

## CIPFA Better Governance Forum

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### Good Governance in Local Government, 2019 Professional Update

27 February Birmingham, 6 March London and 7 March York

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9.30 – 10.00 **Coffee and Registration**

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10.00 – 10.15 **Introductions and workshop overview**

Diana Melville, Governance Advisor

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10.15 – 11.15 **The Importance of Ethical Standards in Good Governance**

This session will review the importance of the ethical framework to delivering good governance. It will take into account the forthcoming report on standards in local authorities from the Committee on Standards in Public Life and the importance of ethical leadership.

The session will also consider what assurances on ethical standards should be obtained for the annual review?

**Diana Melville, Governance Advisor CIPFA**

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11.15 – 11.30 **Break**

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11.30 – 12.15 **The External Audit Perspective on Governance**

External auditors need to consider the risks to good governance under the Code of Audit Practice, in particular to support the conclusion on value for money arrangements. In the most recent analysis governance issues played a part in one third of non-standard value for money conclusions issued for 2017/18.

In this session speakers from Grant Thornton will explain the governance risks that external auditors will be taking into account and share examples of good practice in managing difficult governance challenges.

**Grant Thornton**

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12.15 – 12.45 **Review of Annual Governance Statements from 2017/18 and Local Codes of Governance**

This session will share analysis of the published statements and local codes. It will include examples of good practice and identify issues to avoid.

**Diana Melville, Governance Advisor CIPFA**

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12.45 – 13.45 Lunch

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13.45 – 14.30

**Governance in Local Government**

The National Audit Office study examining the key elements of local arrangements for governance is due to be published early in 2019. One of the members of the NAO study team will review the findings and recommendations from the report and consider the implications for local government annual governance statements.

**Member of the study team**

**National Audit Office**

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14.30 – 15.10

**CIPFA Governance Update**

A round up of new developments impacting on governance in local government, including:

- CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit
- National Assurance Framework for Local Enterprise Partnerships
- Consultation on the CIPFA Financial Management Code
- Board Effectiveness

**Diana Melville, Governance Advisor CIPFA**

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15.10 – 15.20

**Break**

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15.20 – 16.00

**Taking Governance Forward**

Whilst the annual governance statement reflects back on the previous year and evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in governance arrangements, the action plan provides the opportunity to plan improvements.

**Diana Melville, Governance Advisor CIPFA**

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16.00

**Final discussions and close**

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*The facilitator for this event will be Diana Melville, Governance Advisor*

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