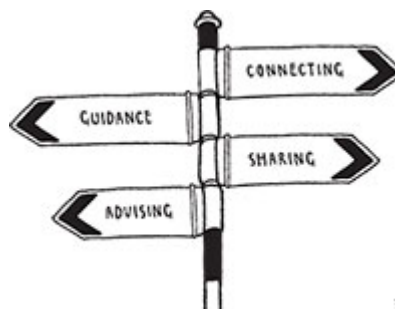


Finance Advisory Network Newsletter



November 2019

Advisor Update

Welcome to the November FAN Newsletter for practitioners in organisations that don't subscribe to the FAN service.

As usual, the newsletter includes details of our planned events and workshops (including our Closedown workshops for 2019/20), together with the latest updates on consultations and other issues that may be of interest to finance staff working in organisations that account under the CIPFA/LASAAC Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice. We hope you find it helpful.

If other colleagues in your organisation would benefit from receiving this newsletter they can add themselves to the FAN mailing lists via the [Preference Centre in MyCIPFA](#).

That's all for this newsletter.

Best wishes from David, Caroline and Sandra

Events

Financial Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Reporting for Budget Holders within Adult and Children's Social Care

[21 November, London](#)

Local Authority Accounting Conferences

[28 November, London](#); [4 December Leeds](#)

Closedown and Financial Reporting Workshops

[Various dates](#)

Introduction to Accounting for Groups and Collaborative Arrangements

[14 November, Bristol](#); [11 December, London](#)

Introduction to Local Government Finance

[20 November, London](#); [21 November, Leeds](#)

Introduction to Collection Fund Accounting for Local Authorities in England

[7 February, London](#)

Introduction to Fire Finance

[26 November, London](#)

Local Government Conference – Climate Emergency

[10 December, London](#)

Councillors Guide to Local Government Finance and a Sustainable Budget

[11 December, Leeds](#); [13 December, London](#)

Revenues – Is there a better way

[19 November, Newmarket: 20 November, Durham; 25 November, London; 26 November, Winchester ; 27 November, Exeter; 3 December, Birmingham; 4 December, Manchester](#)

PTN Capital Valuations Avoiding the Pitfalls 2019

[19 November, Wigan; 28 November, York; 4 December, London; 5 December, Birmingham](#)

[FAN Home](#)

Network and CIPFA News

FAN 2019/20 Closedown and Financial Reporting Workshops

The FAN team are pleased to announce details of our Accounts Closedown series, which this year broadens its coverage to include a discussion on accounting areas that present significant challenges to practitioners.

The series starts on 7 January and will include almost 30 events covering England and Wales. In England separate events are being provided for police and fire practitioners, and two tailored events are being run for all practitioners in Wales (including Welsh fire and police practitioners).

Prices are being held at the same level as this year's workshops (£295 plus VAT). A full event line-up is included below, and bookings can be made on the [FAN website](#). The FAN team and associate Graham Liddell again look forward to seeing you early in the new year.

7 January 2020 - Liverpool
8 January 2020 - Leeds
9 January 2020 - London
14 January 2020 - Manchester
14 January 2020 - Exeter
15 January 2020 - Southampton
15 January 2020 - Birmingham
16 January 2020 - London
21 January 2020 - Birmingham
21 January 2020 - Cardiff (Wales Authorities)
22 January 2020 - Lancaster
22 January 2020 - London
23 January 2020 - Cambridge
23 January 2020 - Chester (Wales authorities)
28 January 2020 - Edinburgh
29 January 2020 - Newcastle
30 January 2020 - Cambridge
4 February 2020 - Leeds (English Police & Fire)
4 February 2020 - London

5 February 2020 - Ashford
5 February 2020 - London
6 February 2020 - London (English Police & Fire)
11 February 2020 - London
11 February 2020 - Bristol
12 February 2020 - London
13 February 2020 - Birmingham
13 February 2020 - Leeds

CIPFA Local Government Accounting Conferences – 28 November, London; 4 December, Leeds

There is now limited availability at this year's November/December local government accounting technical updates. These Local Authority Accounting Conferences are key events for practitioners to attend as they will be covering the very latest developments and consultation outcomes for future changes to local authority financial reporting and how best to prepare for those changes. This year's updates will include the final consultation outcomes for the IFRS 16 leasing standard as well as findings from the clarity and streamlining consultation, the CIPFA/LASAAC stakeholder survey on the use and preparation of local government accounts and other changes for the 2020/21 Accounting Code of Practice.

Places can be booked via the links in the events listing but ensure you book now as both events have limited spaces remaining.

Local Government Conference – Climate Emergency – Practical Advice for Local Authorities - London 10 December

The environmental challenges facing our planet have been widely reported and over 240 local authorities across the UK have declared a climate emergency. As individuals and organisations we are all trying to understand and make changes to all aspects of our lives.

Public sector bodies will be expected to offer leadership and solutions to support residents in moving towards a low carbon economy. There are many great ideas out there but how can authorities start to offer practical projects that can actually deliver the outcomes we desire?

This Summit will bring together leading experts from the worlds of finance, energy and public sector to share views and ideas about what local authorities can actually do themselves and in partnership to inspire everyone to change the world.

For further details and to book see the events listing.

Draft Business Rates Multiplier for 2020/21 – England only

If you or your revenues colleagues are not aware, the Statutory Instrument to increase the non-domestic rating multiplier for 2020/21 was laid before Parliament on 4 November 2019. This can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/978011191422/contents/made>.

However, as Parliament will no longer sit until after the general election, the legislation cannot be debated and therefore become law until after 12 December 2019.

The calculation per the legislation gives a small business multiplier of 49.9p.

With a small business supplement of 1.3p, the standard multiplier will be 51.2p.

CIPFA Financial Management Code

CIPFA has now launched its new [Financial Management \(FM\) Code](#). The new Code aims to drive improvement in financial management for local authorities across the United Kingdom.

This is the first time that many areas of local government financial management have been codified and follows extensive engagement with senior leaders in public finance from across the country. The Code is principles-based and is supported by a number standards.

CIPFA considers that the implementation date of April 2020 should indicate a shadow year where Local Authorities will be working towards full implementation and over the following 12 months additional support and guidance will be available through the Institute as well as through CIPFA networks.

Redmond Review and NAO Code of Audit Practice Consultations

Although CIPFA's own consultation on the 2020/21 Code and the CIPFA/LASAAC stakeholder survey on local authority financial reporting have now closed, there are two important consultations that would benefit greatly from stakeholder feedback.

The Government's independent review led by former CIPFA president Sir Tony Redmond is seeking views on the quality of local authority financial reporting and external audit in England. Given the recent concerns raised at CIPFA network workshops regarding the delays to local authority audit opinions, challenges in resourcing audits under the revised local audit arrangements, and the ongoing debate about how best to communicate financial performance to users of the accounts, this consultation offers a perfect chance to feed back any concerns and suggestions on how the quality of local authority audits and financial reporting might be improved. The [Redmond Review consultation](#) closing date has just been extended to 20 December 2019.

In addition, the second stage of the [NAO Code of Audit Practice consultation](#) is also live and concludes on 22 November 2019. Feedback from the sector on the proposed draft code is also encouraged.

Revenues – Is there a better way (CBRS events)

Run by the CIPFA Benefits and Revenues Network (CBRS), the programme for this event covers issues of interest to local authority revenues practitioners. This series will focus on the NNDR1 and considers whether there is a better way to collect council tax debt.

By the end of the one day event you will have an understanding of:

- the NNDR1 return
- current thinking on council tax collection
- the latest developments in the revenues arena.

The NNDR 1 session may be of interest to finance practitioners in England, although you are of course welcome to attend the whole day. Places can be booked via the events listing.

Local Government Finance and the 2019 Spending Review

Details of the [Government response](#) to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee report on local government finance and the 2019 Spending Review were published on 25 October.

CIPFA Thinks

Don't forget to periodically check [CIPFA Thinks](#) to see the latest set of articles, comments and publications covering topical aspects of public finance and issues specific to [local government](#). Current articles consider the simplification of financial reporting and the scrutiny of public accounts.

Follow FAN on Twitter and connect to us on LinkedIn

David, Sandra and Caroline regularly tweet details of relevant news stories, FAN event updates, CIPFA consultation alerts, etc. We encourage subscribers to follow us 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](#), [Sandra](#) and [Caroline](#) 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 us: [David](#), [Sandra](#) and [Caroline](#).

News Roundup

News stories are part of the subscriber service only

Publications

[Financial Management Code](#)

[Code Of Practice On Local Authority Accounting In The United Kingdom 2019/20](#)

[Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: Disclosure Checklist for 2019/20 Accounts online](#)

[Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities \(2019/20 Edition\)](#)

[Streamlining the Accounts](#)

[Local Authority Capital Accounting - A Reference Manual for Practitioners](#)

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