Introduction to Local Government Finance in England (Revenue)

May 2022

The Civic Centre in Newcastle on Tyne[1]

Introduction

This briefing paper considers the revenue aspects of the finance of local government in England.

Revenue expenditure is financed through a balance of central government grant including redistributed non-domestic rates and the locally raised Council Tax. Local authorities are required by law to:

- Secure the necessary funds to finance their operations
- Provide an accurate account of where the money goes
- Provide accounts that balance

The main statements of accounting practice that apply to local authority accounts are:

- The Code of Practice on local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. This is a comprehensive statement of the structure of local authority statements of accounts and the accounting concepts, accounting policies and estimation techniques to be applied. Since 2010/11 this code has been based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union.

[1] Adrian Waite used to work in the Finance Department at Newcastle on Tyne City Council.

- Service Reporting Code of Practice (SERCOP). This sets out a mandatory service expenditure analysis for local authorities and a definition of 'total cost' to be used in reporting service expenditure, together with a recommended standard subjective analysis.

Both documents are published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy. They are both given statutory backing as 'proper practices' by regulations under section 21 of the Local Government Act 2003.

Some grants that government gives to local authorities are specific in that they must be applied to a particular purpose while others are general in that the local authority has discretion over what it spends the grant on.

Local Government Expenditure and Financing

Total Service Expenditure was £106.4 billion in 2020/21, up £9.3billion (9.5%) on the previous year. Total Service Expenditure excluding Education was £72.9 billion. The categories of service with the largest increases (not adjusted for inflation) in expenditure were:

- Highways and Transport up £4.1billion (109%) to £7.8billion, largely due to lower public transport fares income and corresponding additional revenue grants.
- Adult Social Care up by £1.8billion (11%) to £18.7billion.
- Central and other services up by £1.4billion.
- Police services up £879million (7%) to £13.1billion.

Local Government General Fund expenditure and income in 2020/21 was as follows:

	Spend £billion	Income £billion	Net Spend £billion
Education	37.2	3.7	33.5
Adult Social Care	26.6	7.9	18.7
Police	14.3	1.3	13.0
Children's services	11.4	0.9	10.5
Cultural, Environmental & Planning	14.5	4.4	10.1
Highways & Transport	10.9	3.0	7.9
Central & other Services	13.0	8.3	4.7
Public Health	4.0	0.2	3.8
Fire & Rescue	2.4	0.2	2.2
Housing	3.7	1.6	2.1
Service Expenditure	137.9	31.5	106.4
Housing Benefits			15.0
Net Current Expenditure			121.4
Capital Financing			5.1
Capital charged to revenue			1.7
Less:			
Interest Receipts			1.5 Cr
Specific Grants			16.5 Cr
Other items			0.4 Cr
Revenue Expenditure			109.8

This expenditure was funded as follows:

	£billion	£billion
Government Grants		
Specific Grants		
Dedicated Schools Grant	26.6	
Public Health Grant	3.1	
Pupil Premium Grant	1.2	
Adult Social Care infection grant	1.0	
New Homes Bonus	0.9	
Other	17.0	
Total		49.8
General Grants		
Police Grant	7.8	
Covid19 emergency fund	4.6	
Revenue Support Grant	1.6	
Other	0.5	
		14.5
Business Rates		18.0
Council Tax requirement		33.1
Other items		0.9
Sub-Total		116.3
Transfers to reserves		6.5 -
Total		109.8

It will be noted that the major services in terms of expenditure are Education, Social Care and Housing General Fund (including Housing Benefits). Capital Financing costs represent interest paid on long-term loans taken out to fund capital expenditure. Most expenditure is funded by government through either formula grant or specific grants. The balance is funded through Council Tax and sometimes from reserves.

Trends in the Financing of Revenue Expenditure

The Comprehensive Spending Review of 2010 made significant changes to the financing of local government. Alongside significant reductions in central government support for local government came the principle of 'localism'. This meant that ring-fenced grants, of which there used to be many, were all mainstreamed into the Revenue Support Grant giving councils the responsibility for deciding where budget reductions should be made.

At first, Council Tax was 'frozen' thus increasing the pressure on local authority budgets; but later Council Tax was increased in real terms to enable councils to continue to fund social care despite the ongoing reductions in the Revenue Support Grant.

The result has been a reduction in public services, especially in the 'left behind' areas where social problems are the most common but reductions in funding have been largest. Government has presented this as a failure by local authorities and has launched a 'levelling up' agenda that is based on providing specific grants.

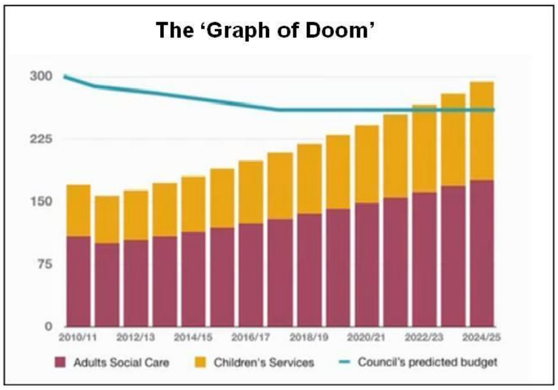
Since 2015 expenditure has still been constrained as shown below, but there has been an increase in council tax and business rates and a reduction in government grants as shown below:

	Spend £billion	Grants £billion	Grants %	Local £billion	Local %
2015/16	94.5	57.1	60.9	36.6	39.1
2016/17	93.6	53.8	58.7	37.8	41.3
2017/18	93.1	50.5	54.1	42.8	45.9
2018/19	94.2	48.1	50.3	48.7	49.7
2019/20	98.2	48.4	49.9	48.7	50.1
2020/21	109.8	64.3	55.7	51.1	44.3

NB: Some expenditure funded by reserves, collection fund surpluses and other sources.

Austerity led to a reduction in expenditure in cash terms until 2017/18 and a reduction in government grants as a proportion of expenditure until 2019/20. These trends were reversed in 2020/21 when the coronavirus pandemic increased expenditure and reduced income and the government was forced to offer additional grants.

The Local Government Association has published a 'Graph of Doom' (see below). This shows the actual and predicted budgets for councils from 2010/11 to 2024/25 and the actual and estimated levels of expenditure on adult social care and children's services for the same years. This showed that by 2022/23, the entire budgets of councils would be consumed by adult social care and children's services leaving nothing for any of the other services. The government has responded by allowing councils to increase council tax to fund adult social care (see below) but resources continue to be squeezed.



Examples:

The range of services provided in a County Council, District Council or Unitary Council differs, so examples of the accounts of a Unitary Council and a District Council are given below. The accounts of a County Council are like those of a unitary authority but exclude the services that are provided at a district level.

These examples are based on the published accounts of the local authorities concerned. These are prepared on a different basis to the national statistics shown above as they need to comply with various accounting standards.

Unitary Council

Unitary Councils provide the whole range of local government services. They include London Borough Councils, Metropolitan District Councils and Unitary Councils that have been created from former two–tier areas since the 1990s. This example is a London Borough Council.

The Comprehensive Income & Expenditure statement (CIES) shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the movement in reserves statement.

	Gross Expenditure £million	Income £million	Net Expenditure £million
Central	28.2	24.7	3.5
Cultural & Related	12.7	2.3	10.4
Environmental & Regulatory	19.3	3.4	16.0
Planning	9.0	3.3	5.7
Children & Education	193.0	146.8	46.2
Highways & Transport	31.9	14.4	17.5
Housing General Fund	150.9	141.5	9.4
Housing Revenue Account	10.8	29.2	18.3 Cr
Adult Social Care	74.9	18.3	56.6
Corporate & Democratic Core	10.2	0.9	9.3
Non-Distributed Costs	1.6	0.6	1.0
Cost of Services	542.6	385.4	157.2
Other Operating Expenditure	8.4	5.1	3.3
Financing & Investment	26.5	6.3	20.2
Taxation and non-specific Grant	0.0	202.9	202.9 Cr
Surplus on Provision of Services			22.2 Cr
Surplus on revaluation of assets			2.0 Cr
Actuarial Losses on Pensions			45.8
Total Deficit			21.5
Balance brought forward			144.1 Cr
Balance carried forward			122.6 Cr

The surplus on provision of services of £22.2million includes a surplus on the housing revenue account of £12.4million and a surplus on the general fund of £9.8million. The other operating expenditure includes the levy to the Waste Authority of £6.8million, levies to other bodies of £1.6million and a credit for gains on the disposal of non-current assets of £5.1million.

The Council has several reserves in addition to the General Fund reserve as follows:

	£million
General Fund	8.6
Earmarked General Fund	17.7
Locally Managed Schools Reserve	14.4
Housing Revenue Account	3.2
Capital Receipts Reserve	3.3
Major Repairs Reserve	3.4
Capital Grants Unapplied	15.3
Total	122.6

The General Fund Reserve represents accumulated surpluses on the General Fund and is potentially available to support any General Fund expenditure. The earmarked general fund reserves have been earmarked by the Council for specific purposes. The Locally managed schools reserve represents the accumulated surpluses of schools with delegated budgets and can only be spent by those schools. The Housing Revenue Account balance represents the accumulated surpluses on the ring-fenced housing revenue account and can only be spent in the housing revenue account on services related to council housing. The Capital Receipts reserve represents unspent capital receipts that could potentially be spent on funding new capital expenditure on repaying debt. The Major Repairs reserve represents sums that have been set aside from the housing revenue account to fund future major repairs to council housing. Capital grants unapplied represent capital grants that have been received by the Council but have yet to be spent.

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the following for the General Fund:

	£million
Surplus on Provision of Services (excluding Housing Revenue Account)	9.8 Cr
Surplus on revaluation of assets	2.0 Cr
Actuarial Losses on Pensions	45.8
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis	43.2 Cr
Net increase in balances	9.2 Cr
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	8.2
Increase in General Fund balances	1.0 Cr
Balance brought forward	7.6 Cr
Balance carried forward	8.6 Cr

The adjustments between the accounting basis and the funding basis can be further analysed as follows:

	£million
Reversal of items debited or credited to the CIES:	
Depreciation	25.3 Cr
Capital grants and contributions	_17.1
Other items (net effect)	2.2 Cr
Sub-Total	10.4 Cr

	£million
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the CIES:	
Minimum Revenue Provision	13.5
Other items (net effect)	5.1
Sub-Total	18.6
Other adjustments:	
Actuarial Losses	43.8 Cr
Charges made for retirement benefits (IAS19)	24.7 Cr
Employer's pension contributions payable in the year	17.6
Other items (net effect)	0.5 Cr
Sub-Total	51.4 Cr
Total	43.2 Cr

The items that have been debited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement but are then 'reversed out' are accounting entries that are required to meet accounting standards, but that legislation does not require to be charged to the general fund. Depreciation is excluded as a book entry that does not affect cash. Capital grants and contributions are excluded from the statutory accounts because they are capital items.

The items that are not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement but are charged to the general fund are generally items of a capital nature that are accounted for on the balance sheet under accounting conventions but are charged to the general fund under legislation. Other adjustments include the treatment of pension costs.

District Council

The summarised accounts of a district council are shown below.

	Gross Expenditure £million	Income £million	Net Expenditure £million
Central Services	21.0	19.6	1.4
Cultural and related services	11.4	2.3	9.1
Environmental and regulatory services	11.8	5.6	6.2
Planning services	4.1	1.6	2.5
Children's and education services	0.1	0.1	0.0
Highways & Transport services	1.4	0.8	0.6
Housing Revenue Account	51.1	53.1	2.0 Cr
General Fund Housing	75.2	72.1	3.1
Adult Social Care	1.2	0.9	0.3
Corporate & Democratic Core	6.1	0.3	5.8
Non-distributed costs	0.1	0.0	0.1
Cost of Services	183.5	156.2	27.3
Other operating expenditure			3.0
Financing and investment			12.3
Taxation and non-specific grants			48.3 Cr
Surplus on provision of services			5.7 Cr
Surplus on revaluation of assets			1.2 Cr
Actuarial losses on pensions			8.7
Deficit			1.8

The surplus on the provision of services includes a surplus of £7.3million on the housing revenue account and a deficit of £1.6million on the general fund.

The movement in reserves statement shows the following for the general fund:

	£million
Deficit on Provision of Services (excluding Housing Revenue Account)	1.6
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis	3.2 Cr
Net increase in balances	1.6 Cr
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	2.2
Decrease in General Fund balances	0.6
Balance brought forward	8.7 Cr
Balance carried forward	8.1 Cr

The adjustments between the accounting basis and the funding basis can be further analysed as follows:

	£million
Reversal of items debited or credited to the CIES:	
Depreciation and Impairment	2.9 Cr
Other items (net effect)	0.9 Cr
Sub-Total	3.8 Cr
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the CIES:	1.2
Other Adjustments:	
Retirement Benefits debited under IAS19	5.8 Cr
Employer's contributions to the pension scheme	4.3
Other items (net effect)	0.9
Sub-Total	0.6 Cr
Total	3.2 Cr

Housing Revenue Account

Councils that own and manage council houses also maintain a ring-fenced housing revenue account that records income and expenditure on providing council homes and services to tenants. Information about the housing revenue account is available on my website at: https://awics.co.uk/LAHousingFinance

Council Tax

Local authorities set the level of Council Tax, but in practice their ability to do so is greatly constrained by central government. The Localism Act 2011 has introduced a requirement for councils to hold a referendum if they wish to increase Council Tax above a limit set by the Secretary of State.

The Valuation Office Agency is responsible for valuing domestic properties in England. The valuation is at 1993 values. Having valued the properties, each is then placed in a Council Tax 'band' as shown below:

Band	Value	Weighting
A	up to £40,000	6
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8
D	£68,001 to £88,000	9
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15
H	over £320,000	18

Nationally, two thirds of properties are in bands A to C and only 9% are in bands F to H.

The Council sets a level of Council Tax for a Band D property and the Council Tax payable on properties in other bands is then calculated with reference to the weighting. A Band A property therefore pays two thirds of the Band D Council Tax while a Band H property pays twice the Band D Council Tax.

The person liable to pay the Council Tax is usually the resident, but where the property is empty the liability falls on the owner. Where more than one person is resident the Council Tax regulations either identify who is responsible for payment or make all the residents jointly and severally liable. In the case of a care home the owner is liable for the Council Tax. Certain properties are exempt from Council Tax while Council Tax bills are discounted by 25% if there is a single person household, or in some other circumstances.

These discounts mean that Council Tax has a 'personal' element despite being essentially a property tax. If a property has been adapted for use by a disabled person, the council tax valuation is reduced by one band. Local authorities have discretion to reduce council tax liabilities in some instances. People on low incomes are entitled to Council Tax benefit for up to 100% of the liability although benefit is not paid at a level greater than the band E council tax. Since 2013 this scheme has been 'localised' and 100% discounts are no longer always available (see below).

Since 2004, the Local Government Act 2003 has given Councils in England discretion to apply Council tax discounts of between 10% and 50% for second homes, to reduce or end discounts for long-term empty property and to grant discretionary discounts and exemptions.

Council Tax is set by all classes of local authority (Unitary, County, District, Parish, National Park, Police and Fire). However, the responsibility for collection rests with the Unitary Council in unitary areas and the District Council in two tier areas. Other authorities, 'precept' on the collection authority. This means that the collection authority keeps a collection account into which it pays all Council Tax received and from which it pays the proceeds to its own general fund and to the precepting authorities.

Average Council Tax for band D in 2021/22 was £1,898 an increase of 4.1% on the previous year. Council tax is lowest in London (£1,622) and highest in the shires and unitaries (£1,970). From 2010 to 2015 there were successive Council Tax freezes but from 2016 onwards there have been real increases in Council Tax.

Council Tax Support

Council tax benefit was abolished with effect from 1st April 2013. Councils are now expected to provide their own council tax reduction schemes with the government initially providing funding at a level of 90% of their previous expenditure. Previous levels of benefit for people of retirement age have been protected and councils have therefore had to make significant reductions in support for people of working age or else fund council tax support from within their own resources.

Adult Social Care Precept

The Adult Social Care precept was introduced for 2016-17. Since then, local authorities have been able to increase council tax by an additional amount to fund adult social care only. This is in addition to the usual funding of adult social care through council tax. This applies to London boroughs, county councils, metropolitan districts, and unitary authorities. In 2016-17, this additional flexibility was set as up to 2%. In 2017-18 and 2018-19 it has been up to 3%. In 2019-20 it went back to 2%, with a maximum of an increase of 6% over the period 2017-18 to 2019-20. In 2020-21 and 2021-22, it was set at 3%. In 2022-23 set at 1% plus any unused flexibility from 2021-22.

Business Rates

The government sets the level of business rates, but it is the responsibility of local authorities to collect them. The yield from business rates is pooled at national level and then redistributed to local authorities primarily based on their resident populations and the services for which the authority is responsible.

The main features of the business rate system are:

- Central government sets the rate of business rates and in practice links increases to increases in the retail price index.
- The rate liability is the rateable value of the property multiplied by the national rate poundage
- Billing authorities (Unitary and District Councils) send out the rate demands and are responsible for collecting business rates
- Some properties are exempt from business rates including agricultural premises, places of religious worship and properties in enterprise zones
- Rate relief is available for small businesses and charitable bodies

The Local Government Act 2003 provided for the introduction of Business Improvement Districts. In these areas, additional services or benefits to the local community can be funded by a levy on business ratepayers if most business ratepayers vote in favour.

Localisation of Business Rates

From 2012/13 business rates have been ‘localised’. This means that 50% of business rates are now retained locally. Councils keep 50% of the ‘growth’ in business rate income as an incentive to promote economic development. Authorities are designated either to pay a tariff or to receive a top-up. This is to buffer any difference in income between this system and the previous one of distribution of all non-domestic rates from a central ‘pot’. Councils have problems with appeals and avoidance that make it difficult to predict yield

Formula Grant (Baseline Funding)

Formula Grant is distributed to local authorities based on need and includes the Revenue Support Grant, redistributed non-domestic rates and Police Grant. Non-domestic rates are distributed on a per capita basis and are taken account of in the formula that is used to calculate Revenue Support Grant.

Formula grant is provided to local authorities on un-ring-fenced basis and so can be spent on any service. Since 2006/07, Formula Grant has distributed using a system commonly referred to as the 'four-block model'. The four blocks are the:

- Relative Needs Amount (intended to compensate for differences in needs of each local authority area)
- Relative Resources Amount (intend to compensate for differences in the relative strength of the Council Tax tax-base in different areas)
- Central Allocation (in effect, a common allocation per head to all authorities with the same responsibilities)
- Grant Floor Adjustment (a net nil re-allocation of grant between local authorities to ensure that every local authority receives a minimum annual increase in funding, regardless of the outcome of the preceding three blocks).

Under the current system, formula grant is largely allocated on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of authorities, together with a measure of the authority's ability to raise council tax locally (based on the number of band D equivalent properties). The same formulas are applied to all authorities that provide the same services and the best data is used that is available on a consistent basis across all authorities. Every authority is guaranteed to receive at least a minimum percentage increase year-on-year (the 'floor') on a like-for-like basis, after adjusting for changes in funding and function. To pay for the cost of the floor, the increase above the floor for all other authorities is scaled back.

In 2013 the system was revised to allow for the localisation of business rates and re-named 'baseline funding'. However, the two systems are not markedly different.

Local Government Finance Settlement 2022/23

The Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022/23 was a one year settlement based on the November 2021 spending review. There is £16.3 billion in settlement funding for local councils in England, a 1.8% decrease on the previous year when adjusted for inflation. Core spending power of councils in England will rise to £54.1billion in 2022/23, a real-terms increase of 4.6% compared to the previous year. There is a planned increase in grant funding for local government from £9.1billion in 2021/22 to £12.7billion in 2024/25.

Business Rates were frozen.

Council Tax was given a general limit of 2% and an Adult Social Care Limit of 1% (down from 3%). District Councils were limited to a Council Tax increase of 2% or £5 at band D. The Greater London Authority, Police & Crime Commissioners and Fire & Rescue authorities were limited to a Council Tax increase of £10 at band D. There are no limits for combined authorities or parish councils.

Impact of Coronavirus

In January 2021, the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government published 'Local authority COVID-19 financial impact monitoring information round 8' – a document that summarises the financial effects of the pandemic on local authorities in England.

These statistics show that local authorities in England had incurred an additional £6.9billion of expenditure in 2020/21 because of covid19 along with losing £5.9million of income. A total negative impact of £12.8billion. Central government has met most of this through increased grants. Adult social care accounted for £3.1billion of the £6.9billion extra spending, while the largest reductions in income were mainly due to reduced sales, fees, and charges (£2.0billion), business rates (£1.7billion) and council tax (£1.4billion). Councils also spent an extra £315.5million on housing services through the General Fund in 2020/21 due to the pandemic – most of which relates to homelessness and rough sleeping.

Financial Resilience and the Fair Funding Review

The National Audit Office has found that a third of British local authorities are at medium to high risk of financial failure. It is tempting to think that this is because of the coronavirus pandemic and that the situation will improve as rates of infection fall, restrictions are lifted, and the economy returns to pre-pandemic levels of output. However, this is not the case. The pandemic has simply worsened a situation that was already perilous.

In 2018/19 the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy published its resilience index that showed that 10% of authorities were at high risk and during 2019/20 authorities withdrew £0.8billion from reserves to support revenue expenditure. Before this, the Local Government Association published its infamous 'graph of doom' that showed that, by the middle of the decade, councils would not have enough resources to fund social care services let alone anything else.

The pandemic has done nothing to reduce the pressure on budgets for adult social care and children's services; and has increased the pressure on services including mental health and domestic abuse. It has also reduced Councils' income with no guarantee that levels of income will recover to pre-pandemic levels soon.

One problem that Councils faced before the pandemic was reduced income from business rates as consumers switched their expenditure from the high street (where business rates are high) to online (where business rates are low). The pandemic has accelerated this trend and it is generally expected that this shift in consumer behaviour will be permanent. Many councils have also invested in town centre shopping centres that are no longer looking like sound investments. This shift in consumer spending has also reduced car parking income that is of critical importance to the finances of many councils.

Rob Whiteman, the Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy, points out in the 'Public Finance' magazine that:

"Covid19 has distorted the nature of local government. With the sector having been in permanent crisis mode for the past twelve months, officers are working to short-term planning horizons and sources of funding. There can be no doubt that this has compromised the financial resilience of councils across the UK. And while it would be unfair to say that all Councils are at a fiscal cliff edge, most are camped on the headland.

"Covid 19 has rightly brought many local government services to the forefront of political and public conversations in the UK. Any work to improve these services will rely on improving the financial resilience of the sector. Local government finances have never been as fragile as they are today.

"The pandemic has allowed government to delay reform of local authority finances but has only increased the scale of change needed."

Prior to the pandemic the government launched the 'fair funding review'. This started with a consultation in December 2017. The fair funding review was intended to set new baseline funding allocations for local authorities by delivering an up-to-date assessment of their relative needs and resources, using the best available evidence. As part of this the government considered a wide range of options for developing an updated funding formula by looking again at the factors that drive costs for local authorities.

However, the 'fair funding review' has yet to conclude with the government putting it off twice, firstly because of 'Brexit' and secondly because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Rob Whiteman's thoughts for the 'fair funding review' are that:

"The current system is heavily centralised and funding for services is overly reliant on property taxes. If local councils are to maintain their current services, or deliver more through devolution, those responsibilities should be met with a wave of necessary funding reforms that provide access to a plurality of additional funding sources."

Further information

Further information about local government finance is available on my website at: https://awics.co.uk/LAFinance

Adrian Waite
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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 in England, Scotland and Wales. 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 support to clients 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!

For more information about our services and us please visit our website at www.awics.co.uk or contact Adrian Waite at Adrian.waite@awics.co.uk. Services that we offer include:

- Management Consultancy – http://www.awics.co.uk/ManagementConsultancy.asp
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Introduction to Local Government Finance in England

Webinar

We hold webinars entitled 'Introduction to Local Government Finance in England'. These webinars give an introduction and overview of this important subject and are fully up to date with all developments. There are three webinars:

- Introduction to Local Government Finance in England (revenue)
- Introduction to Local Government Finance in England (capital)
- Introduction to Local Government Finance in England (technical issues)

Each webinar will last about an hour and costs £30 plus value added tax (a total of £36).

These webinars are comprehensive and are designed for people who are not experts in local government finance in England, but who need to understand the basics and achieve an overview of what is going on. They are suitable for councillors, non-financial managers, finance staff who don't have experience of every aspect of local government finance and others who realise that an understanding of local government finance can place them at an advantage!

- Introduction to Local Government Finance in England (revenue) refers to: General Fund Expenditure and Income; Revenue Support Grant including the settlement for 2021/22; Business Rates including the localisation of Business Rates, Business Rate reliefs and appeals; Council Tax including Council Tax Reduction schemes; Specific Grants; Budget Requirements; Fees and Charges; Statements of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Accounts); Adult Social Care; Children's Services; Transport & Infrastructure; Waste Management; Schools including the Dedicated Schools' Grant; Housing Revenue Account.
- Introduction to Local Government Finance in England (capital) refers to: Capital Expenditure and how it is financed; Public Sector Debt; Prudential Borrowing and Local Government debt; Capital Receipts; Specific Grants; How European Funding is to be replaced; Statements of Financial Position (formerly known as Balance Sheets); Use of Reserves; Treasury Management; Public Works Loans Board; Asset Management; Asset Sales; Commercial Investments.
- Introduction to Local Government Finance in England (technical issues) refers to: Economic Context; Spending Reviews; Public Health and Pooling Health Budgets; Devolution and Combined Authorities; Fair Funding Review; the short- and long-term impacts of Coronavirus and Brexit; Long-term Pressures on Budgets; Value for Money & Re-modelling services; Local Government Association Peer Reviews and Performance Management; Superannuation; Subsidiary companies; Income Generation; Outlook for Local Government Finance.

All the webinars are fully up to date.

The presenter is Adrian Waite, who is well known for his ability to explain complex financial matters clearly. To view his biography, please click here.

It is possible to ask questions during and after the webinar. Attendees will be provided with a copy of the slides. A very useful briefing paper and a CPD certificate will be emailed to participants after it has finished. A recording of the webinar is also available after it is completed.

For further information, please click here: https://awics.co.uk/introduction-to-local-government-finance-in-england