



**Society of District Council Treasurers
Conference 20th and 21st March 2025**

Venue: Scarman House, Warwick Conference Centre, CV4 7SH

PROGRAMME

Thursday 20th March

- 10.00 Private SDCT Executive meeting (Meeting for Exec Members only)**
- 12 noon DELEGATE ARRIVAL AND LUNCH**
- 13.00 Presidents Welcome: Adrian Rowbotham (Sevenoaks DC)**
- 13.05 Nico Heslop, Director, MHCLG**
- Local Government Finance Funding reform
- Reorganisation / Devolution Update
- 13.40 Nicola Morton, Head of Local Government Finance, LGA**
- LGA Perspective on Spending Review and LG Finance Reform
- 14.15 David Phillips, Associate Director, Institute of Fiscal Studies**
- The Funding Outlook – 2025-26 to 2028-29
- Funding reform – key issues for districts
- Funding reform – what's missing from the recent consultation?
- 14.45 Vicky Davis, Director, NAO**
- NAO Report on Financial Sustainability
- 15.15 Refreshments**
- 15.45 Andrew Chappell, Senior Quality Manager, PSAA
(including NAO and CIPFA perspective)**
- Local Audit Reform – proposals and implications
- 16.30 Joanne Pitt – Senior Policy Manager, CIPFA**
- Leadership Workforce and Capacity issues
- 17.00 Day One Closing remarks – Adrian Rowbotham (President)**
- 18.30 Pre Dinner-Networking – Hosted by Emma Foy, Technology One**
- 19.00 Dinner (including handover of Presidency)**

Friday 21st March

- 7-9 Breakfast**
- 9.00 Presidents Welcome: Jon Illingworth (Rugby BC)**
- Update on SDCT Work and CIPFA Conference Workshop agenda items.
 - Approval of SDCT Accounts – 2023/24 and Budget 2025/26 (**Clare Fletcher, SDCT**)
- 9.15 Paul Dossett, Partner, Grant Thornton**
Local Government Review - The session will reflect on the challenges identified in the most recent rounds of LGR, drawing on the GT report 'Learning from the new Unitary Councils' and reflects on the risks for the next round of LGR.
- 9.45 Richard Bates, SDCT Executive, Waverley and Guildford**
Local Government Review
- Personal experiences of reorganisation and pitfalls to avoid.
 - Personal Resilience and learning issues
- 10.25 Alan George, Director, MUFG (Link)**
Local Government Review
- Technical considerations in aggregation and disaggregation.
- 10.45 Refreshments**
- 11.15 Jonathan Williamson, Technology One**
- The use of AI in Local Government Finance
- 11.50 Closing remarks from the President – Jon Illingworth**
- 12.00 Lunch**
- 13.00 Depart**