

TRAINING OUTLINE

How to be an effective finance business partner

Excellent financial management starts with an excellent finance team.

In the light of budget restrictions and the overall drive to improve financial management throughout the council, many councils are requiring their finance staff to develop the way they support the council by acting as finance business partners to the wider authority.

This seminar is designed to assist finance teams to evaluate, discuss and improve the service they provide to budget managers, senior managers and, ultimately, to Councillors. The seminar will consider the role and responsibility of finance business partners in a local authority. It will consider what they should and should not get involved in and emphasise the significance of their role in providing high quality financial information, challenge and support throughout the council.

The seminar will consist of presentations, discussions and short exercises and will conclude with a detailed facilitated workshop to identify an action plan to develop the service provided.

By the end of the day, participants will be able to:

- Understand the changing role of the finance function and, in particular, the role of the finance professional acting as a business partner
- Consider the importance of providing effective financial information, support and challenge throughout the council
- Action plan future developments and changes

Who should attend?

This seminar is designed for teams of finance professionals who are looking to ensure that they maximise their contribution to excellent financial management.

FINANCE WITH VISION

About LG Futures

Public sector specialists, LG Futures provides bespoke financial management advice, training and policy research for the public sector.

Our areas of expertise include:

- Improving financial management capabilities
- Identifying and delivering savings
- Analysing funding formulae and developing financial models
- Assessing the impact of government policies
- Providing in-depth briefings on the latest financial developments

All of our team have previously worked at senior levels within the public sector and we therefore fully understand and share its ethos.

Since being established in 2004, we have worked with over 225 individual public sector organisations and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we could potentially assist your organisation.

For more information on LG Futures, please contact: [Jude Ranasinghe](mailto:jude.ranasinghe@lgfutures.co.uk), Director of Consultancy and Training, at jude.ranasinghe@lgfutures.co.uk or on 01908 424387.

Agenda

9.45 – 10.00	Welcome and Introductions
10.00 – 11.00	<p>The role and responsibility of the finance professional</p> <p>The changing role of finance</p> <p>Drivers for improvement and change</p> <p>The role of the finance business partner</p>
11.00 – 11.15	Break
11.15 – 13.00	<p>Assessment of current team performance</p> <p>Facilitated workshop to evaluate current team strengths and weaknesses in the light of best practice information and guidance</p>
13.00 – 13.45	Lunch
13.45 – 15.15	<p>The finance “critical friend”</p> <p>How finance staff can act as a critical friend without being viewed as unhelpful</p> <p>Role play exercises</p>
15.15 – 15.30	Break
15.30 – 16.00	<p>Getting better, more efficiently – action planning</p> <p>What needs to change?</p> <p>How can the team get better?</p> <p>The way forward.</p>
15.45 – 16.00	Course summary, evaluation and close

Ian Fifield PhD CPFA Head of Training

Ian is a CIPFA qualified accountant and an experienced trainer and facilitator, with more than 20 years experience of financial management in the public services.

Ian specialises in financial management training for local authorities and other public service organisations and has also worked as an accountant in local government and an external auditor for both local government and health bodies.

Ian has provided training to a wide range of finance stakeholders, including finance professionals, service managers and elected members.

Ian also designs and delivers training specifically tailored to clients’ individual systems and processes, ensuring that training directly addresses local client needs and requirements.

For more information on our training sessions, please contact: Ian Fifield at ian.fifield@lgfutures.co.uk or on 07710 955276.