

TRAINING OUTLINE

Making Financial Scrutiny Count

Every council is faced with making significant savings in their budget over the next few years. Therefore, ensuring every pound of budget counts in terms of maximising service outcomes and ensuring value for money is essential in local government and should be a focus for scrutiny work.

This seminar is specifically designed for elected members who are involved in financial scrutiny at their council.

The seminar is highly interactive and will provide a stimulating and relevant training experience. Using illustrative examples and short exercises, it will consider how elected members can scrutinise their authority's financial and budget information more effectively.

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

- Appreciate the role and functions of effective financial scrutiny
- Interpret and scrutinise your council's financial plans and budgets
- Interpret and scrutinise budget monitoring information
- Use a variety of tools and techniques to better understand and evaluate financial recommendations and plans
- Combine financial scrutiny techniques within service scrutiny reviews

Who should attend?

This seminar is designed for all elected members serving on overview and scrutiny committees. No prior experience will be assumed, and all terminology, jargon and acronyms will be fully explained in plain English. Plenty of time will be available for questions and discussion.

About LG Futures

LG Futures delivers a unique blend of financial advice and training, focusing exclusively on the public sector. Our areas of expertise include:

- Improving financial management capabilities
- Savings identification and delivery
- Policy and research
- Funding formulae and financial modelling
- Providing in-depth briefings on the latest financial developments

Since being established in 2004, we have worked with over 200 public sector organisations, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we could potentially support your organisation.

For more information on our training services, please contact:

Ian Fifield, Head of Training, at ian.fifield@lgfutures.co.uk or on 01908 424387.

FINANCE WITH VISION

Agenda

- 10.30 – 10.35** **Welcome and Introductions**
- 10.35 – 11.00** **A Guide to Good Financial Scrutiny**
 The role of scrutiny in the financial management process
 The do's and don'ts of good financial scrutiny
- 11.00 – 12.00** **Scrutinising financial plans**
 Scrutinising the Medium Term Financial Strategy
 Scrutinising the Capital Programme
 Scrutinising the annual revenue budget
- 12.00 – 12.15** **Refreshments**
- 12.15 – 13.00** **Scrutinising Budget Monitoring Information**
 The budget monitoring process
 Roles and responsibilities
 Scrutinising budget monitoring information in the context of service performance information and the annual budget
- 13.00 – 13.45** **Lunch**
- 13.45 – 14.30** **Evaluating the Financial Consequences of Recommendations**
 How costs "behave"
 Evaluation tools and techniques
 What about income?
- 14.30 – 15.15** **Case Study**
- 15.15 – 15.30** **Refreshments**
- 15.30 – 16.00** **Personal Action Planning**
 What will you do differently as a result of this seminar?
- 16.00** **Seminar Evaluation and Close**

This seminar can also be held over two evenings. Please contact Ian Fifield for further details

Ian Fifield PhD CPFA Head of Training

Ian is a CIPFA qualified accountant and an experienced trainer and facilitator, with more than 25 years experience of financial management in the public sector.

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.