

Scottish Finance Advisory Network
(SFAN)

Your network membership

2021/22

The network offer

The CIPFA Finance Advisory Network (SFAN) can draw on over 50 years of experience working in local government finance and accounting to support practitioners through their current and future challenges.

SFAN offers a wide range of valuable webinar and face-to-face network events to support practitioners in their roles, providing expert support and guidance, and centred on all aspects of best practice in public finance and accountancy. A mix of webinars and (where COVID restrictions permit) face to face regional workshops are planned for the year.

As well as our 'open' events programme, our regular and ad-hoc workshops, including our 'Introduction to' Essentials workshops, can also be delivered on-site (webinar or face to face), at a special discounted rate for subscribers.

Our website contains the documentation written to accompany SFAN open events along with briefing notes, newsletters and archive material from previous years, all of which can be downloaded free of charge by subscribers.

Our monthly subscriber newsletter contains updates on changes to relevant accounting and financial reporting requirements, details of scheduled events and conferences, alerts on key CIPFA and Government consultations, and links to news stories that might be of interest to practitioners.

SFAN aims to support public sector organisations in promoting good practice in financial management and reporting and ensuring practitioners are well informed and appropriately skilled to tackle the challenges they face. For those with specific accounting questions, our advisors are on hand to help and can be accessed via email, telephone or through our 'Ask an Advisor' feature on the website.

How to join?



If you would like further information about the benefits of subscribing to the SFAN or would like a quote, please contact [David Ellis](#) 07879 665950, [Caroline Newman](#) 07919 018938 or [Sandra Beard](#) 07718 242835, who will be delighted to assist you.

Features and benefits

- Technical accounting support and guidance from expert advisors
- Attendance at a wide selection of webinar and regional network events and workshops using pre-purchased places or on a pay as you go basis at special reduced subscriber rates
- Regular newsletters to keep you updated on the latest accounting and financial management and reporting issues affecting your work
- Timely updates and briefings on relevant political, financial and legislative issues and how these will affect your job role and your wider authority
- Exclusive website access to a wealth of published information including past briefings, newsletters and current and past SFAN event materials
- Sharing of knowledge and best practice with peers to create an environment where the key financial and policy issues of the day can be debated and addressed
- Access to the FAN LinkedIn group for additional advisor updates and networking opportunities
- Opportunities for networking, career development and CPD
- Discounts off any CIPFA Essentials or other open training events run by other CIPFA Networks
- Preferential rates for any on-site (webinar or in person) network workshops including SFAN Essentials workshops
- Access to other network events when bought under a corporate membership arrangement

What our members say



“The FAN subscription, it is a great asset and I want to make sure the team uses it to best advantage”
Danae Fiedler, Mole Valley District Council



“You are like the fourth emergency service! CIPFA FAN is the ‘gold standard’ for public sector specialist advice and support”

Richard Hunt, North Kesteven District Council

Programme of events

Our planned headline events below are complemented by alerts and briefings, monthly newsletters and dedicated advisor support for practitioners in subscribing organisations. Prepaid places can be used to attend any events (webinar or face-to-face) set out in this service plan.

New events may be added during the year and details of these, along with options for use of pre-paid places, will be confirmed as part of the event promotion materials, SFAN newsletters and alerts.



January/ February 2021

Local Authority Closedown and Financial Reporting Webinars 2020/21

The essential accounts closedown series for local authority practitioners.



March 2021

Introduction to Financial Planning

As budgeting and medium term financial planning skills become increasingly essential to the finance practitioner, these events will benefit anyone new to this topic or in need of a refresher (additional dates September 2021).



April 2021

Introduction to Local Authority Capital Accounting

Providing delegates with a solid understanding of local authority capital accounting concepts and principles (additional events July 2021).

Introduction to Budgeting

This Essentials workshop provides delegates with a good basic understanding of how to set, monitor and report on their local service budgets (additional dates October 2020).



May 2021

Introduction to Local Government Reporting – Principles and Practices

These events are for those delegates who are new to local authority reporting or who are in need of a refresher on the fundamental concepts and principles which underpin the financial reporting framework within local government (additional dates November 2021).



June 2021

Introduction to Local Government Finance

This introductory course provides an overview of local government, its structures and how it is financed, perfect for anyone who has recently joined a local authority (additional dates October and November 2021).



July 2021

Understanding Local Authority Accounts for Councillors

This unique SFAN workshop is designed to increase awareness and understanding of local authority financial statements to assist elected members in fulfilling their governance responsibilities.



September 2021

Local Authority Capital Practitioner Workshops

These topical sessions will help authorities to properly account for the ever-changing capital accounting and financing agenda in local authorities.



November 2021

Preparing Local Authority Groups Accounts and Accounting for Collaborative Arrangements

This introductory course considers one of the more complex aspects of financial reporting – identifying the need for and preparation of, group accounts and also the accounting for collaborative arrangements in single entity accounts.

Introduction to Local Authority Accounts and Closedown

These events are for delegates new to local authority accounting and closedown or who would like a refresher on the fundamental concepts and approaches.

Full details of these events will be available at www.cipfa.org/events or contact one of the advisors for further details..

Further support

On-site delivery

Most SFAN workshops are available as an on-site delivery. Contact us for more information.

CIPFA Essentials

Our '*Introduction to ...*' Essentials programme is designed to help support those who may be new to the sector, or perhaps working in a new role, and may also benefit non-finance staff and elected Members. These interactive workshops are a great way to help develop knowledge and awareness of a specific service area and are proving increasingly popular with staff development programmes.

Our networks

Looking for more support from our networks?

We offer a number of other networks across a range of topics. We also offer corporate subscriptions for your organisation allowing you and your colleagues to access events and support across multiple CIPFA networks according to your needs.

For any other network enquiries, or for details about our corporate network support package, please contact:


Sandra Beard

Interim Senior Networks Manager

07718 242835

Our current networks are:

- Alternative Service Delivery Network
- Better Governance Forum
- Benefits and Revenues Service
- Social Care Finance Advisory Network
- Finance Advisory Network
- Insurance Network
- Pensions Network
- Police and Fire Network
- Procurement and Commissioning Network
- Treasury Management Network



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