

All You Want to Know About Local Authority Finance 2017

June / November 2017

Local Government is going through a period of significant change. There has been a significant and ongoing reduction in funding for local authorities since 2010 and this is requiring a fundamental redesign of how authorities are organised and services are delivered. The coalition government passed the Localism Act that promoted local decision making and abolished most ring-fenced grants. The coalition government started the localisation of business rates that is expected to be completed in 2019/20 and revenue support grant is being phased out.

In the current climate, a working knowledge of local authority finance will put you and your colleagues in a position of advantage.

This seminar is a useful introduction and overview of this important subject and covers revenue and capital finance, the changes that the government is making and how local authorities are responding to this challenging agenda.

Whether you are in a London Borough, Metropolitan, Unitary, County or District Council or otherwise involved in local government; whether you are an Elected Member, Non-Financial Manager, or even a member of the Finance Team, you could benefit from our seminar at which you will learn: **“All You Want to Know About Local Authority Finance”**



Manchester Town Hall

What the Session Covers:

The session will answer the following questions:

- How do Local Government Finances work?
- How does Local Government fund its Capital Programmes?
- What are the Implications of Localism, Austerity and the Government's other reforms?
- What are the Financial Opportunities for Local Authorities?

The session is accompanied by a very useful 100-page book that is designed for reference after the session entitled:

“All You Want to Know About Local Authority Finance 2017”

Venues and Dates:

- **London:** Novotel Hotel, Waterloo – 27th June 2017.
- **North:** Novotel Hotel, Leeds – 21st November 2017.

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Gateshead, Then & Wear. NE8 1EB. Company Number: 3713554. VAT Registration Number: 721 9669 13

The Programme

- 10.00 How do Local Government Finances Work? – General Fund Expenditure and Income, Revenue Support Grant, Business Rates, Council Tax, Specific Grants, Budget Requirements, Fees and Charges, Income & Expenditure Accounts, Pressure on Budgets, Adult Social Care, Transport & Infrastructure, Waste Management, Education finance, Housing Revenue Account, Joint Boards, Financial Management, Pensions, Collection of RO and RA data.
- 11.15 BREAK
- 11.30 How does Local Government fund its Capital Programmes? – Capital Expenditure and how it is financed, Public Sector Debt, Prudential Borrowing, Capital Receipts, Specific Grants, European Funding, Balance Sheets, Use of Reserves, Treasury Management, Public Works Loans Board, Asset Management, Asset Sales, Private Finance Initiative.
- 12.30 LUNCH
- 13.30 What are the implications of Localism and Austerity? – Comprehensive Spending Reviews, Localism Act, Public Health and Pooling Health Budgets, Localisation of Business Rates, Business Rate reliefs and appeals; Devolution and Combined Authorities, Autumn Statement 2016 and Budget 2017, Revenue Support Grant settlement 2017/18, Council Tax freezes, increases and referenda, New Homes Bonus, Council Tax Reduction schemes, the Economic Context, the impact of Welfare Reform, Pressures on Budgets.
- 14.45 BREAK
- 15.00 What are the Financial Opportunities for Local Authorities? – Value for Money and Re-modelling services, Local Government Association Peer Reviews, Efficiency Plans, Performance Management, Benchmarking, Lean Management, Customer focus, Demand Management, Shared services, Mergers, Subsidiary companies, Income Generation, Supporting Business Growth, Participatory Budgets, City Regions, Outlook for Local Government Finance.
- 16.00 CLOSE

This seminar is designed for people who are not experts in local government finance, but who need to understand the basics and achieve an overview of what is going on. It is suitable for non-financial managers, councillors and finance staff who have limited experience of local government finance and others who realise that an understanding of local government finance can place them at an advantage!

This seminar is also available in-house. For further information about in-house courses, please contact Adrian Waite on 017683-51498 or adrian.waite@awics.co.uk.

Please note that there are free briefing papers on local government finance posted on the 'AWICS' website at: <http://awics.co.uk/LAFinance>



Adrian Waite (Independent Consultancy Services) Limited

Our speakers **Adrian Waite and Tom Lawrence are well known for their in-depth knowledge of this subject and for their ability to present information clearly.**

Adrian Waite is Managing Director of 'Adrian Waite (Independent Consultancy Services) Limited'. He provides training and consultancy on all aspects of the finance and management of local government. He has worked with central government, local authorities and others in Britain and abroad on a variety of financial and strategic issues. He provides financial advice to the Local Government Association's Peer Review programme. He is a former member of the National Council and Public Finance & Management Board of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy; and past President of the Institute of Public Sector Management.

He has recently advised local authorities on financial management and accounting matters, developed and delivered training courses, advised on the evaluation of business cases and value for money and acted as an expert financial witness in judicial reviews of local authority budgets. Prior to being a Management Consultant, Adrian Waite was Finance Director and then Strategic Director at Copeland Borough Council. He established the authority on a firm financial footing, levering in funding for a capital programme that peaked at £20million a year and reducing Council Tax for two years running while improving front line services.

Tom Lawrence is an Associate Consultant with AWICS. He has fourteen years' experience of local government, has built up particular expertise in the English local government finance system and also has wider interests including devolution, community engagement, local growth, service transformation and housing.

He gained a wide-ranging and comprehensive overview of council activities and services in his early posts (political assistant and democratic services). He then specialised in local government finance. As an analyst at London Councils, he developed particular expertise in Formula Grant, concessionary fares funding and the capital finance system, and played a leading role in national negotiations over these. He constructed toolkits to help finance officers understand the impact of forthcoming changes and wrote responses to numerous government consultations. He was heavily engaged with business rate retention from its inception. He turned freelance in 2013 and now works as an associate for several organisations supporting local government, writing briefings, articles and guides, carrying out spreadsheet analysis for benchmarking reports, and running training sessions."

About 'AWICS'

'AWICS' is a management consultancy and training company. We specialise in providing support in finance and management to clients in local government and housing. We are well known for our ability to analyse and explain complex financial and management issues clearly. Our mission statement is 'Independence, Integrity, Value'. We therefore provide training from an independent standpoint that is designed to help the client to achieve their objectives. We are passionate about working with the utmost integrity. We believe that we offer the best value for money that is available today! We are big enough to make a difference – but are small enough to care!

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How to reserve your place

- **On line:** You can book online at: <http://awics.co.uk/all-you-want-to-know-about-local-authority-finance-2017-seminar>
- **On line:** You can download this form from <http://awics.co.uk/all-you-want-to-know-about-local-authority-finance-2017-seminar> fill it in electronically and forward it to: orders@awics.co.uk
- **By post:** Complete this form and send it to: AWICS Ltd, PO Box 17, Appleby in Westmorland, Cumbria. CA16 6YL.

Payment: It is possible to pay online at the time of booking. In the case of customers with an existing account, public bodies and housing associations we are happy to confirm your booking and send an invoice.

Delegate fees: The cost of the London session is £250 plus VAT making a total of £300. The cost of the Leeds session is £195 plus VAT making a total of £234. The fee includes lunch* and book – 'All You Want to Know about Local Authority Finance'.

* Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements.

Delegate Name Position and Organisation

Please state which venue and date you require _____

Name of person booking _____ Tel.No. _____

Dept and Organisation _____ Order No. _____

Full Address _____

Post Code _____ E-mail address: _____

Please let us know if your delegate has any particular needs.

Booking conditions:

- **Cancellations and substitutions:** A full refund will be given up to 28 days before the seminar. There after a 50% refund up to 14 days before the seminar. We regret that no refund can be given 14 days or less before the seminar. Cancellations must be made in writing or by email and be acknowledged by AWICS.
- **Refunds:** No refund will be given for non-attendance, but delegates may substitute another delegate at any time.

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