

Spreadsheet

CIPFA.ORG | NEWS FOR MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

APRIL 2015

CIPFA's manifesto

challenges all political parties

to secure sustainable
public finances

What hand will the new government deal public services?

in this issue

[Budget analysis by CIPFA experts](#)

[New training partnership in Sri Lanka](#)

[Council Tax survey shows cost of cuts to public services](#)

[CIPFA Professional Qualification exams go online](#)

CIPFA

Message from the President

When I reflect on what CIPFA has already achieved in 2015 it seems like a great deal has happened. We've settled into our new headquarters at 77 Mansell Street, the report of the Independent Commission on Local Government Finance set up by CIPFA and the LGA has been released and we're taking big strides forward to restructure CIPFA'S governance system. But, of course, even more change is still to come in the next few months with the general election looming and the start of a new financial year.

As with every general election, we can expect to be bombarded with political promises from all parties who claim they can offer economic recovery. But, what we can be sure of is that fiscal consolidation is going to be even more painful in the next parliament than we have felt so far. With demand for services inexorably rising and downward pressure on funding, our members will inevitably be at the forefront of funding and of delivering the transformation needed to resolve these critical national challenges. I know that you will all rise to this challenge magnificently as always.

The government has recently been edging closer towards devolution, with the welcome news that Greater

Manchester is going to be given a range of new freedom over spending powers. In our [2015 Manifesto](#), CIPFA called for decisions over spending to be taken closer to local people and this is a positive step in the right direction. Certainly, as someone working in Greater Manchester, I am very excited about the opportunities that 'Devo Manc' offers. However, CIPFA will be working to highlight that devolution needs to go further and we must make sure that all areas of the UK can benefit from any devolution dividend.

And as the political landscape looks to change, the governance structure of CIPFA is also going to be updated to ensure it can meet new challenges. In the last edition, I urged all members to take part in the consultation and I would like to thank personally the great number of those who did, as your feedback and support has been instrumental to this process. Once the changes have been approved, CIPFA will be better structured to meet the needs of the future - both at home and abroad. For more information on the changes, please do take a look at the governance area on our [website](#).

All in all, it's set to be a busy few months, but I do hope you can take the time to keep coming to visit CIPFA's

new office. Our members' lounge with its new free coffee machine could be a secluded corner away from the barrage of general election updates.



**Mike Owen,
President**



contents

News 2-8

Institute matters 9-11

Members news 12-16

Regional news 17-20

Student news 21-23

Events 24-25

Who's who at CIPFA 26

Keeping up with CIPFA
You can now join us on LinkedIn, follow CIPFA on Twitter at twitter.com/cipfa, or 'like' us on Facebook.

Links are provided on the CIPFA website.



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We welcome your feedback on Spreadsheet. Please send your comments and suggestions for future articles to Kathryn.Chellew@cipfa.org

Budget 2015 – CIPFA response

In response to the Budget delivered by the Chancellor on 18 March, CIPFA Chief Executive Rob Whiteman said that it showed the scale of the cuts local authorities have endured in this parliament and how much more they still have to undergo.

“In 2015/16 alone government support for councils will fall by 23%, on top of the 50% cuts they have already endured over the past five years,” he stated.

“Local services are already stretched thin and while many councils have dealt well under the pressures they have faced, there are increasing instances of them struggling to cope under the strain of their finances. The impacts of these cuts are now feeding through into pressures for other areas of the public sector such as the NHS and the criminal justice system.

“With this in mind, those who are serious about the future of local councils and

the services they provide must ask if the continued trajectory of funding cuts are sustainable or desirable.”

CIPFA welcomed the review into business rates, but urged any reforms to be done in a thorough, planned and fair way that serves the interests of business, communities and local government.

The timing, just weeks before the general election, means this Budget may have a very short shelf-life.

Writing in the Municipal Journal, Rob Whiteman said:

“The great unspoken factor in the pre-election budget is that it is very unlikely to be implemented in its current form by either of the coalition partners if they are in government in two months’ time. In any other scenario other than a repeat of this Coalition Government both will disown the document as too influenced by the other and set out very different plans for public finances.”



Rob Whiteman

Subscribers to CIPFA Networks can [read the Budget 2015 briefing](#) online.

Read the full CIPFA response on our [website](#).



CIPFA's [manifesto](#) says governments must budget for the medium to long term and invest strategically to stimulate economic growth.

CIPFA to badge professional standards for school business managers

New professional standards for school business managers are to be launched in November 2015, jointly badged by CIPFA and the National Association of School Business Management (NASBM).

In January, CIPFA was commissioned by NASBM to help develop professional standards for school business managers, to be used by headteachers and governors to inform and underpin the recruitment and performance management of these roles.

The standards will:

- set out the core and specialist areas of competence required
- assist those currently working in, or aspiring to work in, the school business management profession to perform their role as expertly as possible
- set out the content of initial and continuing professional development
- provide a framework for the development of qualifications and other professional recognition.

Post-election conference to focus on aligning public services

The [CIPFA Annual Conference 2015](#) is now open for early bird bookings, but hurry – the offer ends 2 April.

Under the banner ‘aligning public services’, the conference will argue that public bodies must work together to forge a sustainable legacy, with a shared vision and shared aspirations for local communities.

The panel of expert speakers includes Larry Elliott, Economics Editor at The Guardian, Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of NHS England and Jonathan Isaby, Chief Executive of the Taxpayers Alliance. The ministerial keynote speaker will be confirmed after the General Election.

Programme highlights include:

- Growth and grind: what lies ahead for the economy and how will affect public services?
- Patchwork Politics: what will the new fragmented political landscape mean?
- Public service hot potatoes: how to improve outcomes in health and wellbeing, and reduce pressure on hospital services hard-pressed by an increasingly elderly population.
- Disunited Kingdom: aligning the internal state, looking at the relationship between the centre and local communities in developing a fair system of government for Britain.

[Book now](#) or for more information please contact E: lois.hunt@redactive.co.uk.

Council tax freeze saves families over £150 a year but costs public services up to £2.8bn

CIPFA released its annual council tax survey which reveals a virtual freeze on council tax across England in 2015, with the average Band D household’s council tax only set to increase by 1% in the year, equivalent to just under £16.

The survey shows that councils across England will raise their council tax for an average Band D property to £1,483.92 in 2015-16 up from £1,467.94 in 2014-15. This small increase is another demonstration of the effect of the Government’s council tax freeze grant and referendum cap on council tax rates.

However, CIPFA found that if council tax had risen in line with RPI inflation over the Parliament (since 2010-11) then council tax would now be at £1,651.74 per household. This would have provided local authorities with an additional £2.8 billion in funding a year in 2015-16 to support local services.

This is in stark contrast to the results of CIPFA’s annual Welsh council tax survey which showed an increase of 4% for an average Band D household in Wales in 2015 or an increase of £52, giving local authorities in Wales an additional £100 million in 2015-16 to support local services. The Welsh Government does not have to implement the Coalition Government’s referendum cap.

CIPFA’s full releases on the analysis for [England](#) and [Wales](#) are available online.

CIPFA responds to Audit Scotland’s ‘Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2015’

Head of CIPFA in Scotland Don Peebles comments on Audit Scotland’s report:

“CIPFA welcomes this report as it recognises the extent of the challenge that public finance professionals are facing. As well as this it also acknowledges that despite staff numbers having been reduced, financial reporting was still completed on time which is a very positive message about the stewardship by Scotland’s local authorities.

“This report also outlines some of the future challenges that Scottish councils face, such as demographics and the cost of debt repayments. CIPFA agree that these are worrying issues and that only by having the right data and information available can elected members tackle this issue and plan for the future.”

“One of the proposals made by Audit Scotland stated that councillors must be in a position to support effective scrutiny. CIPFA has been championing the work of council officers as the key to good public financial management and fully intend to support CFOs as they continue to demonstrate transparency and accountability in their work.”

A full version of Audit Scotland’s report is available [online](#).

CIPFA launches partnership to train accountants in Sri Lanka

Speaking at the launch of CIPFA’s partnership with the Institute of Chartered Accountants (CA Sri Lanka) in Colombo, Sri Lanka’s Minister of Finance, Ravi Karunanayake, urged accounting professionals to stand up for their professional ethics and put an end to corrupt practices when discharging their duties.

CIPFA and CA Sri Lanka have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen public financial management in Sri Lanka. The MoU outlines a framework for future co-operation to improve the governance of public finance in the country and help improve the training and development of the accountancy profession. The collaboration will also open doors to membership of both institutes and professional development opportunities for members of CA Sri Lanka.

CIPFA International Chair, Ian Ball, and CIPFA Development Chair, Alan Edwards were present at the signing ceremony.



The launch hit the headlines in Sri Lanka

Ian said: “We look forward to a productive partnership which will genuinely enhance public financial management and improve outcomes for citizens of Sri Lanka.”

Mr Karunanayake welcomed the initiative: “This qualification is an

encouraging sign for management of public finances. Countries around the world have been attempting to reform public financial management and Sri Lanka cannot be left behind.”

Learn more on our [website](#).

CIPFA calls for new funding base for Northern Ireland Assembly

CIPFA has submitted evidence to the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Finance and Personnel (NIACFP) on the operation of the Barnett Formula as part of their review into the current funding system. Our proposals include:

- Withdrawal of the Barnett Formula in its present format to be replaced with a mechanism linked with tax devolution which will support equitable and sustainable public services in Northern Ireland and across the UK.

- Any new mechanism for resource allocation should be based on four simple principles of need, equity, accountability and transparency.
- The process should be depoliticised and overseen by a commission independent of government.

Head of CIPFA’s Devolved Government, Don Peebles said:

“What was implemented as a short-term approach to devolving funding in the late 1970s has been used as long-term

formula despite it being no longer fit for purpose. CIPFA has called for a replacement of the Barnett Formula and our submission to the NIACFP states clearly that it must be replaced.

“Within the evidence we have given we have suggested that a mechanism linked with tax devolution, that would support sustainable and equitable public services, should be implemented.”

To view CIPFA’s submission and for more information visit CIPFA’s [website](#).

Independent Commission on Local Government Finance publishes final report

English local government and the services it provides are no longer sustainable in their current form, warns the Independent Commission on Local Government Finance (ICLGF) in its final report published in February.

CIPFA set up the ICLGF with the Local Government Association in June 2014 to examine local government funding in England and make recommendations on how to reform the system and promote sustainable economic growth.

Financing English Devolution argues that the future of local services is dependent on local authorities becoming more self-sufficient and less reliant on central government.

Responding to the Commission's final report published on 18 February, CIPFA CEO Rob Whiteman said:

"CIPFA asked the ICLGF to recommend pragmatic solutions which wouldn't increase government spending, but would allow financial sustainability for public services.

"We welcome that the report establishes a clear direction of travel that central government has the capacity to implement and though the Commission has done a good job in outlining realistic recommendations, CIPFA believes there is room to go even further.

"The debate around devolution has provided local authorities with a unique opportunity to create a new financial model that allows those delivering local public services to respond creatively even when facing long term financial constraints."

Read the [full report](#) online and read [CIPFA's stance on the Commission's recommendations](#).

Changes to charity audit thresholds and independent examiners pool

The government has published its response to the Cabinet Office consultation on raising the charity audit exemption thresholds and extending the list of accountancy membership bodies able to carry out independent examinations for audit exempt charities.

As of 31 March 2015, the government will:

- increase the income threshold at which an audit is needed from £500,000 to £1m
- increase the aggregate group income threshold at which parent charities should have group accounts audited from £500,000 to £1m
- increase the preparation threshold for group accounts from £500,000 to £1m.

However, the asset threshold for audit exemption for charities will not change.

In addition, the Institute of Financial Accountants (IFA) will be added to the list of professional accountancy membership bodies that can carry out independent examinations above the income threshold of £250,000. The threshold for 'lay' independent examinations is not being increased.

Charity law is devolved in the UK, and the above changes apply to England and Wales only. The changes will take effect for financial years on or after 31 March 2015. For more information, contact [John Maddocks – Technical Manager](#).

World Class Performance Symposium calls time for change

Over 200 finance leaders from across the public sector attended the [Eighth World Class Performance Symposium](#) run by CIPFA on 19 March.

The invitation-only event was themed 'time for a change' and was hosted by RBS at their City conference centre in Aldgate.

The speakers included Sir David Nicholson KCB, CBE, former Chief Executive of NHS England, Katie Ghose, Chief Executive, Electoral Reform Society, and Ross Walker, Chief Economist at RBS.

The event took place on the eve of an election whose outcome looks very uncertain. The programme explored some of the fundamental challenges facing public service and finance leaders under the next government after 7 May.

[Videos of the speakers](#) can be viewed online.



CIPFA Japan achieves rapid growth

Just one year since its inception, CIPFA’s Japanese branch has already recruited 360 public finance professionals as LGAATs - local government audit and accounting technicians - into CIPFA affiliate membership, and has over 50 full CPFA members.

Professor Toshihiko Ishihara, President of CIPFA Japan, visited CIPFA’s London HQ in February to report on progress in recruiting these public sector auditors and accountants at the Board for the Regions meeting.

Some 4 million people work in Japan’s public sector, 3 million of whom are employed by local government, and CIPFA Japan is targeting these accounting professionals, councillors and PhD accountancy students to raise the status and standards of public financial management. Through his personal contacts, Prof Ishihara has even recruited a former Ministry of Finance official turned TV newsreader, Nobutaka Muraio!



Japan members visit CIPFA: (left to right) Tetsuya Kawashima, Akio Yukimasa, Adrian Pulham, Prof Toshihiko Ishihara and Toru Sera

Professor Ishihara said: “The Japanese accrual accounting system is very similar to the UK’s, so the CIPFA qualification is a good basis for public finance accountants in Japan. We have increased our target for next year to 700 new members.”

Most of the intake are from Tokyo, Osaka and the west of Japan, male (80%) and aged between 30 and 40.

To enhance the proficiency of LGAATs, the CIPFA Japan Branch has also set up three qualifications, with the help of CIPFA’s Learning and Education team: LGFMTs (the Local Government Financial Management Technicians), LGIATs (the Local Government Internal Audit Technicians) and LGICTs (the Local Government Internal Control technicians) for advanced technicians.

Government to reform accountancy apprenticeships

Last year, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) asked the accountancy profession to look at reforming apprenticeships in response to the Richard Review, to increase the quality, put employers in the driving seat and simplify the system.

CIPFA consulted with employers and students on the changes in 2014. The proposed frameworks are currently being considered by BIS, with an aim to implement them as soon as possible, although a number of practical details still need to be worked through.

The major accountancy bodies and employers have worked together to create a new framework that covers technical and professional levels (QCF

levels 4-7). The new standards will replace the current apprenticeship frameworks and will be short, easy-to-understand documents that describe the level of skill, knowledge and competency required to operate confidently in the sector.

The standards have been developed to remove barriers to starting a career in accounting, with flexibility to allow employers to shape a programme fit for their organisation, but also well defined, robust and of world-class quality.

For professional bodies, there will be little change, as apprentices wishing to qualify as accountants will need to meet the requirements of their syllabus. However, for employers, it

offers more flexibility and easier access to government support in training employees.

CIPFA itself has a foot in both camps – it directly employs over 30 apprentices that it places with public service employers, and is also interested in making access to the Professional Qualification as flexible as possible.

By being in the vanguard of these developments, CIPFA will be able to guide, support and lead employers through the new frameworks. However the reforms are finally implemented, CIPFA will ensure that employers and apprentices are best placed to gain maximum advantage from the changes.

CIPFA's Finance Apprenticeship Scheme takes to the road

CIPFA has been running information sessions for employers and prospective apprentices to find out more about our finance apprenticeship scheme, with events in London in March and Birmingham on 9 April. The London event was very well attended, where guests heard first-hand from current apprentices and employers about how the scheme has helped them.

The apprenticeship scheme aims to attract individuals to a career in public finance. It allows employers to cultivate new talent in their organisations, while apprentices gain valuable work experience in a variety of public sector settings while studying for a professional accountancy qualification.

The scheme is fully managed by CIPFA who recruits and employs the apprentices to work for partner employers on a 12-month contract



Current CIPFA apprentices at the London launch

while they study the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) Level 4 Diploma.

We are also running some regional information seminar for prospective apprentices in London, Manchester and Birmingham in April. Find out

more [online](#). Visit our website for more information on the Birmingham employers event and the scheme, email E: apprenticeships@cipfa.org or call the employer relations team on T: **020 7543 5757**.

CIPFA and ICAN to advance public financial management in Nigeria



ICAN's President Chidi Onyeukwu Ajaegbu signs the MoU with CIPFA's outgoing President, Mike Owen

CIPFA and ICAN, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen public financial management in Nigeria.

The MoU outlines the future co-operative relationship between the two institutes to improve the governance of public finance and improve the training options for those in the Nigerian accountancy profession. The collaboration will also pave the way for dual membership for members of ICAN and CIPFA.

The signing ceremony took place at CIPFA's annual dinner on 19 March, attended by Rob Whiteman, CIPFA's Chief Executive, and ICAN's President, Chidi Onyeukwu Ajaegbu and the Registrar/Chief Executive, Rotimi Akanni Omotoso.

CIPFA expands business in Balkans

Building on our successful track record in developing public finance capacity in south east Europe, CIPFA is working with the Centre of Excellence and Finance (CEF) in Slovenia to meet the continuing demand for certification programmes, particularly in countries applying for European Union accession.

Victoria Bainbridge, CIPFA Business Development Manager for South Eastern Europe, said:

“I had a really successful visit to the Ministry of Finance of Serbia in Belgrade where our session at an IMF workshop on IPSAS was very well-received. The Finance Minister sent us a personal letter of thanks, outlining how CIPFA might further help their transition to IPSAS. Our close partnering with CEF and its donor partners was key to this success.”

CIPFA also held discussions with stakeholders in local public finance management in Belgrade where there



CIPFA's Brian Donnellan and Victoria Bainbridge are working with CEF in Slovenia

is great enthusiasm for building technical capacity and moving to high quality IPSAS.

Brian Donnellan, CIPFA's Head of Global Market Development, worked alongside Victoria at a performance auditing workshop delivered by CEF to delegates from 11 European nations in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in March, and held a series of

business review meetings with senior CEF officials, staff involved in certification process and other stakeholders.

At the invitation of CEF's IMF advisor, they also took part in a short roundtable with Slovenian finance ministry staff to provide input on IPSAS and accruals accounting.

CIPFA and BAE Systems Applied Intelligence to fight fraud together

CIPFA's Counter Fraud Centre has announced a new strategic partnership with BAE Systems Applied Intelligence to develop counter fraud and cyber security services and solutions for public services.

The focus will be on four key areas: managing risk; fraud detection; cyber security; compliance and anti-money laundering.

Work has already begun on the creation of a new, advanced data-sharing hub that will revolutionise how public sector organisations can work together and use technology to identify and protect themselves against fraudulent activity and cyber-attack.

The CIPFA hub will:

- enable public sector organisations to feed their information into a secure data store
- provide a single customer base that can be used to detect fraud and error
- support the sharing of information across multiple organisations, for example neighbouring local authorities
- include data feeds from third parties including Amberhill, which collates details of known false and fraudulently obtained documents
- be built specifically for the public services

- contribute to the national picture
- enable CIPFA to create real time alerts for hub users as risks/trends occur and as they become part of our common risk register, helping users to prevent fraud more easily.

You can read more about CIPFA and BAE System's partnership on CIPFA's website.

If you're interested in learning more about the data sharing hub and how your organisation might become involved, please email E: counterfraudcentre@cipfa.org.

Institute matters

Developing PFM learning materials for Lesotho

Having designed a PFM qualifications framework for the Lesotho Institute of Accountants (LIA) in 2012, CIPFA is now developing PFM learning materials for students, to support implementation of that framework.

Former CIPFA employee Stewart MacLeod is project managing this work between his base in Edinburgh and the LIA offices in Maseru, a rather lengthier commute than he was used to.

“CIPFA’s link with the Lesotho Institute of Accountants is entering a new phase as it seeks to create its own distinctive professional qualification. In particular, CIPFA’s expertise in public finance is crucial in a context where so much of the national economy is driven by government and other public bodies.”

Lesotho has one of the largest cohorts of CIPFA students, with nearly 400 government finance staff enrolled on our international public financial management programme. Some have progressed from the original qualification,



Stewart Macleod (seated centre left) with members, staff and speakers at the LIA conference in October 2014

the International Certificate and Diploma in Public Sector Accounting and Audit, launched in Lesotho in 2006,

and its continuation makes it CIPFA’s longest standing international capacity development project.

Capacity development in DFID target countries

CIPFA has been selected to join the panel of organisations eligible to bid for the Department for International Development’s (DFID) funded programme of capacity development for key professional accountancy bodies in DFID target countries.

The programme is being managed by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). The training and development work is expected to be commissioned on a country-by-country basis, and CIPFA is expecting its first requests for proposals imminently.

Call for papers: managing and accounting for sustainable development in public services

CIPFA’s finance journal *Public Money & Management (PMM)* will be publishing a special edition themed on ‘managing and accounting for sustainable development across generations in public services’ in July 2017.

Prospective authors are invited to submit papers for refereeing to the theme editors by 1 September 2016.

Debate and new development articles are also welcome and should be submitted by 1 October 2016. Authors should follow [PMM’s instructions](#) for authors when preparing papers:

Papers for consideration should be sent to Dr Suzana Grubnic:
E: S.Grubnic@lboro.ac.uk

All papers will be blind refereed by two reviewers: one a practitioner and the other an academic. Papers and articles submitted to PMM for review must not be under consideration by any other publication.

Changes to the disciplinary regulations

After CIPFA Council's approval, changes to the disciplinary regulations are due to take effect in April 2015. The amendments relate to changes in the structure of the regulatory committees and the screening of complaints at the investigations stage and concern:

- Disciplinary and Appeal Committees considering particular matters being appointed from a regulatory panel comprised of current Disciplinary and Appeal Committee members.
- The Investigations Committee and Disciplinary Committees being able to sit with three members.
- The Chair of the Investigations Committee being able to give initial

consideration to matters where there appears to be no basis of proceedings or matters which are based on a conviction and, after initial consideration, to be able to refer conviction matters for hearing by a Disciplinary Committee without further consideration.

- The Investigations Committee being able to dismiss matters which have been formally investigated where the matter has no realistic prospect of success or where it is not in the public interest to continue with proceedings.
- In Disciplinary and Appeal Committee hearings, certificates of conviction being conclusive proof of the commission of an offence and the findings underlying the conviction and findings of dishonesty or fraud

by courts and the findings of other regulatory bodies being prima facie evidence of the matters found.

- Evidence being admissible before Disciplinary and Appeal Committees which would not be admissible in a court of law with the committees having a discretion to exclude evidence in the interests of justice or fairness.
- Increasing the transparency of the hearing process at Disciplinary and Appeal Committee hearings including explicit recognition of the discretion for a Disciplinary Committee hearing to be heard in the absence of the member concerned.

Fuller details can be found at www.cipfa.org/members/conduct-and-ethics/make-a-complaint.

CIPFA Counter Fraud Centre speaking at the Public Sector Show

The [Public Sector Show](#) will feature a session by CIPFA's Rachael Tiffen, Head of the Counter Fraud Centre, on how the landscape has changed, the importance of collaboration and co-operation in tackling fraud, strategies for reducing your exposure and new challenges for public sector organisations.

It is the only show designed exclusively for public sector professionals and companies delivering public services, with 2,000 visitors expected to attend. The Show takes place on 23 June at ExCeL London; register for your free tickets [here](#).

**The
Public Sector
Show 2015**
23rd June 2015 ExCeL, London

Zurich sponsors Academies Hub

Work on developing the Academies Hub is well advanced, with its first founding sponsor appointed. Zurich Municipal will provide content and expertise on insurance in academies.

The company is excited by the opportunity to develop a specialised hub, allowing access to their information portal for content. The company will work with CIPFA to deliver specialised joint information on key insurance issues.

CIPFA also provides expert comment on academies in the new [CIPFA Thinks](#) section of the website.

To promote our work with academies, CIPFA will be exhibiting at the [Academies Show](#) in London's ExCeL on 29 April – find us at stand 802.

CIPFA relaunches accounts closedown toolkits

As public bodies and their finance teams continue to operate with reduced resources, producing statement of accounts quickly and accurately is a growing challenge.

CIPFA has developed two accounting toolkits, updated for 2015, that help organisations to produce their annual financial statements.

CIPFA's Cash flow and Pro forma accounts toolkits make your accounts closure process more efficient and offer assurance that you are complying with the requirements of the latest Code of Practice. [Find out more](#).

Major governance research project underway in Northern Ireland

The early findings of a major research project to enhance the effectiveness of corporate governance of public bodies in Northern Ireland show many effective aspects of governance but also reveal some issues needing further consideration.

This follows initial responses from over 100 chairs, chief executives and board members in the public sector. The focus from the initial scoping exercise was aimed at developing new insights into governance practice, and it has raised a number of issues, including:

- the role of the board in increasing citizen awareness of public body activities
- CPD of board members
- board succession planning
- use of technology in supporting board processes
- risk aversion and avoidance.

Phase 2 of the project will be a series of in-depth interviews with over 20 public bodies in Northern Ireland.

The research project is being conducted by the University of Ulster and is sponsored by the Department of Finance & Personnel, the Chief Executives' Forum, the Chairs' Forum and CIPFA.

Governance review

As our institute continues to develop, CIPFA's governance structure is being reviewed to ensure that it best supports CIPFA's strategy now and in the future.

The operating environment in which CIPFA works is changing, global markets are expanding rapidly and there is an increasing demand for our public sector financial management expertise around the world.

As an Institute, we have a solid governance structure which has successfully been in place for many years. However now is the time to review our structure to ensure it is flexible enough to meet new challenges, support our strategy and reflect our membership, now and for the future.

The timetable for change is:

- 16 April – Council approval
- April/May – Governance Working Party meeting, delivery plan
- Mid-May – postal vote
- July – AGM vote.

Read the consultation document and watch the video to hear more about Fit for the Future – Governance for a Global CIPFA at www.cipfa.org/governancereview.

New guidance on financing social housing

It is vital that organisations providing affordable housing stock are financially robust, and have a strategy in place to maximise income.

John Hawes, a member of the CIPFA Housing panel, has updated the panel's bulletin *Reviewing your income management strategy* in the light of revised Department for Communities and Local Government guidance on rents for social housing providers.

The bulletin provides practical guidance on what should be included in a strategy and can be a helpful reminder for those looking at reviewing their own documents in the coming months.

Find it on the [Housing Panel website](#).



Members news

Welcome to new members

A warm welcome goes out to the people listed below who became CIPFA qualified members this year.

May we wish you a long and prosperous career. Don't forget that as a **CIPFA Member** you can use the designation **CPFA** and term yourself a Chartered Public Finance Accountant.

Titus Adam

Norfolk County Council

Mark Babington

National Audit Office

Dhana Balasubramaniam

London Borough of Croydon

Fiona Kate Bingham

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Ross Campbell

HM Treasury

Roger Chadwick

City of London Corporation

Ed Clift

Department for Work and Pensions

Anthony Collingwood

Nursing and Midwifery Council

Samantha Coombes

Department for Work and Pensions

Peter Davy

Lincoln City Council

Hisashi Doko

Doko Certified Public Accountant Office

Thomas Galer

London Borough of Brent

Kyle Godfrey

Cardiff Council

Bethany Grieve

KPMG LLP

Catherine Haigh

Kirklees Council

Hamish Hamilton

NHS Lothian

Stephen Hand

Warwickshire County Council

Thomas Harper

Ministry of Defence

Christopher Hughes

Denbighshire County Council

Debra Jones

Conwy County Borough Council

Wayne Kelly

Warrington Borough Council

John Leddy

HM Forces

Jana Luleiova

London Borough of Camden

Jennifer Lyne

Home Office

Claire McAleer

Northern Ireland Office

Kelvin Menon

Surrey Heath Borough Council

Christine Mullins

Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner for Greater Manchester

Marion Pryor

Denbighshire County Council

Christopher Rees

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Matt Richardson

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Pamela Richardson

Reading School

Gordon Smith

Welsh Government

Daniel Spiller

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Adam Staines

London Borough of Camden

Richard Tippett

Home Office

Thomas Whitfield

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Lyn Younger

County Durham and Darlington Fire and
Rescue Service

Member focus

Gary Bandy CPFA

Gary Bandy CPFA is a former Director of Finance at Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council who now works as an independent consultant. He is treasurer of a charity which built and runs a girls' boarding school in Ibba, a village in Western Equatoria in South Sudan, which he visited recently to review the school's finances and accounts for 2014.

"I became a trustee of the Friends of Ibba Girls School last September. Over the winter we have been trying to recruit a finance manager, something which is not easy from 3,800 miles away. We did the initial interviews by Skype but ultimately I needed to travel to Ibba at the beginning of February to do three things: to finalise the appointment of a local man, Sonaa Santino Raphael, as

finance manager; to learn about how the finances are managed on the ground; and to pay the staff for January because there had not been a finance manager in place to do it.

"Being the treasurer of this charity means rolling my sleeves up (literally as well as figuratively) and spending up to one day a week on it. I don't mind, though, because I've been to the school and I've seen how important education is to the girls and their community. Every day that the girls are in school they are safe, they are fed and they are learning. That's the reward."

[Find out more](#) about the Friends of Ibba Girls School and its work.



Gary with Sonaa, Ibba Girls School's newly-appointed finance manager

Opinion piece

Frank Jackson, a retired CIPFA member and former Colwyn Borough treasurer, is campaigning for the right to vote in Britain while living in France, and will stand alongside Boris Johnson in the upcoming General Election. Boris has publicly supported votes for expatriats.

Here he sets out his reasons why.



Frank Jackson

You can't complain if you don't vote, but you can complain if you can't. The law preventing Britons who have lived abroad for over 15 years from voting has disenfranchised me, along with many others.

The Institute of Policy and Research records indicate 4.4 million Britons overseas are eligible to vote. Office of National Statistics records show only 23,000 registered voters. A European Court of Human Rights challenge was unsuccessful. A European Justice Minister's view that the vote is a fundamental right of citizenship, part of democracy's fabric, was ignored.

A ten-minute rule Bill is progressing through the UK Parliament, sponsored by Cotswold MP Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, aimed at abolishing the restriction.

Strangely, the law does not prevent me from standing for Parliament despite living abroad and not having a vote.

I have done much research into this and of 45 Britons I know in my local area, not a single one is registered to vote. Even the ones who could do so say 'what is the point when it will be taken away after I have been out of the UK for 15 years?' This situation does not apply to our French friends who have a separate MP in the French National Assembly to represent the views of French people abroad or Italians and others who have a vote for life.

To promote the campaign to secure a vote for life before any EU referendum, I will stand in Uxbridge and South Ruislip, alongside London Mayor, Boris Johnson.

Members on the move

Alan Edwards joins board of Birmingham Children's Hospital

Alan Edwards, Chair of CIPFA Development, has been appointed a non-executive director at Birmingham Children's Hospital, where his experience in public sector finance will play a vital role in the hospital's development plans.

Birmingham Children's Hospital is a high-performing, specialist hospital, facing ever increasing demand on its services, and the non-executive directors will be responsible for ensuring that it continues to deliver high quality, safe care. The hospital needs a new state-of-the-art building, and Alan will work alongside

the board of directors to support this ambitious growth strategy.

Alan Edwards was drawn to the role after spending time in hospital as a child for lifesaving surgery. He said:

"Birmingham Children's Hospital is at the forefront of integrated healthcare development and it is a pleasure to join the board of an organisation with ambitious investment plans to improve children's physical and mental healthcare."



Alan Edwards



Richard Douglas

Richard Douglas to retire from DH

Richard Douglas has announced his retirement as Director General, Finance and NHS at the Department of Health at the end of May 2015 after more than 19 years' service.

He has combined his role at DH with his appointment as Head of the Government Finance Profession since 2011. During his distinguished career, he was both the longest-serving director general for finance in Whitehall and the youngest person ever to hold that post.

Richard said:

"I have had a fantastic time in this job and loved (almost) every minute of it. It has given me the opportunity to work with great people from the civil service, the NHS and politics and hopefully make some small, positive difference to a service that I believe in passionately.

"The election marks a natural break and I plan to hang up the spreadsheets and do something completely different!"

Invigilation panels

CIPFA relies on members to assist with invigilating at mock and final exams at our various centres throughout the UK.

Retired members in particular have been very helpful in giving up their free time to help in this way.

If you're interested in invigilating please contact Marilyn Clarke, Courses Manager on E: Marilyn.Clarke@cipfa.org.



Public Money & Management now free to members

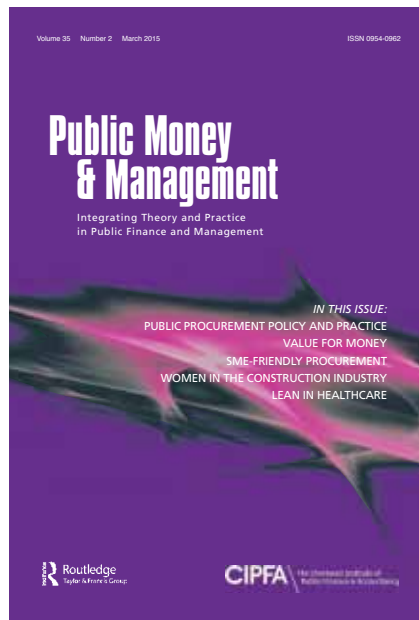
CIPFA members can now read [Public Money & Management \(PMM\)](#) for free by logging onto ManagementDirect via MyCIPFA.

View the current issue themed ‘Public procurement policy and practice—international lessons and debates’, which includes the new development article ‘Can ‘social value’ requirements on public authorities be used in procurement to increase women’s participation in the UK construction industry?’ by Tessa Wright.

All past issues of PMM are also available to access for CIPFA members from: www.cipfa.org/mycipfa/leadership-and-management-resources.

Established for over 30 years, Public Money & Management is CIPFA’s major international, academic and professional journal covering public sector finance, policy and management.

The journal publishes short debate pieces, topical new development articles and contributions to debate and main articles are reviewed by an academic and practitioner to ensure credibility, relevance and impact.



Building bridges between CIPFA and AAT members



Christina Earls (right) representing CIPFA at a Manchester careers fair with Shaer Halewood

Christina Earls, a CIPFA SW member, has been CIPFA’s representative on the AAT Council for the last three years. She reports on her liaison work.

“I have been manning stands at career fairs with regional representatives for over 18 months, and get blown away every time with the enthusiasm of AAT members and students. It’s part of my strategy to raise the profile of the public sector within AAT, and encourage local AAT branches to work more closely with CIPFA regions to sell CIPFA as the next step in an AAT member’s career, if they work in the public sector.

“I have found AAT very active in promoting career opportunities for their students and members, and by volunteering on the stands I hear first-hand from a real mix of AAT students and members – both working and not. I am very impressed by the desire of so

many to make financial management a career choice, and there is interest in working in the public sector, with many committing their own time and resources – often without a promise of job – to AAT study. Those already qualified seem genuinely interested in what CIPFA can offer.

“AAT has many local branches, but they don’t have a presence in some of the areas CIPFA does. I hope that by working more closely as volunteers locally, AAT and CIPFA can help support both sets of members who currently or in the future wish to work in the public sector as finance professionals together.”

If anyone has any ideas for Christina to pursue whilst on AAT’s Council, or for Shaer Halewood in the north west region, please contact
E: Christina.earls@ntlworld.com, or
E: shalewood1@warrington.gov.uk.

Membership rewards

CIPFA Rewards is a portfolio containing money-saving discounts for our members. This month's highlights include:

Home Insurance - 25% discount

Get a fantastic 25% off your current insurer's home insurance renewal premium with Baxters Streetwise! Want more? Get an additional 5% no claims discount on your first renewal*.

Save an Additional 12% on Spa Experiences, Treatments or Gifts

Pay for your next Spa experience or treatment and get a guaranteed 12% saving on top of any discounts or offers from the Spa itself when paying with Spafinder Wellness 365 Gift Vouchers - including Champneys, Bannatyne, HandPicked Hotel Spas, The Grove, Whittlebury Hall, Marriott Spas, Alexander House Hotel and Utopia Spa, Lifehouse Spa & Hotel and Rookery Hall*.



Browse spas online and remember to enter UKCIPFA at the checkout to save 12%

Great savings on a wide range of Apple products

CIPFA members can make great savings on a wide range of Apple products including iPad, iPod, MacBook Air, MacBook Pro, iMac, Apple TV, Apple branded accessories and more*. Visit the online CIPFA EPP Apple store

Do you need Professional Indemnity Insurance?

The CIPFA Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) scheme is backed by a price promise: if you can find the same cover for less within 14 days, TRM will try their best to match the price and Parliament Hill will give you a cheque for £50*. View more information.

*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. See website for details.

CIPFA Ambassadors needed

We are looking for members and students willing to act as ambassadors for CIPFA.

Can you help to arrange face-to-face meetings with key decision-makers in health to understand their training needs and preferences, while also promoting the uptake of our professional qualification and/or accelerated routes to CIPFA membership?

CIPFA is now the preferred choice of professional qualification for NHS England, NHS Scotland and the HFMA for three of their regional schemes, so we

need to build on this success to increase our market share in the sector.

Alternatively, we need volunteers to exhibit and network at university careers fairs to promote careers in public finance and raise awareness of the CIPFA Professional Qualification.

We face strong competition from well-established market rivals and given that employers are increasingly pro-choice on qualification, it is crucial we build relationships with university students.

By sharing their experiences of studying CIPFA, working in the public/private sector and offering advice on

recruitment for graduate schemes, our members and students are a vital resource for raising our profile with undergraduates.

If you would like to support CIPFA as an ambassador, sharing your knowledge and expertise, please contact the Business Development team via E: students@cipfa.org or 020 7543 5757.

Regional news

CIPFA Cymru-Wales bid farewell to Gill Lewis at AGM

A members' event and annual general meeting were held in Llandrindod Wells on 13 March 2015. Hosted by Powys County Council and Powys Teaching Health Board, the event included presentations on joint working arrangements in Powys, the role of CIPFA's Counter Fraud Centre and lessons learnt from establishing a leisure trust at Blaenau Gwent Council.

At the AGM, Iolo Llewelyn was elected as President of the Branch for the next two years, following on from Gill Lewis, Rhian Evans as Vice President, John Dwight as Secretary and Rebecca Nelson as Treasurer. The Welsh region also welcomed Tom Bowring as a new elected member of the Executive. Details of the make-up of the full branch, including the 2014 Reports, are on our region's website.

The branch executive would like to thank Gill for her tireless work as our President for the past two years, and look forward to a further two eventful years!



Iolo Llewelyn takes over as Branch President from Gill Lewis

CIPFA North East stages public sector internal audit standards event

CIPFA in the North East joined forces with the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors (North East Region) (IIA) to run an event on public sector internal audit standards at Baker Tilly's offices in Sunderland on Tuesday 24 February 2015.

Members of both bodies attended, and Chris Baker, the IIA's Technical Manager, gave an excellent insight into external quality assessments (EQAs). A veteran of over 40 EQAs in a wide range of internal

audit functions, covering the all parts of the economy, Chris and Vicki Robinson gave an overview of the process and shared the common pitfalls, good practice and helpful hints and tips.

Chris O'Neill, CIPFA's Senior Business Manager, gave a presentation on the new CIPFA qualification process. He outlined the benefits of dual membership of CIPFA and IIA, and how this can be achieved within the new

syllabus. A discussion was held on the how CIPFA members could also seek membership of IIA.

This was a very interesting session on a topic that is likely to raise its profile in the future. CIPFA hopes to work closely with IIA in this area. More information on CIPFA North East events is available [online](#).

CIPFA South West honours Ian Donovan

The South West region’s Annual General Meeting and seminar took place in Taunton on Friday 13 March 2015.

CIPFA president Mike Owen’s keynote speech addressed the challenges in the UK public sector and encouraged members with CIPFA’s involvement globally. Using amusing anecdotes and some interesting developments in Bury - his own authority - he showed what CIPFA and its members can do to help the public sector achieve more with less.

Ian Donovan who is a past president of the SW region and has served on the regional council in many other guises for the past 25 years announced his retirement from the council at the AGM.

Presenting a gift to Ian, Danny Batten, President of the region, paid this tribute: “His knowledge of the history of both this region and CIPFA in general has been invaluable to the relatively new council that has grown in the last 12 months. Ian, with his many contacts, has been invaluable in promoting the region and obtaining speakers for us. His humour at meetings has never failed to lighten the mood. I have found him personally encouraging as I have got to grips with my first year as President of the region.”

Esther Giles, Finance Director for Specialised Commissioning (NHS England South) and Paul Carey-Kent, CIPFA Policy Manager, Health and Social Care, spoke about health, social care and welfare reform and the issues facing the NHS and local authorities with collaborative commissioning. CIPFA is challenging all regions to engage with this process, and it created great interest amongst delegates, so a round table event is planned on this shortly in the region.

Julie Mansfield from Colour Works held an upbeat session on how to build teams and inspire people through



Danny Batten presents Ian Donovan with a gift in thanks for his work for the SW region

understanding team dynamics and individual characteristics.

Steve Johnson, Audit Manager at Grant Thornton, said: “It turns out I am mainly blue/green which makes me a very analytical auditor and not much fun at parties - this won’t be a surprise to those who know me.”

As it was Red Nose Day, Vice Chairman Charles Hallows collected £120 from delegates for Comic Relief. More events are planned throughout the year - check the SW [regional website](#) for details.



Esther Giles and Paul Carey-Kent explain how NHS commissioning is changing

CIPFA South East: Public Finance in Wessex Conference

This annual event for CIPFA’s Wessex members and students held on 2 March at Hampshire County Council was again supported by CIPFA South West, and Danny Batten, CIPFA SW President, chaired the afternoon programme to demonstrate both regions’ commitment to provide low-cost high quality events for members.

Sessions from Carolyn Williamson and Deborah Gregg on consolidating and growing H3 (the Hampshire based innovative Business Support Facility) and Glenn McCauley and Khalil Souki on strategic economic developments showcased transformation in public service delivery.

Sir Tony Redmond explained CIPFA’s current initiatives to support the work and opportunities for CIPFA membership in these challenging times. He also gave a valuable update on the current governance consultations and summarised the CIPFA manifesto as the general election approaches.

CIPFA experts Alison Scott and Angelina Cannizarro covered developments in accounting standards and health integration strategies. The CIPFA Finance Apprenticeship Scheme and wider training and development support was also discussed.

Afternoon sessions by Gill Duncan covering some current adult care integration initiatives in Hampshire and Chris Moule on the critical importance of assessing financial resilience in the LA and NHS sectors were well received – both delivered some challenging commentaries around the Better Care Fund preparations becoming reality.



Fiona Daley (LGA) and Mark Catlow (EY) explain the changes developing in the procurement of public audit.

The day ended with a briefing by Fiona Daley and Mark Catlow on appointing local authority external auditors after 2017.

Feedback from the day was very positive and we look forward to developing and repeating this event in 2016 – when the implications from the new government’s plans for public services will, no doubt, be a key part of the agenda.

CIPFA South East thanks Hampshire County Council for again hosting this event. Presentation material from this Conference is available on the [CIPFA SE website](#).



Gill Duncan, Hampshire CC Director of Adult Services, explains some risks and challenges that integration is bringing

CIPFA Scotland sets up public sector independent director programme

CIPFA Scotland has teamed up with EY to establish a new jointly badged networking forum aimed at non-executive directors in the public sector.

Attendance is by invitation only and the programme of events will provide delegates with an insight on topical issues which impact their role as board members, plus an opportunity to network with peers from the independent director community and with professionals from CIPFA and EY.

The first of three evening events during 2015 was a round table dinner discussion in Edinburgh on 24 March to digest the findings of the Smith Commission Report and focus on what this means for the public sector in Scotland.

This new venture is an excellent partnership opportunity for CIPFA to engage with this influential community and to showcase our range of products, services and expertise.

Two further events are scheduled for June and October: the June event will focus on cybercrime and the role of the independent director while the October event in Edinburgh will look at corporate governance. At this event we will help directors to navigate the procedural, operational and behavioural aspects of achieving board effectiveness.

Each event will be jointly hosted by Stephen Reid, a CIPFA member and Chair of EY Scotland Public Sector Independent Director Programme and by Don Peebles, Head of CIPFA Scotland.

CIPFA Midlands AGM and development event

CIPFA Midlands staged a successful AGM and development event for financial professionals on 5 March at the Library of Birmingham.

The AGM included the presentation of certificates to newly qualified members, followed by an address from the CIPFA Vice-President.

The development event speaker was Simon Parker, director of the New Local Government Network (NLGN). He started his career in journalism and has since worked in management consultancy, lobbying and research, most recently as a fellow at the Institute for Government.

Simon has published widely on public service reform in the UK and internationally.

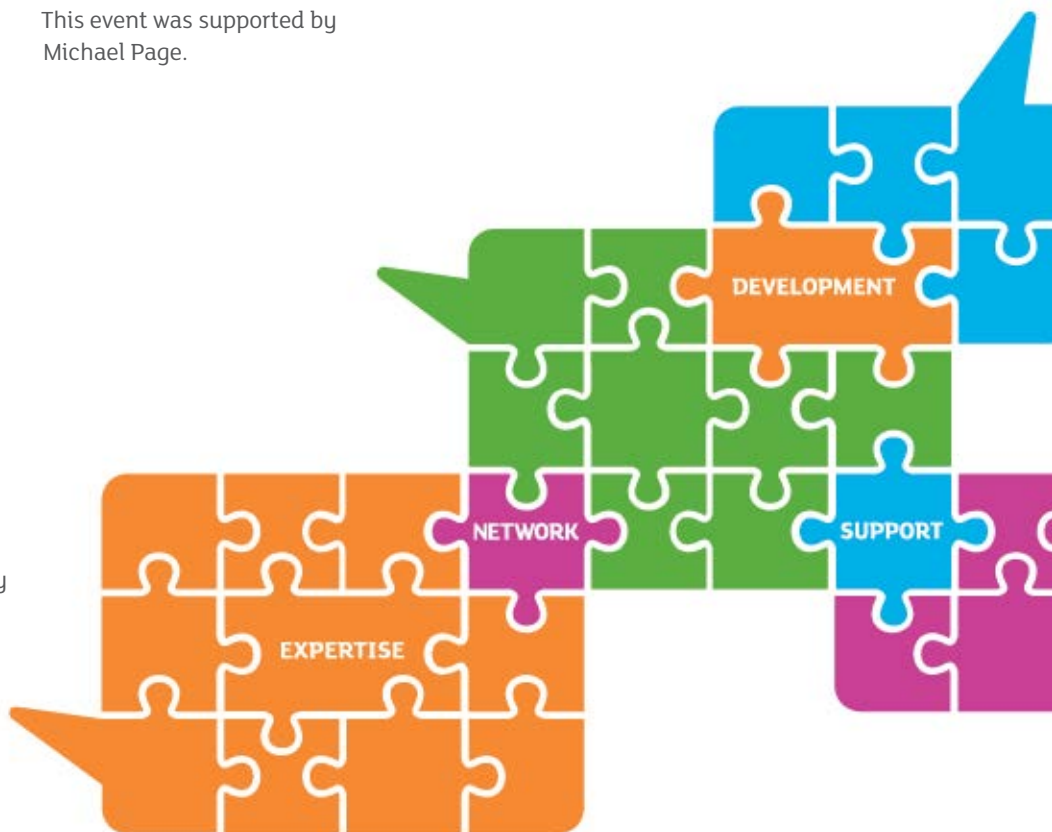
This event was supported by Michael Page.

CIPFA Republic of Ireland welcomes new member

Paul Brennan was welcomed as the first CIPFA member for many years in the Republic of Ireland at the AGM for the CIPFA ROI branch in Dublin on 27 March, joining as a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors who has taken CIPFA exams.

Paul passed his exams in December 2014 and has now completed his experience requirement to become a fully qualified CIPFA (BL4) member.

Brian Donnellan, CIPFA’s Head of Global Market Development, said: “Thanks to everyone in the Institute who helped support Paul to ensure his success, between the provision of additional guidance/materials/revision and advice on progressing him to full membership.”



Student news

Graduates assessed at CIPFA for Society of London Treasurers' scheme

Following a rigorous assessment day at CIPFA in February, 30 outstanding young graduates have just been chosen to work for London boroughs' finance departments under the Society of London Treasurers' CIPFA Graduate Scheme.

The scheme aims to attract young talent to counter high staff turnover and an ageing workforce in local government finance, and it provides the highest CIPFA exam pass rates in the UK (91%). It has placed over 200 high calibre graduates in participating London boroughs since it began in 2003.

This year, the assessments were held at CIPFA, with 200 graduates selected from 2,000 applicants vying for just 30 places. They were put through their paces with group activities, written and numerical tests, presentations and face-to-face interviews.

"The SLT graduate programme is CIPFA's most successful programme because it boasts a significantly higher pass rate



X-Factor comes to CIPFA with 30 graduate traineeships on offer for 2,000 applicants

than the national average," said Faisal Khan, Head of Business Development, England. "It really is a scheme designed to attract the brightest minds."

The group will each join a local authority on a fixed four-year contract

where they will experience a mix of operational and project work covering every aspect of public finance.

Applications for the 2016 programme open in winter 2015: [find out more online.](#)

UN students and members grow

CIPFA's financial training and certification programme with UN bodies is reaping a global harvest - we now have members or students in some 160 countries, or 80% of the world - including Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

Completing a public financial management qualification can be a time consuming business, as our UN students who are diligently working their way through the Certificate and Diploma qualifications can testify.

However, for some students there is a fast track route, and the second of our UN students to complete the full programme, Malmee Weerasiri, recently

received her certificate from Chief Executive Rob Whiteman, at a special ceremony in New York where Malmee is based.

A Sri Lankan national, she took advantage of her previous CIMA qualification to give herself the opportunity to complete two specialist public sector papers to allow her to apply to become a qualified accountant member of CIPFA.

Malmee joins Berhit Lemma (née Getachew) who blazed the trail in 2014 and became the first member of staff from the current UN programme to achieve CPFA status.

City University Employability Forum

CIPFA hosted an employability forum for some of City University's brightest students on 6 March. The session focused on careers in accountancy, CIPFA, how to make yourself more employable, tips on applying for graduate programmes and how to use social media to find work.



CIPFA awards Grant Thornton accredited training employer status

Grant Thornton has been awarded CIPFA Accredited Training Employer status for the new CIPFA Public Audit Qualification (PAQ).

This is the first organisation to receive this PAQ accreditation. It means that in addition to receiving global recognition as CPFA Accountants, staff trained by Grant Thornton under this new status will be completing the only specialist public audit qualification.

The scheme will be rolled out to staff working in public audit practice in their south east, Midlands, north and south west offices. The qualification is also open to others interested in developing public sector audit expertise. Students would need to pass all 13 modules assessed by examinations and gain work experience with an accredited CIPFA Audit Training Employer (CATE).

On average it takes students one to three years to complete depending on pace of study and any exemptions for modules due to past qualifications.

The PAQ syllabus is the same as [Professional Qualification 2015 syllabus](#) with an additional module of Advanced Public Audit. PAQ students can study in the classroom with [CIPFA Education and Training Centre](#) or [online via Kaplan Financial](#). A minimum of 80% attendance at classes and attempt at mock examination are a requirement in order to take an exam in all modules.

For more information contact studentsupport@cipfa.org.

CIPFA Professional Qualification exams go online

The full implementation of the new Professional Qualification in 2016 will see all CIPFA examinations being sat online. The first online examinations will be the Financial Accounting and Management Accounting modules in December 2015.

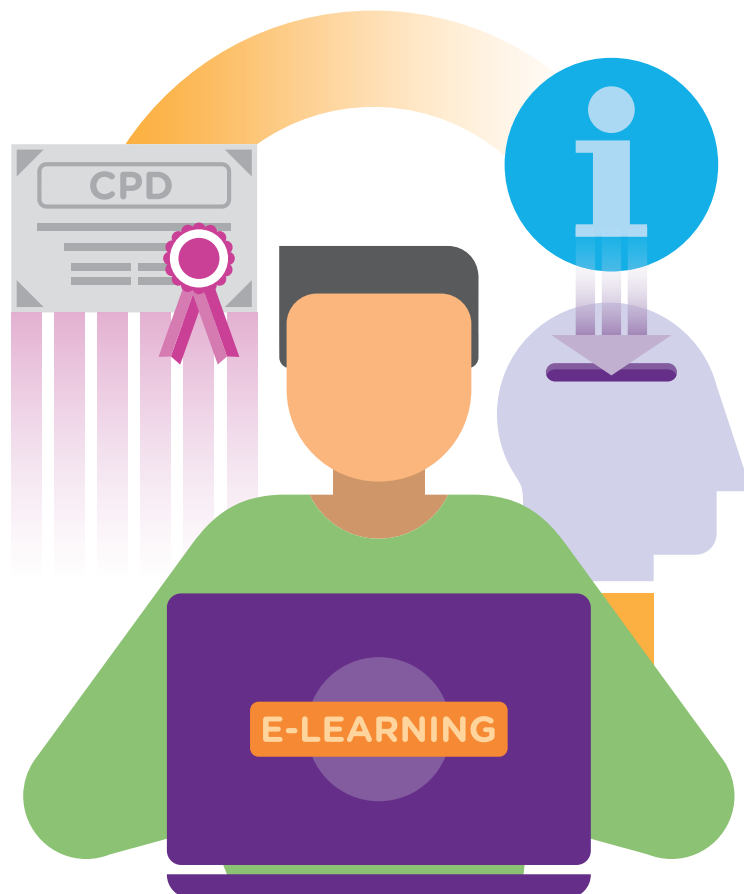
As you read this, the CIPFA online examination system is being thoroughly tested by current and past students and subject experts.

Specimen papers will be made available, via the online system, for students to practice during their examination preparations.

We're exploring options for delivery of the exams. This includes a remote invigilation option, allowing students to take their exams at their workplace or other appropriate venue, saving considerable time, money and stress in travelling to unfamiliar examination venues.

We will show a live demonstration of the system at various events throughout the year, including the CIPFA Student Network's Conference in London on 8 July.

Further updates will be published on the [website](#). Exciting changes ahead!



Meet our tutors

Alan Wan, CETC Senior Trainer

Alan is currently teaching students in Bangladesh.

“I recently spent a fortnight in Dhaka, Bangladesh delivering training for the IPFM Public Finance module as part of ‘Strengthening the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General Project’, a major project CIPFA is involved in jointly with the National Audit Office (NAO). CIPFA has a representative based in Dhaka to manage the contract, and CETC staff and associates travel to Bangladesh to provide training.

“I had 38 very eager students, all employed by the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General - the Bangladeshi equivalent of the NAO. Although most of the students have excellent English, some have been struggling with the language. For example, welfare and social payments appear to be an alien concept, although

this is no surprise given the visible poverty on the streets. For these reasons, the pace of training has been somewhat slower than teaching the equivalent UK module.

“The teaching day commences at 10.00, although I usually arrive at the college at 08:45 to start preparation, and teaching lasts till 16:30. At lunchtime, the students and training staff are treated to a hearty Bengali meal consisting of daal, veggie, fish or meat curry, and rice. It is pretty heavy fare and in the evenings I dine on anything but curry. Oh, I should add that the breakfast buffet at our hotel consists of eggs, toast, fruit, and – curry.

“I will be returning to Dhaka in late April to complete the course, and I’m looking forward to my next instalment of keen students and hearty food.”



Alan Wan, CETC Senior Trainer with a student in Dhaka

Kim Woods, CETC Senior Trainer

Former auditor Kim Woods has been a trainer with CETC for nearly ten years, taking her expertise to pastures new for CIPFA, including Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

She runs intensive courses in International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and its implementation for senior civil servants, lecturers, auditors and treasurers, who, in turn, train their own staff and colleagues.

Kim said: “There is a huge need for training in IPSAS and accruals accounting to make sure that public sector accounting in developing countries becomes more transparent. The cash accounting system doesn’t record donations, for example – whether that’s roads, buildings or even blood, which are all public assets - so I show them how to account for all their assets and liabilities.”



Kim Woods, CETC Senior Trainer

“This revolution in accounting practices will take many generations to fully implement, because it requires a change of culture and mentality, as well as trained professionals and IT systems.”

Back in the UK, as well as teaching the Professional Qualification at CETC, Kim’s busy schedule includes training finance staff at local authorities on corporate

financial reporting and tax implications for different service delivery models; and academy business managers on governance and internal assurance. Kim is also a regular at the Commonwealth Secretariat, running IPSAS update workshops.

She said: “I enjoy my work because it’s technically demanding and varied.”

Events

Accredited Training Programmes

INSPIRING BOARDROOM LEADERSHIP

Starts 1 April, Belfast

www.cipfa.org/training/i/inspiring-boardroom-leadership-20150401

FUTURE LEADERS ACADEMY

Starts 17 April, Edinburgh

www.cipfa.org/training/f/future-leaders-academy-practitioner-level-20141128

Starts 20 May, Belfast

www.cipfa.org/training/f/future-leaders-academy--20150520

CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC SECTOR PROCUREMENT

Starts 27 March, Belfast

www.cipfa.org/training/c/certificate-in-public-sector-procurement-20150327

CERTIFICATE IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Starts 15 April, Belfast

www.cipfa.org/training/c/certificate-in-corporate-governance-20150408

Starts 6 May, Cardiff

www.cipfa.org/training/c/certificate-in-corporate-governance-20150506

DIPLOMA IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Starts 28 May, Belfast

www.cipfa.org/training/d/diploma-in-corporate-governance-20150528

CERTIFICATE IN INVESTIGATIVE PRACTICE

Starts 31 March, Belfast

www.cipfa.org/training/c/cipfa-certificate-in-investigative-practice-20150127

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD IN COMMISSIONING PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING FOR CARE SERVICES

Starts 21 April, Edinburgh

www.cipfa.org/training/p/pda-commissioning-procurement-and-contracting-for-care-services-20150421

CERTIFICATE IN CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

Starts 14 April, Edinburgh

www.cipfa.org/training/c/certificate-in-contract-management-20141015

Starts 6 May, Cardiff

www.cipfa.org/training/c/certificate-in-contract-management-20150506

BETTER BUSINESS CASES

5 & 6 May, Cardiff

www.cipfa.org/training/b/better-business-cases-2-day-foundation-20150505

CERTIFICATE IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

31 March to 13 October, London

www.cipfa.org/training/c/certificate-in-corporate-governance-credited--spring-2015-20150324

CERTIFICATE IN CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

8 April to 16 December, London

www.cipfa.org/training/c/certificate-in-contract-management-credited--spring-2015-20150408

FUTURE LEADERS ACADEMY

15 April to 2 December, London

www.cipfa.org/training/f/future-leaders-academy-practitionerslevel-2-20150415

BETTER BUSINESS CASES – PRACTITIONER

18 and 19 May 2015, London

www.cipfa.org/training/b/better-business-cases--2-day-practitioner-20150518

Short courses

We host hundreds of short one and two day courses around the UK to help you hone your skills and deal effectively with the changes ahead. Search our full range of courses here: www.cipfa.org/training

CIPFA's in-house training

All of our accredited training programmes and many of our short courses can be delivered in-house, at your location, saving you valuable time and money.

Find out more here: www.cipfa.org/training/open-courses/in-house

Conferences and seminars

CIPFA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

7-9 July, Novotel London West Hotel

This year's conference takes place shortly after the new government has been elected. Expect a top line-up of expert speakers addressing the theme 'Aligning public services | forging a sustainable legacy'.

www.cipfaannualconference.org.uk/

CIPFA FUNDING ADVISORY SERVICE PRE-ELECTION CONFERENCE 2015

14 April, London

www.cipfa.org/training/c/funding-the-future-of-local-government-20150414-london

16 April, Leeds

www.cipfa.org/training/c/funding-the-future-of-local-government-20150414

ANNUAL EXECUTIVE PA CONFERENCE - SKILL UP OR BE OUT-SKILLED

20 May 2015, Hilton Belfast

A good executive assistant can help his or her boss get ahead - a great one might even become the boss one day! We're confident that everyone (whatever your level of experience) will leave the event feeling inspired and motivated. Booking and further details will be available soon. If you have any questions, please contact anna.mcdonnell@cipfa.org.

Regional Training

North East

CIPFA IN THE NORTH EAST ANNUAL DINNER
 17 April 2015, Copthorne Hotel,
 Newcastle-upon-Tyne

CIPFA President Mike Owen will be among the guests present at the annual dinner, sponsored by Sellick Partnership, Cofely GDF Suez and Zurich Municipal.

NORTH EAST ACCOUNTANCY AWARDS DINNER
 25 June 2015, Gateshead

Nominations are now open for the 2015 North East Accountancy Awards. CIPFA in the North East will once again be sponsoring the award for Public Sector Finance Team of the Year.

North West

CIPFA IN THE NORTHWEST: NORTHERN SECTION SPRING SEMINAR
 19 June, Preston

The annual Spring Seminar has been moved to June 2015 with a line-up of speakers which will cover the Northern Powerhouse, Preston CityDeal, Better Care Fund, and coping with change.

www.cipfa.org/training/c/cipfa-in-the-north-west-northern-section-spring-seminar-20150619

CIPFA IN THE NORTHWEST: NORTHERN SECTION AUTUMN SEMINAR

September, Kendal

If there are any particular subjects you would like to see covered or you have any suggestions for speakers, please contact simon.raffaelli@mbht.nhs.uk

Northern Ireland

AWARD PRESENTATIONS AND CIPFA ANNUAL MEMBERS' LUNCHEON

15 May 2015, Belfast Castle
 – by invitation only



South East

CIPFA SOUTH EAST SPRING CONFERENCE AND AGM
 22 April 2015, London

www.cipfa.org/training/c/cipfa-in-the-south-east-event-regional-agm-and-spring-conference-20150422

NEW MEMBERS' GRADUATION CEREMONY
 14 May 2015, Central London
 Invitation only

CIPFA SOUTH EAST AUTUMN CONFERENCE
 21-22 October 2015, Wellingborough

RETIRED MEMBERS MEETING
 27 April, Waterman's Hall

The next group meeting has moved from the Churchill War Rooms to Waterman's Hall, Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames in the City of London.

Save the date

CIPFA INTERNAL AUDIT CONFERENCE
 14 May, Manchester

CIPFA IT AUDIT SEMINAR
 25 June, Birmingham

CIPFA CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE
 w/c 22 June, The North

HRA REFORMS
 15 July, London

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING CONFERENCE
 July, London, July, Midlands

PROCUREMENT & CONTRACT AUDIT SEMINAR
 23 September 2015, Birmingham

INSURANCE SUMMIT
 24 September 2015, London

Who's who at CIPFA

Use this mini-directory to find the right people to contact at CIPFA about a specific area of our work.

Where no direct line is provided, call our contact centre on 020 7543 5600.

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