

CIPFA Training and Development

Introduction to Local Government Finance

Purpose

This course will provide delegates with a solid understanding of the complex structure and functions of the local government finance system, including an understanding of the principles underpinning local government budgeting, financial reporting and governance and the impact of the local government financial reform agenda.

Learning outcomes

By attending this course you will be provided with:

- an understanding of local government funding in England and how this is changing
- the statutory requirements for preparation of local authority accounts
- the basic principles and rules governing audit and scrutiny
- an awareness of budgeting and estimates processes
- the basic principles of governance in local government
- an understanding of the principles of treasury management.

Who will benefit

All those new to working in local government, including those who are new to finance as a whole and those with finance experience from outside the sector who wish to gain an overview of how local government finance works.

Introduction to Local Government Finance: Programme

09.45 – 10.00 **Registration and Refreshments**

10.00 – 10.45 **Local Government Funding – the ‘macro issues’**

The session will look at the circumstances behind today’s public sector finances and the impact this has had on the current local government funding position.

10.45 – 12.15 **Local Government Finance – the ‘micro issues’**

We will consider how local government is financed, what it spends its money on and how it can generate income. Also considered is the difference between revenue and capital expenditure and why this is important. *A refreshment break will be taken during this session.*

12.15 – 12.45 **Capital Expenditure and Treasury Management (1)**

This session describes the basics of the prudential framework, the way in which the government supports capital expenditure and how local government accounts for capital expenditure.

12.45 – 13.30 **Lunch**

13.30 – 14.00 **Capital Expenditure and Treasury Management (continued)**

14.00 – 15.30 **Budgeting, Financial Reporting and Governance Arrangements (1)**

The session will take delegates through the process of financial management to publishing a set of local authority financial statements, including an exercise in determining budget priorities. *A refreshment break will be taken during this session.*

15.30 – 15.45 **Local Government Finance Reform**

The session will take delegates through the proposed changes under the Local Government Finance Review.

15.45 **Final Questions and Close of Event**

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