



Scottish Finance Advisory Network

Non-subscriber Newsletter: April 2023

Advisor Update

Welcome to the April 2023 SFAN Non-subscriber Newsletter.

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

Following the conclusion of our 2022/23 workshops, the FAN team have started to add events for 2023/24 on the website and links to events already confirmed are set out in the events listing in this newsletter.

We would welcome suggestions from practitioners as to any other topics that you would like to see us cover so if you have any ideas please get in touch.

That's all for now.

David, Jen and Mark.

[FAN Homepage](#)

Scheduled Events

Introduction to Budgeting
[18 October 2023](#)

Introduction to Local Authority Capital Accounting
[25 July 2023](#)
[17 October 2023](#)

Introduction to Local Authority Accounts and Closedown
[4 May 2023](#)
[30 November 2023](#)

Property Training Network IFRS16 Leases A Valuers Perspective
[10 October 2023](#)

Understanding Local Authority Accounts for Councillors
[22 June 2023](#)
[24 August 2023](#)

[All CIPFA Events](#)

Network and CIPFA News

New publications and reports

Survey on the Impact of the Move to Improve the Reporting of Infrastructure Assets

CIPFA is undertaking a survey to further understand the impact changing the reporting of information for infrastructure assets and is developing a long-term solution for this.

This survey will enable CIPFA to get a better picture of the impact a change in the measurement requirements will have on local authorities with a particular focus on the costs and the resource implications of such a move. CIPFA will issue a report on the outcomes of the survey to inform stakeholders of the issues being faced by local authorities.

CIPFA would also note that although CIPFA LASAAC has not yet taken its final decision on the longer-term solution that when completing this questionnaire local authorities should assume that the longer-term approach will be based on a Depreciated Replacement Cost basis using a measurement approach similar to that included in the 2016 edition of the Code of Practice on the Highways Network Asset though the Task and Finish Group is considering possible simplifications to the prescriptions of that Code.

Note you might want to base your responses by referring to your view on and experience of the impact of such a move based on the approach to a move to measuring the Highways Network Asset at Depreciated Replacement Cost from 2015 to 2017, if this information is available.

CIPFA would recommend that this response is prepared jointly between highways colleagues and finance staff.

To complete the survey please use the following: [CIPFA: Infrastructure Assets Survey](#).

Please complete this survey by **31 May 2023**.

If you want to discuss this survey, please contact Sarah Sheen at cipfalasaac@cipfa.org

Public sector sustainability reporting: time to step it up

Public sector sustainability reporting needs to step up. In [our report](#), we look at already existing frameworks and standards that can be used by public sector bodies to disclose their environmental impact. We also provide best practice and suggested approaches to help the public sector deliver successful and useful sustainability reports.

CIPFA also presented the following **free webinars** during April 2023

- Sustainability Reporting Time To Step It Up, covering an overview of CIPFAs recently released report on this topic looking at issues in the public sector when it comes to sustainability reporting and providing detailed advice on guidance for public bodies.
- Consideration of the long-term solution for infrastructure assets reporting and introducing the survey on its impact. This webinar provided further information about options for the long-term solution for infrastructure asset reporting.

If you missed these webinars, they will be available, alongside our other free webinars, on our [website](#) or [YouTube channel](#).

CIPFA procurement conference - 16 May

[This free conference](#) aims to provide CFOs, as well as senior risk management and procurement professionals working in this specialist area with expert insight and knowledge on how to strategically use procurement as a key lever to help protect financial resilience.

CIPFA Speaks!

Council tax has been raised across the board as councils struggle with the economic difficulties of the last few years. CIPFA's Head of Policy, Joanne Pitt and Tracy Bingham, CFO and Strategic Director of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council [discuss all things council tax](#).

Public Finance Live 2023

CIPFA's annual conference [Public Finance Live](#) returns to London at the QEII Centre in the heart of Westminster. This conference is aimed at professionals working in public finance and accountancy in the UK and globally.

Attracting over 700 attendees and with plenaries and workshops on everything from climate change to digital fraud, this two-day conference is not to be missed. Public Finance Live 2023 brings together practitioners, commentators and experts for sector updates, discussions and insights into public finance and public service management.

Our annual Public Finance Live 2023 conference will take place on 27 and 28 June at the QEII Centre in Westminster, London. This event will offer insights, debates, solutions and networking opportunities.

CIPFA's Responses to Consultations

Did you know that you can view CIPFA's own responses to external consultations? The [consultation responses](#) page, organised by themes, includes the recent submission to the Public Accounts Committee on the [timeliness of local auditor reporting](#).

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.

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](#).

Non-Investment asset valuations

The Thematic Review [consultation paper](#) on non-investment asset valuations is live and consults on changes that will affect Financial Reporting Manual (FRM) adaptations and interpretations of International Accounting Standard 16 Property Plant and Equipment (IAS 16) and adaptations of International Accounting Standard 38 Intangibles (IAS 38), in respect of the measurement of assets.

The consultation closes on 18 May 2023 and local authority engagement is actively encouraged.

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 etc. 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 \(2021 Edition\)](#)

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

[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: Disclosure Checklist for 2022/23 Accounts](#)

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

[Service Reporting Code Of Practice For Local Authorities 2023/24](#)

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