



CIPFA Cymru

Public Finance Live

2025

Programme

Date: 27 November 2025
Venue: Cardiff Marriott Hotel
Address: Mill Lane, Cardiff, CF10 1EZ

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER
09.00	Registration and refreshments	Venue:
09.40	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Venue:</p> <p>Tom Bowring CIPFA Cymru President</p> <p>Hardev Virdee CIPFA Vice President</p> <p>Andrea Byrne Conference host and broadcaster</p>	
10.00	Keynote address	<p>Mark Drakeford MS Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language</p>
10.30	<p>Revisiting - The 21st Century Public Servant?</p> <p>The session will explore the evolving roles, skills and challenges faced by public servants in today's complex environment, highlighting the growing need for adaptability and new competencies.</p>	<p>Professor Catherine Needham Professor, University of Birmingham</p>
11.10	Lightening Session – Charity Session	
11.20	Refreshments and exhibition	Venue:
11.45	<p>Workshops</p> <p><u>Workshop one:</u> <u>Unlocking public-private partnerships for Wales transition to Net Zero</u></p> <p>Amit Verma, Sustainability Policy Manager, CIPFA</p> <p>There are significant challenges in unlocking the full potential of public-private and third sector partnerships to deliver the Net Zero agenda.</p> <p>The panel will discuss some of these challenges including how Welsh organisations are supporting the government's initiatives to progress this agenda, from tangible action at the local government level, sustainable decision making to create a circular zero waste economy, supporting businesses including small medium enterprises (SMEs) and developing strong partnerships between public, private and third sector organisations to attract global business investment.</p> <p><u>Workshop two:</u> <u>The importance of performance audit</u></p> <p>Venue:</p> <p>Ann Marie Harkin, Audit Wales Khalid Hamid, International Director, CIPFA</p> <p>In recent years, the importance of performance audit as a means of holding governments to account has been increasingly recognised. It is often said that what gets measured gets done, but even the best monitoring needs a feedback process where people are held accountable. Since any form of review is inherently a political process, this feedback depends on effective advocacy and a robust mandate to promote sound public financial management.</p> <p>Performance (or value for money) auditors use rigorous scientific methods to find out how economically, efficiently and effectively money is spent by tracking inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes. Their discipline is an important part of public financial management and requires the application of advanced methodological and analytical skills in a complex – and changing – public sector environment. This session will look at performance auditing as an important part of the governance and accountability cycle and its potential for promoting the impact of public sector interventions on the lives of citizens.</p> <p><u>Workshop three:</u></p>	

Preventative Session

Dr Helen Howson Director of the Bevan Commission
Zachary Scott, Policy Researcher Prevention, CIPFA

This session will explore the emerging framework for tracking preventative investment in local government. Based on CIPFA's project supported by the Health Foundation, speakers will provide key insights into mapping and measuring preventative spend, ensuring the sustainability of public services

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12.30

Sponsor Workshops

Sponsor workshop one:

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Sponsor workshop two:

Workshop three:

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13.10

Lunch

14.00

Acting today for a better tomorrow

Heledd Morgan

Director of Implementation and Impact

Adrian Crompton

Auditor General Wales

14.50

Lightening Session – Student Update

15.00

Refreshments and exhibition

15.30

Succeeding in the age of tech disruption

Tackling public sector workforce challenges requires careful planning, investing in staff development, and creating flexible skills to adapt to change. This discussion looks at how the public sector's workforce needs are changing and how new technologies are transforming accounting. Our speakers will share ideas and strategies for closing skill gaps and encouraging continuous learning, helping your team stay adaptable and prepared for the future. You'll leave with practical tips to help public sector finance professionals succeed in today's fast-changing tech landscape.

Chaired by:

David Lyford Tilley

Head of Standards and Technical, CIPFA

Hamant Bharadia

Associate, CIPFA

Heather Clash

Chief Finance, Governance and Corporate Services
Officer, Transport for Wales

Lucy Batley

Owner, Traction Industries

16.25

Believe in Yourself

Luke Rees

Founder Luke Rees Inspires

Public Finance professionals are under immense pressure—facing rising expectations, shrinking budgets, and declining morale.

This session is designed to support and uplift by offering an inspiring, engaging, and deeply personal session and will explore key areas such as:

- Empowerment & Connection
- Mental Health Journey
- Practical Tools & Strategies

- Positive Culture Shift
- Resilience Reimagined

It's a heartfelt invitation to pause, reflect, and rise stronger—together

16.55–17.00

Conference close

Andrea Byrne

Conference host and broadcaster

Tom Bowring

CIPFA Cymru President