

## The FAN provides expert advice, research and analysis on topics and issues affecting local government finance and performance.

### Typical network members include:

Accountants, Chief Accountants, Directors of Finance, Heads of Finance, Service Accountants and other practitioners.

### Overview:

The network has an impressive membership of over 300 public sector bodies including local authorities, police (which have a dedicated associate membership network), fire and transport authorities.

It has an unrivalled reputation with its subscribers and clients for honesty, integrity and responsiveness. It achieves this through effectively briefing and advising its members on legislative, professional and other financial guidance, through advisory reports and briefings, research, publication of reports and an ongoing series of events.

### Key benefits:

**Regional events** – Through attending regional events/webinars FAN members are kept up to date with the latest developments in local government finance. This includes technical accounting requirements and broader financial management considerations. These events allow delegates to hear from experts in the field, share local authority experiences and discuss the implications with other practitioners facing similar challenges.

**Subscriber advice and e-alerts** – FAN advisors will respond to requests of support and advice from subscribers on local government finance issues and/or will put subscribers in touch with the appropriate CIPFA contact who will offer them relevant assistance. This is offered on a time-limited basis. FAN subscribers receive a monthly e-alert providing information about all the latest developments in local government finance.

**CIPFA FAN documentation** – Finance networks team members prepare and publish relevant briefings and guidance on the main local government financial management issues of the day. They also encourage members of the network to share or write their own documentation covering specific areas of work which subscribers find to be extremely useful. The FAN website at [www.cipfa.org.uk/fan](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/fan) contains a wealth of published information this has been especially useful under our IFRS developments page where authorities have shared IFRS plans, documents and committee reports.

All of our rough guides are available to certain classes of subscribers to the FAN as part of their subscription service as defined major publications. Current themes on our website include:

- IFRS closedown – The first Ever under IFRS for 2010\11
- Exploring the Componentisation
- IFRS presentation and Re-statement of the 2009\10 accounts

**National advisory reports, briefings and guides** – These reports and briefings avoid theory and concentrate on dealing with practical issues and implications for practitioners. The most popular downloads from the FAN website for December 2010 included:

- Rough Guide to Accounting for Tangible Assets under IFRS
- Exploring the Componentisation Requirement
- Planning for Service Reduction.

### **On the agenda for 2011/12:**

**Research and analysis** – In addition to our advisory reports and briefings, the FAN will periodically champion separate research and analysis around certain topics or issues affecting local government finance and performance. This will often involve drawing together a dedicated team of local government practitioners and other experts in the field, with a view to compiling a user-friendly publication around the subject being researched in conjunction with our very relevant series of events.

### **NEW in 2011/12:**

- **A series of webinars**, accessible via your own workstation at no extra cost, will add more flexible access to our advice and guidance.
- **“Pre-paid places” can now be used at an extended range of CIPFA seminars, conferences and open training courses. Full details are available on [www.cipfanetworks.net/fan/](http://www.cipfanetworks.net/fan/)**
- **A new interactive website** will provide exclusive access to a wealth of new resources, as well as discounts on a range of other services including on-site training.

## **SERVICE DELIVERABLES - 2011/12**

Over the next 12 months, the FAN will offer a comprehensive programme of events and published materials to support members;

### **45 Workshops:**

**Exploring Component Accounting under IFRS** – May/June 2011

Events planned for: Manchester / York / London / Bristol

**Leasing under IFRS** – June/July 2011

Events planned for: Manchester / Leeds / London/Cambridge

**Accounting for Partnerships and Group Relationships under IFRS** – July/August 2011

Events planned for: Manchester / York / London/Birmingham – This will also be delivered in Wales and Scotland

**Balancing your Budget under Financial Pressure** – Sept 2011

Events planned for: Leeds/ Chester/ Birmingham / London / Cambridge / Exeter –

**Financial Consideration of Alternative Public Sector delivery models** – October 2011.

Events planned for: Leeds/ Birmingham / London / Cardiff/ Manchester

– This will also be delivered in Wales and Scotland.

**Undertaking the 2011/12 Accounts Closedown under IFRS** – February and March 2012

Events planned for: Leeds/ York/ Cardiff/ Exeter/ London/ Preston/ Chester (Welsh event)/

Chester/ Birmingham/ London/ London/ Cambridge/ London.

### **7 other major events:**

**Local Authority Technical Updates** – IFRS closedown – 2 conferences, London and Leeds April 2011.

**Local Authority Technical Updates** – Capital and Other Developments – 2 conferences, London and Leeds July 2011.

**Finance and Policy Developments in Local government Finance** – 1 conference, London October 2011.

**Local Authority Technical Updates** – IFRS and Financial Management – 2 conferences, London and Leeds November 2011.

Note: In 2011, members also have option to use their prepaid event places at an extended range of CIPFA seminars and open training courses – see full details on [www.cipfa.org.uk/networks](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/networks)

### **9 Webinars:**

**Exploring the STRGL and MIRS** – June 2011.

**Participatory Budgeting** – November 2011.

**Efficiency Cuts and Benchmarking** – November 2011.

**Infrastructure Code** – December 2011.

**Consolidated returns** – December 2011.

**Documentation:**

**Exploring Component Accounting under IFRS** - Rough Guide on detailing the different approaches to component accounting including examples. - **May 2011**

**Participatory Budgeting** – Rough Guide detailing different approaches as to how this might be applied in an authority and the need to work with respective partners to achieve this – **September 2011.**

**Leasing Under IFRS** – Major Briefing covering the leasing experiences of authorities under IFRS – **September 2011.**

**Explaining the numbers** – Rough Guide on explaining the numbers, notes and accounting policies of the authority – **October 2011.**

**Fixed Assets under IFRS consolidation** – Consolidation of existing fixed asset work in a new volume - **November 2011**

Workshop Events materials – Materials from over 6 series covering 45 workshops – Throughout 2011.

**Key and new specific service information:**

**FAN e-alert** – Monthly - electronic.

**New bi monthly network news** – Including finance contributions.

**New website** – Members have full and exclusive access to a dedicated and well resourced website. The new 2011 site is even better & extensive with a library of all the latest reports, and resources to enable practitioners to keep up to date with ongoing demands from the introduction of new legislation, codes of practice, standards, assessment requirements and developments.

**Personal** – Regular opportunities on a regional basis across the UK, for networking, career growth and continuous professional development.

**Advice** – To tap into specifically from finance experts, but also contacts within the whole of CIPFA.

**Contact:**

For further information about the Finance Advisory Network, please contact:

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[www.cipfa.org.uk/fan](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/fan)