



Scottish Finance Advisory Network - Non Subscriber Newsletter: January 2023

Advisor Update

Welcome to the January 2023 Scottish FAN Newsletter for organisations that do not subscribe to SFAN.

As usual, the monthly newsletter contains an update on CIPFA announcements and network events and links to publications that we hope are of interest to practitioners.

The FAN team (along with associate Graham Liddell) is now part-way through delivering the 2022/23 Accounts Closedown series. The 15-date series includes topical updates on subjects such as infrastructure assets, IFRS 16 *Leases*, changes to the Code, regulatory updates and more. We are using breakout rooms and Slido to make the webinars engaging and interactive, and feedback from the first events has been positive.

The series runs until 16 February however **there is a specific event set up for Scottish authorities...** taking place via Zoom on [1 February](#), which has been tailored for Scottish differences in the regulatory framework and application.

The Accounts Closedown workshop is an ideal opportunity to share the essential knowledge for the 2022/23 accounts preparation with your team. [Please book ASAP if you want to attend this tailored workshop.](#)

We will hopefully get the opportunity over the next few weeks to get some of the 2023 events set up on the FAN website. The only events currently listed are the NNDR3 and Collection Fund Models workshops for English authorities.

That's it for this month. Stay safe and best wishes,

David, Jen and Mark.

[FAN Homepage](#)

Network and CIPFA News

Infrastructure Assets (CIPFA Bulletin 12)

Scheduled Events

Events

2022/23 Accounts Closedown Workshop - Scottish Authorities
[1 February 2023](#)

[All CIPFA Events](#)

The final version of CIPFA Bulletin 12 was issued on 11 January, setting out the key details of both elements of the temporary solution for infrastructure assets.

The bulletin sets out the background to the issues raised, guidance on the Update to the Code (published in November 2022) and interaction of the Code Update with statutory prescriptions for England and Wales.

It also includes illustrations of mechanisms to deal with depreciation, setting out ranges of useful lives deemed to be reasonable by highways experts. The Bulletin also features accounting policy examples and an example format for the amended disclosures for infrastructure assets. The [Bulletin](#) is available on the CIPFA website. Further details and updates on this topic are available on a dedicated page on the [CIPFA website](#). CIPFA ran a webinar on 17 January to provide an overview of the latest position and provide an opportunity to ask questions, and the recording from that webinar is available [here](#).

FAN 2022/23 Accounts Closedown and Financial Reporting Series

As mentioned in the advisor update above, the FAN 2022/23 Accounts Closedown series is underway and the Scottish-specific event is taking place very soon. Please book your places now so you don't miss out.

CIPFA/ICAEW social mobility webinar

The benefits of having a socially diverse workforce are huge and proven. This free webinar, delivered jointly with CIPFA and ICAEW on 28 February, will seek to inspire and empower you on your data collection journey that will enable you to make changes that improve your organisation's workplace diversity. Speakers include the Rt. Hon Justine Greening, CIPFA President Jayne Owen and ICAEW President Julia Penny. [Book now](#) to secure your place!

Job Opportunity - Public Finance Technical Advisor

CIPFA is looking for a motivated person who is excited by the opportunity to work on a unique project – reviewing CIPFA's codes and guidance notes and delivering them into a new digital platform. The role will require you to review public finance technical guidance notes and Codes of practice, working with a small project team with IT support and a Digital Content Designer.

The role will include mapping across these codes into a new format to enable access to information to be more 'user friendly', allowing interoperability across code and guidance documents.

You will work directly within the CIPFA Connect project team alongside Policy and Technical Advisors. You will be required to communicate and influence in a straightforward, honest, and engaging manner, choosing appropriate styles to maximise understanding and impact, ensuring communication has a clear purpose. With practical experience of working in a senior role and/or practical experience of accounting and budgeting within the public sector.

The role involves:

- Technical expertise and subject matter knowledge in the regulatory framework for public sector in the UK and particularly local authority accounting and financial reporting
- Technical expertise and practical experience in the capital finance framework for local authorities
- Deep understanding and technical expertise of the operation and use of CIPFA Codes of Practice and their supporting guidance publications
- Experience of national legislatures across the UK A practical understanding of how the above frameworks apply to public sector entities.
- Developing training and other products and where appropriate, assist with the delivery of training and product delivery,

You will have:

- A robust and up to date knowledge of CIPFA Codes and Practice
- Strong and effective communication skills particularly on how technical information might best be presented for accounts preparers (particularly local authorities) and auditors
- Proven project management skills and able to work to tight deadlines
- Excellent communication and networking skills with a persuasive and convincing approach to explaining and resolving complex issues to clients.
- The ability to deliver high standards, of team working and integrated solutions to complex problems.

CIPFA is a forward-looking organisation and is presently working a modern and progressive approach to flexible/hybrid working. The location for the role will be dual location - both home and at a designated CIPFA office.

Interested? For more information [see here](#). For a confidential discussion about the opportunity please email Amie Bridson, Head of CIPFA Connect: amie.bridson@cipfa.org.

CIPFA's Responses to Consultations

Did you know that you can view CIPFA's own responses to external consultations on the website? The [consultation responses](#) page, organised by themes, includes the recent response to the consultation on [Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statements of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom](#).

Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub

CIPFA has its own [Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub](#) which is an online resource for anyone that needs help, information or support. It is free to use, anonymous, and no registration is required.

At the heart of the hub is Talking Heads, an always-growing collection of short videos where members of the CIPFA community and beyond share their experiences. The library also provides links to trusted local support services and resources relevant to the videos you view.

CIPFA hopes its CIPFA Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub will assist in providing the support you, your friends or family might need in these challenging times.

Additional COVID-19 advice and support for local authorities

All the latest official information as well as guidance and resources from [COSLA](#) and key partners including weekly briefings for Elected Members.

Essential guidance on all aspects of coronavirus can be found on the [Gov.Scot website](#)

CIPFA Thinks

[CIPFA Thinks](#) tackles the latest developments in public service finance, with commentary and analysis from subject experts, podcast interviews, guidance, and more. Don't forget also to periodically check out the issues specific to [local government](#).

Follow FAN on Twitter and connect to us on LinkedIn

David and Jen regularly tweet details of relevant news stories, FAN event updates, CIPFA consultation alerts, COVID-19 updates, etc. We encourage subscribers to follow CIPFA network advisors 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](#) and [Jen](#) on Twitter, or search for all our network advisor tweets using the hashtag [#cipfanetworks](#).

We can all 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 [David](#), [Jen](#) and [Mark](#).

LinkedIn Discussions

CIPFA has its own [LinkedIn group](#) where you can find up to date announcements and discussions on all the latest issues in the public sector. Why not join in one of the discussions or start a conversation of your own?

News Roundup

This service is for subscribers only

Publications

[Code Of Practice On Local Authority Accounting In The United Kingdom 2022/23](#)

[The Prudential Code For Capital Finance In Local Authorities: Guidance Notes For Practitioners \(2021 Edition\).](#)

[Code Of Practice On Local Authority Accounting In The United Kingdom: Guidance Notes For 2022/23 Accounts](#)

[Local Authority Owned Companies: A Good Practice Guide](#)

[The Prudential Code For Capital Finance In Local Authorities \(2021 Edition\).](#)

[Audit Committees: Practical Guidance For Local Authorities And Police \(2022 edition\).](#)

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