

CIPFA Technology in Finance Conference

11 October 2018, The Foundry, London

Technology is transforming how public finance functions. Machine learning, automation and artificial intelligence are becoming routine features in the workplace for audit and to analyse financial data and trends and to inform decision making about investments and resource allocation. All public service organisations are becoming 'data driven'.

New technology platforms for audit, investment, peer-to-peer lending, and financial management are challenging the traditional finance systems and ERP domination.

Digital technologies present opportunities to accelerate devolution, empower individual citizens and cut through bureaucracy. But the pace of change required is inconceivable without strong public private partnerships and finance leaders have a key role to play in creating the right conditions for public services to deliver this vision.

This one day event will address the top priorities for finance teams responding to the rapidly developing digital agenda.

09:00 – 09:30 **Coffee and registration**

09:30 – 10:30 **Engaging Citizens**

How can governments deliver more with less and engage their citizens more effectively? A win-win scenario will see governments adapt to the pressures of austerity and seize the opportunities of digital, data and people power to solve problems and empower citizens. What do finance leaders need to understand in order to make that happen and how can finance function more effectively through digital engagement?

Bruce Davis, Co-Founder and Joint MD, Abundance

Vicki Sellick, Executive Director, Nesta

Paul Maltby, Chief Digital Officer, MHCLG

10:30 – 11:15

Automating Closedown for More Efficient Organisations

Closing accounts is often perceived as a time consuming task that diverts resources from day to day financial management. However, it is vital that accounts are closed on time and accurately, and that they fully comply with the latest Code of Practice. By automating your accounts closure, you can reduce human error, produce code compliant accounts more efficiently and save staff time.

Using Data-Led Decisions to Prioritise Payments

Sponsored by Oxygen Finance

Across local government, councils are increasingly looking to adopt digital procurement solutions to enhance operational efficiency and improve access to data and insight. Learn how to select the right approach for your organisation, and the common pitfalls to avoid when implementing a new digital approach.

11:15 – 11:45

Break

11:45 – 12:45

Cyber security – post Wannacry

Increased connectivity brings increased risk of theft and fraud. As society becomes more reliant on digital technology, we become more vulnerable to cyberattacks such as corporate security breaches, spear phishing, and social media fraud. Complementary cybersecurity and law enforcement capabilities are critical to safeguarding and securing cyberspace.

In the UK, we have seen the impact of major cyber security incidents, such as the WannaCry attack that affected 48 NHS Trusts. These attacks have real-world impacts. How do we ensure we are taking the right strategic actions and making the right investments to keep public services resilient and finances secure? And is Blockchain going to provide the key to secure transactions for governments?

Simon Newby, Strategic Cyber Security Consultant

Salena Worrall, Co-Founder & CMO Zonafide

Senior Representative, NCSC

12:45 – 13:30

Lunch and networking

13:30 – 14:30

Future of Finance in the Digital World

Finance leaders are being forced to reimagine their role in direct response to digital disruption, increasing volumes of data, ongoing regulatory change and stakeholder scrutiny. Now is the time for the profession to grasp the opportunity to play a significant leadership role in strategic business planning and in wider resource management arising from digital change.

Lisa Commane, Senior Director, Business Improvement, OFWAT

Max Tse – National Audit Office, Executive Leader

Jos Creese, Principal Analyst, Eduserv

14:30 – 15:15

Using Technology to set better budgets

With continued challenges in local government to deliver outcomes with increased budgetary constraint, the need to build evidence based approaches to budget setting is increasingly urgent. Grant Thornton's workshop will discuss how others are approaching these challenges, and how to avoid the pitfalls, as well as recognising and acting on the opportunities that insight delivers.

Speaker TBC, Grant Thornton

The Value of Transformation of the Procure to Pay Process

Sponsored by Elcom

Through an overview of Elcom's approach, and the experience of a key public sector users, delegates will be taken through a journey of transformation of a typical procure to pay environment to an automated and integrated environment with effective spend control, effective procurement processing and enhanced payment control.

15:15 – 15:30

Break

15:00 – 16:00

Big Data

Digitisation is ubiquitous now, consequently big data plays an increasingly important role in the public sector. The accurate measurement and monitoring of citizen behaviours and feedback is an essential element of the big data strategies for most government agencies to shape and forecast future needs and requirements. Equally using social media to understand how services are performing – well or otherwise – and combining this with multiple data sources and demographic analyses can provide the insight needed to better serve citizens today and in the future.

Greater Manchester Connect, speaker TBC

Lee Howell, Senior Responsible Officer, Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Office of Data Analytics

16:00 – 16:10

Closing Address

We reserve the right to alter the timing or content of sessions where circumstances require.