

From: CIPFA [<mailto:cipfa@email.cipfa.org.uk>]

Sent: 12 March 2019 13:56

To: Peter Maddock <PMaddock@eppingforestdc.gov.uk>

Subject: Understanding your Council's Financial Reporting Requirements

Dear Colleague,

Understanding your Council's Financial Reporting Requirements

This new Councillors' Network open training workshop has been designed specifically for local authority elected members with responsibility for approval of their council's statement of accounts, providing an overview of local authority financial reporting requirements and exploring the key elements of the financial statements and related disclosures.

The workshop programme sets out the regulatory framework governing local authority financial reporting and explains the key roles and responsibilities of officers and members in approving the annual Statement of Accounts. The workshop takes members on a practical guided tour of the main local authority accounting statements, supporting information and disclosure notes, highlighting the key messages and performance information they contain, and explaining how the various parts of the accounts document link together.

The most significant accounting and financial reporting changes from the latest Accounting Code of Practice for local authorities are explained and the likely impact on the financial statements is explored, focusing on the key messages for members. The workshop concludes with a review of the elected member scrutiny role in respect of approving the accounts, and considers opportunities for effective engagement and member challenge to ensure the authority is reporting its spending and income transparently and held accountable to stakeholders for the use of public money.

Who will benefit?

- The workshop will benefit all local authority elected members charged with governance responsibilities for approving their authority's accounting statements in 2018/19, regardless of the level of knowledge and previous experience in this role
- It would also suit other elected members who may be interested in obtaining a broader knowledge and awareness of how to understand and interpret local authority financial statements.

Event Objectives

The workshop will provide elected members with:

- An improved understanding of the financial reporting requirements for their authority and awareness of how the latest changes in the Accounting Code of Practice are likely to impact on the financial statements to be approved this year
- An overview of important elements of the financial statements to focus on as part of their governance responsibilities, and insight on how to interpret the accounts to draw out the significant performance messages
- The confidence to engage, challenge and ask appropriate questions of officers to ensure the accounts are transparent, understandable and focused on the key performance outcomes for the authority.

Training will be held at the following locations:

London – 30 May

Leeds – 5 June

The cost to attend this CIPFA Councillors' Network workshop is £175 + VAT and includes an electronic copy of the workshop slides and related materials, which will be circulated in advance of the workshops.

To book online and view the programme for the day please click [here](#). If you have any enquiries regarding these events please contact Alex Goring on 0207 543 5816, or email alexandra.goring@cipfa.org. If you have any technical queries regarding the programme please contact David Ellis by e-mail david.ellis@cipfa.org.

Please note that this course is also available as an on-site delivery, so if this is of interest to you authority please contact David for further details.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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