



Benefits and Revenues Service

# Horizon Scanning Briefing

**October 2018**

Welcome to the first newsletter for non-subscribers of the CIPFA Benefits and Revenues Service (CBRS), we hope you all had a wonderful summer.

CIPFA Benefits and Revenues Service delivers practical and technical advice on revenues and benefits issues. Working closely with central government and other public sector bodies to give subscribers advice, and provide support to help in the day to day administration of benefits and revenues services as well as taking on the challenges that business rate retention and welfare reform bring.

For more information about the services offered by CBRS please visit our website <https://www.cipfa.org/services/networks/benefits-and-revenues-service>

Following the introduction of GDPR, we can only send out newsletters and details of our upcoming events if you have opted-in to receiving them. This is managed through the new Preference Centre area of the CIPFA website.

We would encourage all practitioners to login to [MyCIPFA](#) and check that you are happy the settings for the various CIPFA Networks are as you would like them.

Please ensure that CBRS is set to "On" as your preferences will dictate whether or not you hear about our events and receive our newsletters in future.

Can you please also encourage your colleagues to check their preference centre settings to make sure they don't miss out on CIPFA updates that might be relevant to them.

Adrian & Sheldon

## Benefits News

### Expansion of universal credit and retained housing benefit

The roll-out of universal credit for new benefit claims and transfer to the full service is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2018.

From 2019, the government then intends to commence the next phase of the roll-out programme which involves the managed migration of existing legacy benefit claims, including working age housing benefit claimants, to universal credit. This managed migration process will be the final, and most critical and challenging stage of the roll-out of universal credit for the DWP, for local authorities and for working age benefit claimants.

During and following this process, local authorities will retain responsibility for other elements of the welfare system including the administration of housing benefit claims for pension aged claimants and the local council support schemes. In addition to this, local authorities will continue to administer and pay housing benefit to existing claimants until they are migrated to universal credit as well as being responsible for the funding of supported and temporary accommodation and the provision of support to universal credit claimants.

This series of events will examine the detail and impact of this expansion of universal credit claims and retention of housing benefit responsibilities on local authorities.

Wednesday 3 October 2018	<a href="#">Winchester</a>
Thursday 4 October 2018	<a href="#">London</a>
Tuesday 9 October 2018	<a href="#">Newmarket</a>
Wednesday 10 October 2018	<a href="#">Sheffield</a>
Thursday 11 October 2018	<a href="#">Manchester</a>

More information and details of how to book are available by clicking the relevant link.

## Revenues News

### Forecasts and Reform

The next series of CIPFA Benefits and Revenues Service (CBRS) revenues events are scheduled for November 2018. These events continue our commitment to keep you up to date with the latest news and government policies affecting local authority revenues services.

The series will be looking at the completion of the NNDR1 return as well as the increasing calls for Council Tax reform and debating what can be done.

The dates and venues for this series of events are as follows-

Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	<a href="#">Newmarket</a>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	<a href="#">Birmingham</a>
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	<a href="#">Exeter</a>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	<a href="#">Winchester</a>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	<a href="#">London</a>
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	<a href="#">Durham</a>
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	<a href="#">Manchester</a>

### Introduction to Council Tax

This event offers a comprehensive introduction to council tax for local authority staff. It is ideal for revenues staff new to the area of council tax and for staff wanting to know more about council tax administration.

To ensure delegates have a fundamental understanding of the key areas of council tax legislation and administration the event covers the following areas:-

- introduction to council tax
- liability (including joint and several liability)
- discounts and exemptions
- billing, collection and enforcement
- appeals

6 November 2018	<a href="#">Bristol</a>
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## Introduction to National Non-Domestic Rates

This event offers a comprehensive introduction to NNDR for local authority staff. It is ideal for revenues staff new to the area of NNDR and for finance staff wanting to know more about NNDR administration.

The event begins with an introduction that puts NNDR in context. The current rates retention scheme is explained, giving delegates a greater understanding of why NNDR have become so important to local authority finances since 2013.

The following areas are then covered, ensuring delegates have a fundamental understanding of the key areas of business rates legislation and administration:

- how NNDR are calculated
- liability – rateable occupation
- valuation
- completion notices
- relief and exemptions
- billing, collection and enforcement

7 November 2018	<a href="#">Bristol</a>
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More information and details of how to book are available by clicking the relevant link.

## Follow CBRS on Twitter and connect on LinkedIn

Adrian tweets details of relevant news stories, CBRS event updates, CIPFA news, stories from Public Finance, etc.

We encourage you 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 issues affecting local authority revenues teams.

Click to find Adrian on [Twitter](#) or [linked in](#), or search for all our network advisor tweets using the hashtag #cipfanetworks

## Publications

1 Universal Credit Bulletin UC2/2018

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/735521/uc2-2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/735521/uc2-2018.pdf)

2 Discretionary housing payments (DHP) funding and spending 2017/18

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/use-of-discretionary-housing-payments-financial-year-2017-to-2018>

3 Chartered Institute of Housing LHA rates report

[http://www.cih.org/resources/PDF/Policy\\_free\\_download\\_pdfs/Missing\\_the\\_target\\_final.pdf](http://www.cih.org/resources/PDF/Policy_free_download_pdfs/Missing_the_target_final.pdf)

4 Valuation in Practice - Issue 49

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<https://www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/VIP-Issue-49.pdf>

5 Council Tax Information letter 15-08-18

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/734818/Council\\_tax\\_information\\_letter\\_August\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/734818/Council_tax_information_letter_August_2018.pdf)

6 Council Tax Information letter 13-09-18

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/council-tax-information-letter-13-september-2018>

### **CBRS Advisors**

Sheldon Wood, Benefits Advisor

+44 (0)114 255932

[sheldon.wood@cipfa.org](mailto:sheldon.wood@cipfa.org)

Adrian Blaylock, Revenues Advisor

+44 (0)1302 772674

[adrian.blaylock@cipfa.org](mailto:adrian.blaylock@cipfa.org)



The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, 77 Mansell St, London, E1 8AN

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