



Minutes of the Executive Committee

9th May 2025

Venue: Virtual (Private) Meeting

SDCT Website: www.cipfa.org/partners/society-of-district-council-treasurers

LinkedIn: Society of District Council Treasurers (SDCT)

SDCT Members in Attendance: Jon Illingworth (Vice President), David Stanley (VP), Suzanne Jones (2nd VP), Angela George (Secretary), Clare Fletcher, Alison Scott, Richard Baker, Richard Bates, Paul Stone, Lorraine Rogers, Homira Javadi, Bec Maher, Simon Hewings.

- ❖ It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate (i.e. one third of Executive members were present)

1. **SDCT Executive Apologies:** Adrian Rowbotham, Peter Catchpole, Colleen Warren.

2. **Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the previous meeting of 20th March 2025 were agreed and will be published on the website. Any matters arising have either been actioned or are considered further on the agenda.

3. **Local Government Reorganisation**

Mark Dickenson, Assistant Director of Finance and Strategy at North

Northamptonshire gave a presentation on his experience of LGR and the main issues to consider, including links to useful documents (slides attached). This was followed by questions from the Executive.

Mark was thanked for his presentation, and it was agreed that due to time constraints, any further questions would be co-ordinated via Richard Bates who will be the contact with Mark for any ongoing liaison.

Action – Richard Bates

On LGR, it was agreed that Deputy S151 progression and training will be key to resilience going forward and Jon will raise potential training with CIPFA.

Action - Jon

The Executive discussed the final LGR submission dates – Surrey's date was today and some were September or November.

4. **Finance Issues**

The upcoming Spending Review is 11th June, which is after the next SDCT meeting which is 6th June. The Executive discussed queries they had with issues such as EPR.

Action – Jon to contact MHCLG to determine whether any early indications will be available for the SDCT meeting on 6th June.

5. Local Government Audit update

The Executive discussed the position on Audit Fees, and the challenges they are making individually to PSAA to register dissatisfaction and challenge excessive fees.

6. Upcoming Consultations

David has taken over as consultation co-ordinator.

- Business Rates – consultation response due 2nd June

Action – David to prepare SDCT response.

- Council Tax Equalisation – Jon has taken over from Adrian on this working group and anticipates a consultation on the subject coming out around the time of the Spending Review on 11th June.

Action - Jon

There were no other consultations that anyone was aware of but the anticipation is that a number will come out to coincide with the Spending Review announcement.

7. SDCT Executive Advisors

- Individual SDCT Executive members updates - none

- New Members – none.

The position on accepting interim CFOs onto the SDCT Executive was discussed and it was agreed that this would be looked at on a case-by-case basis, but the preference would be for permanent staff or long-term fixed contracts.

- Update to Roles and Advisor areas (circulated) – agreed

Action – Angela to update the website

8. Any other Business

- Updates from other meetings (if not covered elsewhere) - none

- CIPFA Conference – SDCT Panel representation. There will be no SDCT workshop this year, but Executive members would be invited onto various panels.

Action – Jon to discuss representation with CIPFA

- SDCT Warwick Conference – the proposed date of 19-20 March 2026 was agreed.

Action – Angela

- IFS Work

Action – Jon to discuss future workstream with IFS / Adrian

- The recent local elections have produced some significant changes in the overall control of Councils. Training for new members will be key.

9. DONM – 6th June 2025 (Public – Virtual)