

Finance Advisory Network Newsletter

29 October 2020

Advisor Update

Welcome to the October FAN Newsletter for practitioners in organisations that don't subscribe to the FAN service.

To help support local government as much as possible in these difficult times CIPFA is offering an <u>introductory</u> <u>promotion</u> for authorities taking out a new subscription to FAN or other networks.

If you take out a subscription before 31 December 2020 you will get membership up to 31 March 2022 for the 12-month price. The earlier you take out a new membership the higher the saving. If you opt to include any pre-pay places with your membership these can be used at any time up to 31 March 2022 for any FAN events included in our Service Plan.

FAN membership gets you access to all subscriber newsletters and our past event documentation and slides on the website, as well as access to the FAN team for any technical accounting questions. English FAN membership also includes the two 2020/21 Collection Fund toolkits developed by Caroline.

If this promotion is of interest, please do get in touch.

Don't forget we can still deliver any of our <u>Essentials</u> 'Introduction to...' events exclusively for your authority too, so do get in touch if interested in a 'local' delivery.

Events

Introduction to Collection Fund Accounts <u>3 December, Webinar</u>

Introduction to Housing Finance (HAN) 3/4 November, Webinar

Introduction to Local Government Reporting Principles and Practices (two half-days) 24 and 26 November, Webinar

Local Authority Accounting Conference Autumn 2020 Update 25 November, Webinar

Introduction to Accounting for Groups and Collaborative Arrangements 27 November, Webinar

Impact of COVID-19 on NNDR and Council Tax Budget-Setting and Accounting (additional date) 10 December, Webinar

Budgeting for Social Care Through COVID-19; 2021/21 and Future Years 3/5 November, Webinar

Social Care: Narrowing the gap between plan and actual. Improving value rather than financial collapse <u>17/19 November, Webinar</u> As usual, we hope you find the newsletter helpful.

Best wishes, and please stay safe.

David, Caroline and Sandra

Capital and Treasury management Conference 2, 3, 4 November

Capital Valuations: Avoiding the pitfalls <u>3 November, Webinar</u> <u>5 November, Webinar</u> 10 November, Webinar

<u>3 December, Webinar</u>

FAN Home

Network and CIPFA News

Local Authority Accounting conference – Autumn 2020 update – 25 November 2020

This Local Authority Accounting Conference is the key event for practitioners to find out about the very latest developments and issues for local government financial reporting, both now and going forward. Hear directly from Sir Tony Redmond on the outcomes and recommendations of his review, as well as hearing the latest updates on the potential outcomes of consultations on PWLB lending terms and McCloud, and the PAC report on commercialisation, as well as the very latest position on IFRS 16 Leases, changes in the Code and the COVID-19 impact on financial reporting.

To book please go to the FAN Events webpage

FAN 2020/21 Accounts Closedown and Financial Reporting Workshops (webinars in January and February 2021)

The FAN team are working again with associate Graham Liddell for our annual closedown series, which this year (in line with other CIPFA workshops) is being delivered via webinar. The workshops will feature the usual healthy mix of technical updates and topical discussion and we hope to have details of the programme out in the next couple of weeks. The series is expected to run from 7 January to 10 February, so there will be plenty of dates to choose from, and as they are being delivered by webinar, they are now more accessible with no need to travel. Watch out for details very soon.

Impact of COVID19 on NNDR and Council Tax budget setting (2021/22) and accounting England (2020/2021) – Webinars December 2020

Following a number of requests, this joint event between FAN and CBRS allows the opportunity for revenues and accounting delegates to work together and consider their respective and combined roles and responsibilities in both completing the NNDR 1 2021/22 form and setting the council tax base.

The COVID-19 measures introduced by MHCLG, which we anticipate will require authorities to spread the collection fund deficit, will directly impact on the structure and completion of NNDR 1 2021/22 form. The COVID-19 measures will also impact on the calculation of the 2021/22 council tax base for tax setting purposes, and the expected need to codify this in a form as well as accounting for the 2020/21 collection fund and Section 31 grants, will also be considered in this session.

Caroline has been working directly with MHCLG on making the spreading proposal work and both she and Adrian Blaylock, lead Revenues Advisor are working with them on the NNDR 1 2021/22 form, so are right at the heart of what is going on. We had originally planned for 2 webinars on this topic but these, and a third added to the series have sold out so we have added a fourth and <u>final date on 10 December</u>.

Are you suffering from collection fund accounting issues?

Caroline has written an <u>article for CIPFA Thinks</u> on the common problems that local authorities seemed to encounter with their 2019/20 Collection Fund accounting. It's more of a checklist of questions you should be asking yourself for assurance that you are happy with your own approach. Hopefully you are confident in your approach but if not, we have also added a <u>collection fund</u> <u>support page</u> to the FAN website detailing all the different support options we offer in this area. Bookings are already being taken for consultancy support and external reviews for 2020/21 collection fund closedown, so do get in touch with Caroline if either of these is something you would be interested in.

McCloud Employer Engagement – Free webinar 5 November 2020

Stakeholder management will be a key component of plans to deliver the McCloud remedy. This free webinar will cover the changes faced by a variety of stakeholders, with a focus on member engagement, the member journey and the opportunity that presents, whilst managing the risks. Places can be booked via the <u>CIPFA website</u>.

CIPFA Property Sustainability Conference - 26 November

Through the four key sub themes of sustainable housing, sustainable technologies, ethical investments and sustainable planning, the Sustainability 2020 Conference will provide practical advice and strategies that give both thought leaders and practitioners the tools they need to fulfil their roles better. Sustainability 2020 delivers real insight, guidance and advice to help meet arguably the world's greatest challenge. Places can be booked via the <u>CIPFA</u> website.

Additional COVID-19 advice and support for local authorities

CIPFA has an <u>online hub</u> for COVID resources. Essential guidance for local authorities on all aspects of the coronavirus support can be found on the <u>GOV.UK website</u>.

Spending Review and Local Government Finance Inquiry

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee will consider what approach the Government should take to funding local government as part of the 2020 spending review. It will investigate the current financial health of local authorities and their ability to deliver services, including the additional pressures caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In light of continued delays to the multi-year spending review, the <u>Committee Inquiry</u> will also examine the impact of single year settlements on the ability of councils to plan and deliver services in the long-term.

CIPFA Thinks

Don't forget to periodically check <u>CIPFA Thinks</u> to see the latest set of articles, comments and publications covering topical aspects of public finance and also those issues <u>specific to local government</u>.

Follow FAN on Twitter and connect to us on LinkedIn

David, Sandra and Caroline regularly tweet details of relevant news stories, FAN event updates, CIPFA consultation alerts, COVID-19 updates, etc. We encourage subscribers 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 key issues affecting local authority finance and accounting. Click to find <u>David Sandra</u> and <u>Caroline</u> on Twitter, or search for all our network advisor tweets using the hashtag <u>#cipfanetworks</u>.

We can also 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 us: <u>David</u>, <u>Sandra</u> and <u>Caroline</u>.

LinkedIn Discussions

CIPFA has its own <u>LinkedIn group</u> 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

IFRS 16 Leases: An Early Guide for Local Authority Practitioners

Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21

Financial Management Code

Financial Management Code Guidance Notes

Prudential Property Investment Guidance

<u>Code of Practice on Local</u> <u>Authority Accounting in the</u> <u>United Kingdom Guidance Notes</u> <u>for 2020/21 Accounts</u>

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