### North East Accountancy Awards – June 2022

CIPFA North East sponsored the Public Services Finance Team of the Year Award at the North East Accountancy Awards at Gateshead Hilton on 28th June 2022.

This year we had such a strong group of nominations for the award and it was brilliant to hear about some of the great work that public and voluntary sector finance teams had done, going above and beyond for their organisations and the people they serve, particularly over the period of the pandemic.

The deserved winners of this award were the finance team of SJOG Hospitaller Services - a



small finance team that impressed the judges with the transformation they led within their organisation, having taken the charity from a

position of almost closing down to a now financially sustainable organisation, investing in

new services that support a range of vulnerable groups.

### Professional Update Day – July 2022

The in-person professional update afternoon was held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July at the Newcastle Helix. Following a networking lunch, Charlotte Windebank from FIRST started the afternoon with an energetic talk on how to get the most out of professional networking, which generated some good discussion amongst attendees. Katie Sargeant from the National Audit Office then gave an important presentation on how to be an anti-fraud ninja, highlighting the staggering cost to taxpayers

each year due to fraud, helpfully visualised in terms of how many police officers, nurses and teachers this could be paying for instead. The afternoon ended with an insightful and thought-provoking presentation on value for money by Phil Gibby from CIPFA.

Presentation slides from the event can be found on our website here:

<https://www.cipfa.org/members/regions/north-east/useful-documents-and-downloads>

### Graduation Ceremony – September 2022

A graduation ceremony was held on the afternoon of Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September at the Mansion House in Newcastle in celebration of our newest CIPFA members.

CIPFA and career journey as well as the importance of building professional relationships over the course of your career. Mike then presented membership certificates to our 13 recipients.



13 recipients were in attendance along with family, friends and colleagues and were joined by past CIPFA President Mike Driver who talked about his



A buffet lunch was served following the proceedings along with a chance for networking with fellow CIPFA members. A great afternoon of celebration, despite the miserable weather!

## Section 5 - Students

### Public Finance Live 2022 – Catherine Herron, CIPFA Student

In early June I received an e-mail from CIPFA North East inviting 2 students to attend a funded place at the Public Finance Live 2022 conference to be held in Liverpool in July, this was a first come first served invitation so I immediately replied, hopeful that I hadn't been pipped to the post by anyone! To my genuine surprise I was contacted by the CIPFA NE secretary shortly after and told I had been accepted for a funded place. I was delighted!

The conference was held at ACC Liverpool, with an app available to download and explore prior to the event it provided a first-year student like me a great deal of assurance about how the two days would pan out.

There was a real 'buzz' about the event from the moment I walked through the door, the atmosphere was electrifying and it was clear everyone was thrilled to be together in person for the first time since 2019.

As a student I was anticipating to be attending a separate student conference for day 1 and to be participating in the 'main' conference on day 2. I was thrilled to discover we were all one conference and the student conference simply meant we had our own student orientated workshops to attend on day 1.

CIPFA's newly instated president, Jayne Owen, opened the conference with a really moving and inspirational speech – setting the standard for the rest of the conference!

Rt Hon. Justine Greening, former secretary of state for education and founder of The Social Mobility pledge campaign, led the following session.



At the heart of her address was the topic of levelling up and the social mobility crisis, providing historical political context to how this may shape the future of public finances.

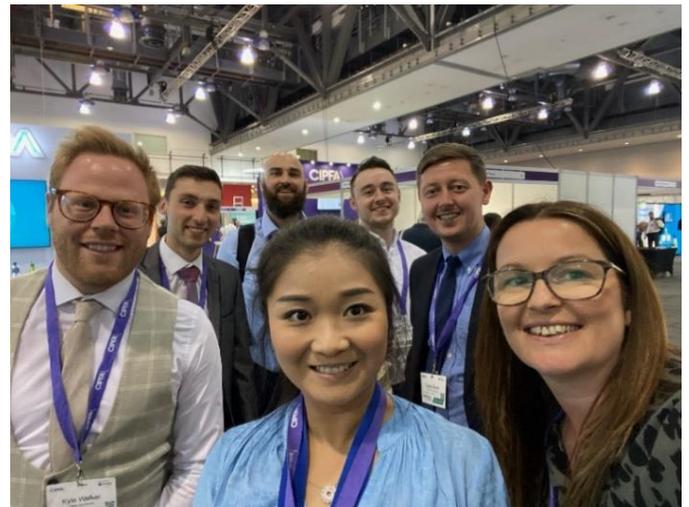
The matter of who our prime minister could be did not get overlooked and Justine also confessed to being a chartered accountant!

There were sessions and addresses that followed in day 1 which discussed economics, Intergenerational fairness, and finances for young people and sustainability.

The first student conference workshop of the day was titled 'Senior Managers sessions', this was led by CIPFA's own CEO Rob Whiteman with CIPFA Finance Director Gareth Moss, Leeds Council CFO Victoria Bradshaw and NHS Covid Head of Finance Claire Grivil. This may just have been my favourite session of the whole conference. Each panel member shared their own personal journey to becoming lead finance professionals, they provided both personal and professional advice and I left that session feeling confident and enthusiastic about myself and my forthcoming studies.

The next student conference was a student round table discussing the levelling up agenda. There were five very brave students from across the UK leading this session, discussing the policies they have in their authorities and their professional opinions on what levelling up looks like in their areas. There were Q&A from audience members which they all answered superbly well.

To close the student conference we were invited to a champagne event to celebrate students who have achieved highly in their specific modules. There were speeches from the CIPFA exam panel chair, Suzanne Jones and the incoming CIPFA president of the student network, Lin Lui. This was a rejuvenating experience and as a student with the best part of her studies ahead I felt both inspired and encouraged to continue on my CIPFA journey.



I had the absolute honor and privilege of meeting Lin and other members of the Student Network who all shared their CIPFA journeys with me and gave great advice and words of encouragement. It was also a pleasure to meet CIPFA students from across the country, all at different stages of their careers and studies. At the start of the conference I knew no-one but I left with new friendships and an expanding LinkedIn network. In the words of Justine Greening, '**Accountants rock**', and I couldn't agree more!

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### Additional support can also be sought from the following sources:

- For any apprentices, the Apprenticeship team ([apprentices@cipfa.org](mailto:apprentices@cipfa.org))
- CIPFA have some trained Mental Health First Aiders for any mental health emergency (not trained professionals but able to listen and support until emergency mental health help turns up) – [mhfastudents@cipfa.org](mailto:mhfastudents@cipfa.org)
- Designated Safeguarding Officers if anyone has any safeguarding, prevent or welfare concerns (the DSOs are [sarah.shreeves@cipfa.org](mailto:sarah.shreeves@cipfa.org); [alison.sweeting@cipfa.org](mailto:alison.sweeting@cipfa.org); [helen.woods@cipfa.org](mailto:helen.woods@cipfa.org) and [mohit.pun@cipfa.org](mailto:mohit.pun@cipfa.org))

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS	
For help with course administration issues	020 7543 5600 <a href="mailto:cetc.enquiries@cipfa.org">cetc.enquiries@cipfa.org</a>

For help with examinations	020 7543 5600 <a href="mailto:studentsupport@cipfa.org">studentsupport@cipfa.org</a>
For any concerns about your training courses	020 7543 5622 <a href="mailto:trainingdeliverymanager@cipfa.org">trainingdeliverymanager@cipfa.org</a>

We encourage students to feedback any topics they would like covered in this section. Please get in touch at [northeast@cipfa.org](mailto:northeast@cipfa.org)

## Section 6 – Secret Accountant



### Secret Accountant – “Lunchtime Reflections”

Sometimes when picking my way through my lunch box in the staff canteen, sorry “restaurant”, either chewing mournfully on a tuna sandwich or picking my way through the salad I (on a rare occasion) had the foresight to prepare, my mind turns to more salubrious surroundings and glamorous company....

Nothing is more likely to provoke debate than naming the participants in your ideal dinner party. Of course, because it is your dream dinner party, the guests must no longer be with us. Now the moral and practical considerations of deciding whether Martin Luther King, Winston Churchill or Julius Caesar should take the prime seat to the right of the host can be debated until long into the night, but personally, without giving too much about my age, the sad songstress Whitney Houston would get my vote.

While my contemporaries were desperately trying to convince their parents of their failing eyesight so they could wear big black framed glasses like Morrissey and mope around the school disco to “Heaven Knows I’m Miserable Now” I was entranced by Whitney and was “Saving All my Love for you “!! Let me see Morrissey make Kevin Costner look interesting as a romantic lead as she did in “The Bodyguard”

Fate can be a cruel thing and I often wondered if a “Sliding Doors” (or perhaps “Notting Hill”?) type moment had intervened, and rather than meeting her future husband Bobby Brown at a showbiz party, she had, out of a secret passion in say Capital Accounting or Schools Funding, had attended a CIPFA Seminar and met me, a more harmonious life may have followed, with me helping her with monthly budgets in return for serenading me with “The Greatest Love of All”, rather than the sad decline into d..d..decadence which sadly often happens when two stars get together.

Of course we would have our challenges, I am not sure if I would have had the courage to question perhaps her .... lack of imagination around the naming of her second album....,  
 “ Yes, I can understand why you called the first one “Whitney Houston” as you strived to establish your name my love, but we need some originality for your second album and no “Whitney” just won’t do !”  
 What about “Perfect Accrual” or “Balance Sheet Blues”  
 Doubtless I would have lost the argument and potentially her hand too if I had insisted in the rather strange fusion of Pop Music and Accountancy for Album titles but sadly we will never know.

But why don't you try to get along to the next regional event, you never know who you may meet there, perhaps Adele, brushing up on her Treasury Management skills – you see Accountants and Pop Stars do have complimentary skills !

Of course one other guest who we would all gladly welcome to this dream dinner party would be her Majesty the Queen. While I am sure more fitting tributes may feature elsewhere, there can be little debate that she did truly give her life to public service. There is certainly no greater pressure than being in the top job for over 70 years, from the original “working Mum”, to still going strong in office as a great grandmother well into her nineties, with ne'er a thought to retirement. Rest in Peace Ma'am.

**THE SECRET ACCOUNTANT!**

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