



service offering 2012-2013

Better Governance Forum (BGF)

A Summary of the Network Offer

Our Better Governance Forum (BGF) helps you to safeguard the governance, finance and reputation of your organisation.

During this period of unprecedented change it is difficult enough to do the day job, never mind keeping up with the constant stream of new policy and professional developments, and learning from the good practice of others. Yet at this time governance matters such as effective planning and decision making, management of risks, audit and assurance are essential.

Why Join the BGF?

No other service provides access to events and resources specifically developed for public service organisations and covering the full range of governance expertise. Our Advisory Panels help us focus on the topical issues that practitioners need to address and provide further opportunities for professional development.

Subscription to the BGF saves you time in keeping up to date, cost-effective training and professional development and access to resources that help your team be effective. You will also be able to tap into specialist knowledge and expertise (network and policy and technical experts will be a phone call away). Membership will help you spread understanding of good governance across the organisation, including your audit committee members.

Our combination of internet resources, webinars, regional events and national seminars means that we can offer both easily accessible briefings and events together with the opportunity to engage with high profile leaders in the field of governance.

Forthcoming in 2012

Here is a small selection of the policy developments we will be covering in 2012:

- The Localism Act
- The National Fraud Authority's 'Fighting Fraud Locally'
- The 'Future of Local Public Audit'
- The expansion of Academies
- Forthcoming regulations on information sharing

The network is supported by a high level Advisory Panel made up of key players from across the public sector.

Better value than ever in 2012/13

We have listened to your feedback to deliver even better value for money in 2012/13. And we are offering:

- Unlimited access to more webinars which will mean that you don't have to leave the office to attend events.

- 10% off subscriptions for smaller organisations (such as District Councils, Fire Authorities, Police Authorities and Forces, Housing Associations and Higher Education bodies) or free web access to the Insurance Network or the Procurement and Commissioning Network.
- A membership fee freeze for larger organisations for the second year.
- A new membership package for audit partnerships that gives them the option of a membership for the audit partnership team or a membership covering their client organisations too.
- We are working closely with CIPFA Scotland to provide access to governance related training for Scottish BGF subscribers.
- We have also created a dedicated web page for audit committee members so that the information and resources they need can be accessed directly.

What the service offers

- **Events** - free attendance (using pre-purchased places) at BGF regional events, audit seminars and conferences, the BGF annual summit and many CIPFA Training events.
- **Webinars** - a range of free webinars on topical governance issues.
- **On-site governance training at your organisation** – use pre-paid places to obtain governance training at your offices for your staff or audit committee.
- **BGF library** – containing assessment tools and resources to support and improve your governance work.
- **Briefing guides** – to help busy practitioners keep up to date and the organisation informed and compliant.
- **Weekly e-newsletters** – our highly regarded newsletter helps you access news quickly.
- **BGF website access** – in the last 12 months practitioners downloaded over 12,000 documents from the website.
- **Network News** – our six monthly round up of news and developments from all the CIPFA Networks.
- **Opportunities for networking, career growth and CPD.**

The BGF website can be accessed at www.cipfa.org.uk/bgf.

Forthcoming events in 2012/13

CIPFA Audit Conference, 23 and 24 May Nottingham

CIPFA's major event for audit professionals in the public sector. An annual update on the latest audit and assurance services strategic thinking, legislation, good practice and developments. Speakers include Professor Tony Bovaird INLOGOV, CIPFA President Chris Bilsland, Keith Davis National Audit Office and newly appointed chair of the Internal Audit Standards Advisory Board.

Achieving Assurance over Pensions Risks, 17 April Manchester, 18 April London, 24 April Edinburgh

This workshop will cover the latest requirements for governance and examine the impact of current issues and risks on pension schemes. It will develop and extend the audit of pensions to improve assurance to managers, pensions and audit committees.

Building the Business Case for Corporate Counter Fraud, 16 May York, May Edinburgh, 30 May London

A practical workshop to show you how to develop a persuasive business case to address your organisation's fraud risks.

Managing Risks in the Supply Chain, 12 June London, 27 June York

More complex procurement and commissioning models have led to an increased dependency on supply chain. We take a look at supply chain risks such as contractor or continuity failure, service quality and achieving value for money.

IT Audit and Security Seminar, 19 June Birmingham

CIPFA's annual seminar to help your organisation stay protected by keeping up-to-date with the latest IT strategies, technological developments and security risks.

Auditing Tax, 13 June Edinburgh, 20 June London, 21 June York

The essentials of tax audit including tax governance and current areas of tax risk.

The Influential Audit Committee, 18 July Birmingham, 4 October Edinburgh, January London, February York

A new programme of audit committee workshops featuring sessions on assurance planning, evaluating audit provision & effectiveness, accountability and public reporting.

Getting the Money Back, 18 September York, 20 September London, 26 September Edinburgh

Guidance on the use of civil and criminal remedies to recover money or assets taken by fraudsters, an important element to demonstrate the business case for counter fraud arrangements.

Procurement & Contract Audit Seminar, 25 September Birmingham

Procurement and contracts can be a major area of risk for all organisations. We highlight where auditors can help save money and reduce risk in this area.

Understanding Risk Appetite, 10 October London, 11 October York

Building on the briefing paper developed by the Institute of Risk Management in 2011, this workshop will look at the principles of risk appetite and its application in public service organisations.

BGF Annual Summit, 18 October London

The Summit focuses on protecting and making the best use of public funds through better governance, and provides a platform for policy dialogue and knowledge networking among governance practitioners.

Social Engineering, Fraud Triggers and Levers, 7 November London, 8 November Leeds

This session can help your organisation to reduce fraud by being aware of common techniques that fraudsters use, and the way that they influence people, in order to commit fraud.

Information Sharing and Transparency, 13 November Edinburgh,

20 November London, 22 November Leeds

The latest developments in information-sharing powers, data protection and freedom of information.

Value for Money and Service Transformation, 4 December London, 5 December York

Key areas where auditors can add value to their organisation by focusing assurance on major risks to value for money and supporting their organisation through major changes.

CIPFA Audit Update, 28 November London

CIPFA's annual update on audit developments, new legislation and guidance.

Personalisation – Fraud Risks and Preventative Strategies, March London & Leeds

Issues around fraud related to personal budgets and personal health budgets.

Documentation and other services:

- **Audit Committee Update** – 3 new issues in 2012 providing easy-to-read topical new development briefings for your audit committee members.
- **Fraud Benchmarking** – this new service will be launched in 2012. BGF subscribers will be entitled to discounted membership of this innovative service.
- **Risk Management Guidance Note 14** – Managing Risks in Projects
- **Survey on the provision of internal audit in local government** – examining the impact of financial constraints and organisational change on the provision of internal audit.

Access to CIPFA Training events:

You can use your pre-paid BGF subscription places to access a range of CIPFA training courses including the following governance topics:

- **Advanced Audit Committees**, 25 April London, 16 May Leeds
- **Preventing & Detecting Procurement Fraud**, 24 April London, 10 May Leeds

- **Bribery Act**, 24 May Leeds
- **Auditing People Risks**, London

Further details about our training courses can be found at www.cipfa.org.uk/training.

And coming soon

- **A new interactive website** - exclusive access to a well-resourced new website and discounts to a range of other services including on-site training.

You may also be interested in:

<p>Advisory services</p> <p>Transform public financial management in your organisation using our tailored on-site, or remote, advice.</p>	<p>Training and accredited courses</p> <p>Public finance training that suits you delivered via open courses, in-house training and accredited programmes.</p>
<p>Benchmarking services</p> <p>Pinpoint your strengths and weaknesses, and compare your organisation to your peers, to improve your financial management.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p>Public finance specific guidance, keeping you up-to-date with regulatory requirements and the issues that matter to public finance practitioners.</p>
<p>Research and Statistics</p> <p>Make informed decisions about your services, using our data, statistics, research studies and surveys.</p>	<p>Professional Qualifications</p> <p>The essential route into a successful career in public services financial management, and beyond, for you or your employees.</p>

For further information on the BGF please visit www.cipfa.org.uk/bgf or contact:

Diana Melville
 Governance Advisor
 E: Diana.Melville@cipfa.org.uk
 T: 01722 349398
 M: 07825 343693

Mohamed Hans
 Governance Advisor
 E: Mohamed.Hans@cipfa.org.uk
 T: 01924 461825
 M: 07717 345188

Greg Marks

Governance Associate

E: Greg.Marks@cipfa.org.uk

For more information about other CIPFA products and services, please contact our Business Development team:

T: 020 7543 5600

E: enquiries@cipfa.org.uk

W: www.cipfa.org.uk

