

01 May 2019**Agenda Item: 14****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE &
IMPROVEMENT****UNDERSTANDING YOUR COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REPORTING
REQUIREMENTS – CIPFA WORKSHOP****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the attendance of two Members at a CIPFA workshop on Understanding Your Council's Financial Reporting requirements.

Information

2. This CIPFA network workshop will take place in Leeds on 29 May 2019. The session is designed specifically to provide elected members with greater insight into the financial reporting requirements of the authority, giving them the knowledge and confidence to deliver effective engagement, scrutiny and challenge of the statement of accounts as part of their overall governance role. The workshops also consider the 2018/19 changes to local authority accounting and how that might impact on the financial statements members are required to approve. A copy of the programme is attached as Appendix 1.
3. During the session, members will be provided with information on 4 focused themes as set out below:
 - a. Overview of Local Government Financial Reporting
 - b. A Councillor's Guide to the Accounting Statements
 - c. Update on latest changes in Local Authority Financial Reporting
 - d. Key questions and governance considerations for Elected Members

Other Options Considered

4. Not attending this event was not a viable option, due to the importance of ensuring that those charged with decision-making and financial management have effective knowledge and skills.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

5. Under the terms of the Council's constitution, the Governance and Ethics committee is responsible for maintaining an overview of the Council's Financial Regulations, and it is best practice to ensure that those charged with decision-making have effective knowledge and skills.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

7. The estimated cost of attendance for two members is as follows:

CIPFA member rate	1 st delegate	£175
CIPFA member rate	2 nd delegate	£175
Travel		£115
Total		£465

These costs will be met from the budget for Member's conference fees.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That attendance at the CIPFA workshop on Understanding Your Council's Financial Reporting Requirements for two members be approved.

Nigel Stevenson

Service Director – Finance, Infrastructure and Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Constitutional Comments (SLB 10/04/2019)

8. Governance and Ethics Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (RWK 11/04/2019)

9. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 7 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None