



service plan 2012-2013

Finance Advisory Network (FAN)

A Summary of the Network Offer

The CIPFA Finance Advisory Network (FAN) provides a comprehensive, one stop shop for all those involved in local authority financial accounting, reporting and management.

The FAN provides access to all legislation and guidance relating to local authority finance and is guided by a high level and influential advisory panel made up of key players from across the public sector. This panel provides expert advice and support to FAN subscribers.

The network also holds events in locations around the country, and offers open and on-site training to subscribers.

Why Join the FAN?

The network can help you to be at the forefront of the crucial issues that affect local authority financial management and accounting, at a time of unprecedented financial pressures.

Our advisors work very closely with CIPFA Policy and Technical colleagues and with practitioners and other external bodies to provide subscribers with the best advice and support. The network has an unrivalled reputation with its subscribers and clients for honesty, integrity and responsiveness.

Our events provide an opportunity to:

- Gain in-depth technical knowledge.
- Maintain continuing professional development (CPD).
- Ensure key staff are kept up to date in all emerging and critical developments.
- Provide a training solution tailored to your needs.
- Hear from experts in the field.
- Discuss current issues and the impact of new developments with other professionals.

Better value than ever in 2012/13

We have also listened to your feedback to ensure our service in 2012/13 offers even better value than ever before.

We have increased the number of webinars in our programme, and adapted the timing of our events to help you reduce or eliminate the cost of travel and overnight stays.

We will also be delivering an increasing number of on-site events for which subscribers will be able to use a pre-determined number of pre-paid places.

And finally, in recognition of your own financial constraints there are no price increases across any of our services for 2012/13.

What the service offers

- **Events** – free attendance (using pre-purchased places) at FAN regional events, webinars and CIPFA Finance training events throughout the year.
- **On-site finance training and FAN events at your authority** – we can hold an event at your authority for the number of staff you deem necessary, in exchange for a number of pre-purchased places.

- **Access to finance open training events** – these can be accessed using pre-paid FAN places.
- **Opportunities for networking, career growth and CPD.**
- **Technical advice** – our expert advisors will respond to requests from subscribers on local government finance issues either by e-mail or phone.
- **Monthly round up** – our monthly round up of the latest developments in local government finance, accounting and reporting.
- **Network News** – our quarterly round up of news and developments from all the CIPFA Networks.
- **Webinars** – web presentation summaries of the key events throughout the year.
- **Website access** – network advisors prepare and publish relevant briefings and guidance on the critical issues of the day. They also encourage subscribers of the network to share or write their own documentation covering specific areas of work – something which subscribers find extremely useful.

The FAN website contains a wealth of published information including briefings, updates and rough guides on local authority financial management and accounting issues as well as current and past event materials. Our website can be accessed at www.cipfa.org.uk/fan.

On the agenda in 2012/13

The A to Z of Pension Accounting, April 2012

Detailed accounting events covering the proposed accounting entries and approaches that authorities will need to make to complete their pension fund accounting entries within their own sets of accounts.

The Changing Landscape of Local Authority Funding, May 2012

This series of workshops will examine the potential effects of changes – emanating from the Resources Review and centralisation of council tax – on local authority financial planning and reporting approaches, as well as the wider financial implications of proposals made.

Carbon Efficiencies in Your Organisation, July 2012

This session will help you to achieve carbon efficiencies in your authority by drawing on issues pertinent to the carbon agenda in your authority with direct links to the government's green deal agenda. Your authority will need to be able to measure carbon emissions accurately and account for any carbon allowances your organisation may need to utilise in respect of these emissions.

Option Appraisal and Whole Life Costing in a Recession, September 2012

This series will help local authorities to appraise policy and capital scheme options to ensure that value for money in these challenging times is maximised, by explaining the different methodologies for option appraisal and the effective use of whole life costing. The greater the financial pressures on authorities the more important this appraisal process becomes. Wales and Scotland specific events are included in this series.

The A to Z of Treasury Management, October 2012

These events will give accountants – whose authorities now have to address treasury management issues in a much broader way – an insight into the policies and approaches required to ensure effective treasury management for their authorities. This is especially important in the light of the HRA self-financing reforms. After these events, delegates will have a much better appreciation of the treasury management challenges their authorities will face both now and in the future. Wales and Scotland specific events are included in this series.

Hot Topics in Local Authority Accounting – Clinics, November 2012

These clinics allow practitioners to submit specific accounting queries before the event, which will be shared, discussed and addressed to help authorities deal with accounting challenges as they move forward into 2013. This event usually involves a mix of presentations and question and answer sessions.

Wales and Scotland specific events are included in this series.

Latest Approaches to Lease and PFI Financial Reporting and Accounting in Local Government, January 2013

This series will examine current approaches to accounting for leases and PFI schemes – perennial problems for local authority accounting practitioners – and explain any changes on the horizon, for both accounting and reporting.

Developments in Local Authority Capital Accounting, February 2013

This series will consider the latest developments in local authority capital accounting as they relate to the classification and valuation of fixed assets and the impact of the CIPFA Prudential and Treasury management codes on capital reporting in local government.

Final Accounts Closedown – 2012/13, February/March 2013

This immensely popular series provides advice to practitioners on final accounts closedown. The timeliness and accuracy of the presentations and advice that it delivers has made it one of the most popular series delivered by the FAN, with both subscribers and non-subscribers.

Wales and Scotland specific events are included in this series.

Accounting Conferences, April and November 2012

A set of two conferences will be held in both the North and South of England, which will cover the latest developments in local authority accounting and finance at a conference level with opportunities to ask questions to a panel of local authority experts.

Webinars

All the above series of events will be the subject of a webinar which will summarise the issues and challenges of each series. These webinars will be free to network subscribers and available for a charge to other clients who wish to view them. Recordings of these webinars will be made available on the FAN website for subscribers.

Open Training Courses

There are a number of finance-related open training courses that subscribers may attend using their pre-paid places. These can be found at www.cipfa.org.uk/training.

On-site Training Courses and FAN events

The FAN can deliver training and update sessions at your local authority, tailored to your needs in terms of time and content, in exchange for a number of subscriber places. On-site training eliminates staff travel costs and gives greater flexibility in terms of the staff that you choose to attend.

In 2011 the sessions we delivered to a number of authorities including:

- Developments in Local Government Finance
- A to Z of Capital
- Introduction to IFRS

Documentation

The Network will be aiming to produce briefings, updates and rough guides which will be very closely related to its service offerings as well as access to current workshop event materials and its back catalogue of event materials, briefings and guides.

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:

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

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

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