



REGIONAL NEWS *(ISSUE 11)*

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Here at CIPFA North East we would love to hear from you with comments, queries and suggestions, please get in touch via the contact links throughout this newsletter.

Section 1 – Welcome from the President



It's noticeably cooler, and it feels damp, conditions that would have been gratefully welcomed by anyone doing the recent Great North Run. It may feel as if I'm describing a typical summer's day this year, but there is definitely an autumnal feel to things.

The changing of the season's does hold some encouragement of course, with a busy programme of CIPFA events in the remaining months of the year, starting with the Women in Finance conference, to be held in Durham on Wednesday 16 October 2024.

We are also delighted to welcome back Owen Mapley, CIPFA's Chief Executive to the Region for the North East Conference, to be held at Newcastle's Crowne Plaza Hotel on Friday 29 November. This year the Conference will incorporate the Newly Qualified accountant “graduation” where we look forward to welcoming new members to both our Institute and our Region. (Further details of both events elsewhere in this newsletter).

As well as setting out the programme of forthcoming events, this Newsletter takes the opportunity to look back on recent events, including Public Finance Live in Manchester, and the award of the Public Sector Finance Team of the Year to Newcastle University, at the North East Accountancy Awards on Thursday 4th July. That date may still ring a distant bell...

A key part of any public service is planning, hopefully aligning operational and financial plans for service development of growth. I was once fortunate enough to listen to the English Rugby Union Head Coach Brian Ashton who said, that, in rugby, a plan may only last as long as the first tackle.

I am not advocating the abandonment of any strategic plans or budgets, but it was hard not to sympathise with the organisers of the North East Accountancy Awards who had meticulously planned the date of the event months in advance, only for it to clash with the snap election called by Rishi Sunak, with little, well 6 weeks, notice. It says much for public service resilience and organisation that the General Election went smoothly ...operationally at least, though this may very much depend on your perspective !

Bruce Parvin
CIPFA North East President
northeast@cipfa.org

Section 2 – Upcoming Events



SAVE THE DATES

WOMEN IN FINANCE

Wed 16 October 2024 – Durham University

CIPFA NE Annual Conference

Friday 29 November 2024 – Crowne Plaza Hotel,

CIPFA NE Annual General Meeting

March 2025 DATE TBC

Please contact northeast@cipfa.org with any questions or suggestions and feedback on events.

[Keep up to date with CIPFA events in the North East](#)

Section 3 – Regional Volunteering

Regional Volunteering

You could help your region to support members and students, in a variety of ways as a regional volunteer. CIPFA's Regions are an essential component of the Institute's organisational structure and are key to maintaining the partnership between CIPFA and its members.

They thrive on the help of willing volunteers and have a broad range of opportunities for any member or student who is interested in getting involved. Volunteering activities can include involvement with:

- local events – such as organising, being a speaker, or taking photographs.
- subgroups – providing support to Members in your local area.
- students – helping support students in your area.
- your local council – cascading CIPFA's national strategy locally.

We are very lucky at CIPFA to have a strong volunteer contingent, and we are grateful to those individuals and their employers.

Benefits for volunteers:

There are huge personal and career-related benefits to volunteering. Volunteering helps you to develop and practice new skills, give something back to members that helped you through your professional qualifications, help students to succeed in their exams, and network with friends and colleagues (to benefit your career and for fun).

Benefits for employers:

It is worth allowing your staff members to take time out to volunteer with CIPFA. Your staff members will be at the forefront of public finance developments and initiatives, learn new skills (without you paying for the cost of courses and conferences). Staff build up a network of contacts to call upon for advice in the workplace (without professional fees), and many volunteering tasks also give staff members more confidence.

If you are interested in becoming a regional volunteer, please contact Bruce Parvin CIPFA North East President via northeast@cipfa.org. Alternatively if you would like to discuss any opportunities for volunteering Bruce can be contacted on 01670 623431. We are also interested in Student Representatives in the North East to ensure students views are represented and the events programme is supportive of the needs of students as well as qualified members.

Many Thanks for your interest !



16 Oct

Durham University Business Centre, Waterside, Durham University DH1 1SL

CIPFA North East - Women In Finance

Join us for this exclusive one-day event where you will be inspired, energised and encouraged to reach new heights in your career. Our fantastic line up of speakers will help you unlock your true potential and provide advice on how to make the next move. It is also an excellent networking opportunity.

This event warmly welcomes women and men in what promises to follow in previous years events to be a positive and thought-provoking day.

Speakers include:

- Manj Kalar, Principle Consultant, Kalar Consulting LTD
- Dr Elise Anastasi, Data & Insight Professional Lead, NHS Business Services Authority
- Lucy Ord, Orchard Consulting & Development LTD
- Jennifer Bevan, Network Advisor Financial Advisory, CIPFA
- Christian Fell, Associate Director, Forvis Mazars
- Baroness Joyce Quin, Member of House of Lords & Author
- Dr Shaid Mahmood, Pro Vice Chancellor, Durham University

The cost of the event is £29.50 plus VAT per delegate. or Free to CIPFA Students and those who are unemployed or taking time out of work for maternity/ care responsibilities.

If you require any additional requirements, or to book onto this event please contact NorthEast@CIPFA.org

**PLEASE NOTE - SPACES ARE LIMITED TO 50 DELEGATES
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT PLEASE SECURE YOUR PLACE NOW**



CIPFA in the North East - 13th Annual Conference

“New Perspectives for Future Proofing Public Services”

Friday 29th November 2024

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne

We invite you to join us at our 13th Annual conference this November. An event which promises to be another insightful, informative and intriguing day. We have an outstanding line up of speakers from various public sector services, which will give you an in-depth view of current challenges. This is a brilliant networking opportunity with attendees from all over the region, and great potential to extend your connections. This year we are also incorporating our Graduation ceremony, celebrating our new qualified members.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Owen Mapley, CIPFA Chief Executive Officer

Peter Worth, BA (Hons) CIPFA, MAAT, Worth Accounting

Lucy Batley, Traction Industries

Dr William Burns, Social Care Policy Advisor, CIPFA

Iain Murray, Director of Public Financial Management, CIPFA

Geoff Tucker, Group Business Development Director, Norse Group

Janice Gillespie, Director of Finance and Investment, North East Combined Authority

Some of the topics covered will be S114 Issues, Artificial Intelligence, Adult Social Care Demand and Charging and many more. The afternoon will include a Group Panel discussion, to ensure engagement and immediately following the close of the conference there will be a drinks reception.

The event will be chaired by **Michael Brodie**, NHS Business Services Authority, Chief Executive Officer.

Cost: £45.00 per delegate (£37.50 +VAT) which includes lunch and drinks reception.

Student Incentive: One student can attend free with each paying delegate.

For more information please contact northeast@cipfa.org

To book a place email click the link

[CIPFA North East 13 Annual Conference 2024 | CIPFA](https://www.cipfa.org/northeast/13-annual-conference-2024)

Section 4 – The Last Six Months

North East Accountancy Awards

CIPFA North East were proud to sponsor the Public Finance Team of the Year Award, which “kicked off at the new location of St James Park on Thursday 4th July – an unfortunate clash with the General Election but this did not detract from the event !

A lavish evening was hosted by comedian, writer and former host of the Radio Newcastle breakfast show Alfie Boe, and included categories such as the Rising Star Accountant of the Year, Finance Leader of the Year, Business Finance Team of the Year and National Accountancy Firm of the Year.

Judging had previously been held under the tightest security and details of the winners top secret until the announcements on the evening.

In relation to the Public Finance Team Awards, competition was fierce and the field demonstrated the diversity of public services. Fending off tough competition from Newcastle City Council and Groundwork North East and Cumbria, the winners were Newcastle University. The judges were particularly impressed by their commitment to staff development and progression and their sector

leading work on sustainability reporting and net-zero initiatives.



Congratulations to Director of Financial Control, Anna Munro and the team on the award, who succeed the previous winners Durham Cathedral. Anna commented :

“The award recognises the contributions made by all team members, day in, day out, and I want to say thank you and well done – I am super proud of our brilliant, award winning team ! ”

CIPFA Public Finance Live conference

- **Date:** 10-11 July 2024
- **Location:** Manchester Central

CIPFA’s annual conference, Public Finance Live returned on the 10-11 July 2024 at Manchester Central. It attracted over 700 attendees and had plenaries and workshops on everything from climate change to digital fraud. The two-day conference was aimed at professionals working in public finance and accountancy in the UK and globally.



This conference brought together leading public figures, public sector innovators, finance professionals, commentators, analysts and other sector experts, Public Finance Live was a must for all public sector CEOs, heads of finance and other senior leadership.

Through a combination of keynote speakers, plenaries, panel debate and special interest focus streams delegates experienced:

- Insight, debate, solutions and updates
- Tailored conference programme
- Engaged with over 70 speakers
- Connecting with exhibitors and sponsors
- Networking and skill sharing
- Enhanced academic and professional performance
- New contacts

The North East Region was represented by Bruce Parvin and Catherine Herron, and it was good to meet other members and hear contributions from across the country covering many elements of the challenges we face on a day-to-day basis.

It was particularly encouraging to see strong student representation at the conference, including former North East Executive student representative Harriot Winfield who was succeeded as President of the CIPFA Students Network by Morgan McIntosh.

Needless to say, networking continued long into the evening after the formal sessions had ended!

Section 5 - Students

North East Student Network

We hope you've all had an amazing summer and that the exams went well for those students that sat them in September. We hope to see some of you again at upcoming CIPFA events and know that we are always looking to grow our student network so please be sure to point any new students in our direction!

Don't forget that you can visit the [Student network \(cipfa.org\)](http://cipfa.org) page on the CIPFA Website. The CIPFA Student Network (CSN) provides a voice for students, ensuring their interests are represented, and supports ongoing developments within the qualification.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS	
For help with course administration issues	020 7543 5600 cetc.enquiries@cipfa.org
For help with examinations	020 7543 5600 studentsupport@cipfa.org
For any concerns about your training courses	020 7543 5622 trainingdeliverymanager@cipfa.org

We would like to encourage students to feedback any topics they would like covered in this section. Please get in touch at northeast@cipfa.org

Section 6 – Secret Accountant



Secret Accountant – “Lasting Legacy”

The recent Olympic and Paralympic games held in Paris made me cast my mind back 12 years (is it really 12 years?!?) to the London Olympics, the Danny Boyle directed opening ceremony (think Kynren on an unlimited budget!), Super Saturday (Can you remember who won the 3 gold medals for Team GB within the 44 minute period by the way? Answers below!)

The Olympic game’s little brother, the Commonwealth Games has recently hit problems with Australia’s Victoria State Government politicians unwilling to make the necessary investment to host the next games, scheduled for 2026. That must have been a difficult one to sell the Australian people with their love of Sport but if the business plan doesn’t add up, even after attempting to quantify the unquantifiable “feel good” factor arising from such an event, sometimes difficult, and even unpopular decisions have to be made.

Interesting also to hear of Glasgow’s interest in staging the games, even on a scaled back basis, and funded in part by AU \$200 million dollar compensation from the Victorian State Government in compensation for their withdrawal via the Commonwealth Games Fund – it must be true, Wikipedia says so (!). The Business Planning phase in both cases must have been interesting!

I was also lucky enough to attend the Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham in 2022, managing to attend an unusual sporting hatrick of Athletics, Boxing and Diving on consecutive days, where a “feel good” factor was certainly generated and that’s no bull, whether named Ozzy or otherwise!

There was much talk at the time about the legacy for the country to be derived from staging the Olympics, particularly in terms of increased participation in sport and resulting measurable health benefits in reduced childhood obesity, though I am not particular certain if that was ever objectively and effectively measured.

Thought it may seem a little early for Christmas films, one of my particular favourites is “It’s a Wonderful Life – surely you have seen it, the story of George Bailey, played by James Stewart. I won’t spoil it but, courtesy of his Angel (Clarence) he truly gets to see the difference he has made to his Community – If you haven’t seen it make sure you do, and even if you have, watch it again -

It may give you a new perspective on performance and impact reporting!

And speaking of performance *(the three athletes were Jessica Ennis Hill (Heptathlon), Mo Farah (10,000m) and Greg Rutherford (Long Jump)

THE SECRET ACCOUNTANT!