



Government
Events

The National Local Government Funding And Finance Event: The Way Forward

Thursday 28th November
Event Guide





Our Loyalty Discount

This discount entitles attendees to a 20% discount on any future conference being run by Government Events in the next 12 months. Please quote code Loyalty20 at the start of your booking.



How to Claim Your CPD Points

Regarding CPD credits, it is the individual delegate's responsibility to evaluate their learning and record it appropriately into their CPD portfolios according to your institute's requirements.

For this Conference, you are entitled to 8 CPD points.



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Welcome Letter

Dear Delegate,

Welcome to The National Local Government Funding And Finance Event: The Way Forward conference .

At the Local Government Finance event you will benefit from practical sessions covering the latest strategies in commissioning and procurement, commercialisation and income generation, property and asset management, and value for money approaches including shared services and alternative delivery models, and discuss and debate how we can build a sustainable financial future for local government.

Today you will have an invaluable opportunity to hear the latest updates from senior policymakers designed to offer real clarity on policy and funding plans. At the same time, listening to best practice case studies from those leading the way in delivering financially viable local government services.

If you have any questions or queries please ask our onsite management team, who will be more than happy to help you. They are located at the registration desk.

We hope you have a rewarding and enjoyable day.

Yours Truly,

David Blake
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Our Future Events

Please look at our website, www.GovernmentEvents.co.uk,
to view our future events. These include:

[The Future of British High Streets and Town Centres Conference 2020](#)

Thursday 23rd January, Central London

[Delivering Innovative Transport and Infrastructure for a Modern Britain](#)

Thursday 23rd January 2020, Central London

[Local Government Commercialisation 2020: Generating Income to Support More Effective Public Services](#)

Tuesday 3rd March 2020, Central London

[The Public Sector Communications Conference 2020: Achieving Integrated Communication](#)

Thursday 23rd April 2020 , Central London

For any enquiries, please call 0330 0584 285 or email Enquiries@governmentevents.co.uk

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Agenda AM

- 08:45-09:30 **Registration and Networking**
- 09:30-09:40 **Chair's Opening Remarks**
Jonathan Werran, Chief Executive, Localis
- 09:40-10:00 **Keynote Address: Supporting The Self-Sufficient, Growth-Led Local Government Of The Future**
Cllr Peter Fleming, Chair of Improvement & Innovation Board, Local Government Association
- 10:00-10:20 **Keynote Address: Assessing The Fiscal And Funding Outlook For Local Government**
Alex Burfitt, Audit Manager, National Audit Office
- 10:20-10:40 **Keynote Address: Embracing The Digital Revolution As The Future Direction For Councils**
Benedict Thompson, Lead Developer, LGSS
- 10:40-11:00 **Question and Answer Session**
- 11:00-11:25 **Refreshment and Networking Break**
- 11:25-11:45 **Case Study: Growing Income Through Untapped Advertising Potential**
John-Paul Danon, Co-Founder and Sales Director, Council Advertising Network
- 11:45-12:05 **Case Study: Providing Commercial Business Accelerator Training – Essex County Council**
Sean Russo, Commercial Relationship Manager, Essex County Council
- 12:05-12:25 **Case Study: Measuring The Performance Of Waltham Forest's Strategic Asset Management Plan**
Huw Rhys Lewis, Director Commercial Estate & Investment, London Borough of Waltham Forest
- 12:25-12:45 **Question and Answer Session**
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- 12:45-13:30 **Lunch and Networking**

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Agenda PM

- 13:30-13:50 **Keynote Address: Funding And Financing Inclusive Growth In Cities And Combined Authorities**
Andrew Carter, Chief Executive, Centre for Cities
- 13:50-14:10 **Case Study: Generating Income And Green Energy In West Suffolk**
Andrew Oswald, Environment and Energy Team Leader, West Suffolk Council
- 14:10-14:30 **Standardising On Technology In Lambeth To Mitigate Reductions In Central Government Funding**
Hamant Bharadia, Acting Director of Finance, London Borough of Lambeth
- 14:30-14:50 **Case Study: Pushing Forward The Public Sector Finance Function At Plymouth City Council**
Andrew Hardingham, Strategic Director for Transformation and Change, Finance, Plymouth City Council
- 14:50-15:10 **Question and Answer Session**
- 15:10 **Chair's Summary and Close**

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Speaker Biographies

Jonathan Werran

Chief Executive, Localis

Jonathan has extensive experience in communications and journalism. After five years as a reporter, commentator and features editor for The Municipal Journal, in 2015 he became the first strategic communications officer for the District Councils' Network.

Prior to The MJ, he edited an online government property and public estate magazine and helped run communications and marketing for anti-poverty charity Elizabeth Finn Care. He began his career in online publishing for the public service professional and developed the 'Wired-Gov' service for the better digital repackaging and redistribution of central government press releases before founding a small business to government consultancy which among other services helped pioneer the first UK public sector reverse auction.



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09:40-10:00

Cllr Peter Fleming

Chair of Improvement & Innovation Board, Local Government Association

Peter is leader of Sevenoaks District Council, Chair of the Local Government Association's Improvement & Innovation Board and also a national spokesperson for the association. He recently co-chaired the LGiU's Homelessness Commission.

Multi award winning Sevenoaks District Council is the first council to become self-sufficient from direct government funding, runs a balanced 10 year rolling budget, keeps services in-house and uses property to support services to and the priorities of its residents.

Often outspoken, rarely boring, Peter is a localist and a strong advocate that innovation, with a revolutionary zeal, rather than evolution is the only hope for the future of local public services and that there is no better time than now to instigate significant change.



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10:00 – 10:20

Alex Burfitt

Audit Manager, National Audit Office

Alex is an audit manager in the National Audit Office's local government team. He leads the NAO's value for money work on local government finance, and governance and accountability. Recent work includes the 2018 and 2014 reports on local government financial sustainability, and a 2016 report on capital spending and funding in local government. He is leading the NAO's current work on local authority commercial investment.

Prior to joining the NAO Alex worked at the Audit Commission and led their value for money studies work on local government finance and local growth. He authored a number of the 'Tough Times' series of reports on local financial sustainability.



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10:20-10:40

Benedict Thompson

Lead Developer LGSS



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11:25-11:45

John-Paul Danon

Co-Founder and Sales Director, Council Advertising Network

His 15 years+ experience developing commercial digital platforms in the retail, education, health and local government sectors meant by the time John-Paul co-founded CAN in 2014, he was well-positioned to support local councils optimise revenue from their advertising assets.

CAN's Council Advertising Network now helps more than 50 local council websites and 100-plus other public sector websites (including Transport for London) generate income from brand-safe advertising. In response to requests from councils, CAN recently launched its Sponsorship and Advertising Sales service to audit and sell opportunities for physical assets such as print publications, as well as digital.

John-Paul believes the local government estate can both generate significant income for councils and – via digital campaigns – nudge citizens towards the sort of positive behaviour change that will help protect and improve public services for the future. CAN's Citizen Reach now has nearly 200 successful examples of this.



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11:45-12:05

Sean Russo

Commercial Relationship Manager, Essex County Council

Sean describes himself as a Public Sector trouble-shooter and has worked for Essex County Council since 2007. During this time, he has worked in several services including Transport & Highways, Member/Corporate Enquiries, Corporate Risk, and Traded Education Services. Sean joined the Commercial Traded Team in 2017 and has since worked to upskill the organisation's commercial thinking through training programmes and project support; in addition, he also delivers commercial projects directly to maximise new and existing income generating opportunities for Essex. Sean has also provided external training, such as delivering Essex's highly successful Business Accelerator Programme, to a number of other public sector bodies. The programme regularly receives positive feedback, such as "we are now in a far stronger position to deliver our mission, drive forward income generation, share commercial knowledge and apply tools and techniques often considered 'private sector thinking' into daily operations. Furthermore, colleagues who took part are now motivated, collaborating/sharing best practice, and applying commerciality with a conscience in the public sector."



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12:05-12:25

Huw Rhys Lewis

Director Commercial Estate & Investment, London Borough of Waltham

Huw has over 30 years' senior director experience in the private and public sector providing management services and property advice, interim services covering development, asset management, estates management, FM, procurement, design and build construction, project and programme management, operational management, financial commercial management, and PFI Investments to clients in the commercial retail and office, leisure, cinema, rail, health, housing, education, waste, airport and Local Government sectors.

He has lived and worked in the UK and internationally, across sectors including retail, office, leisure, transportation, waste, health, education, housing, infrastructure and regeneration.

Currently Interim Director Commercial Estate & Investment at WFBC, producing SAMP, Corporate Landlord model across WFBC operational portfolio, 'Hard' FM and overseeing commercial property portfolio and investment strategy and plan for WFBC. Outputs – Delivered SAMP, Implementation plan, Investment plan, 'Corporate landlord model, providing advice property advice to 'Sixty Bricks- housing and Regen Team

Huw's other role includes Managing Director of Bexley Co Ltd is a wholly owned development company of London Borough of Bexley (LBB). Company key ambitions are to support the delivery of the LBB Growth Strategy through Housing (2,500 homes 50% PRS 50% BTS), 5,000 Sq.m of employment



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developments, 20,000 Sq.m commercial developments which will provide an income stream for the Council as sole shareholder of Bexley Co Ltd.

Prior to this Huw was Managing Director of the Urban Growth Company (UGC) responsible for spearheading the preparation and delivery of infrastructure and development at the UK Central Hub site in Solihull bringing together the ambitions of Birmingham Airport, the NEC, Jaguar Land Rover, Birmingham Business Park and Arden Cross – the site for HS2's Birmingham Interchange Station – with the potential to generate up to £4.1bn GVA per annum. The infrastructure investment value in The Hub over the next ten years is expected to be in excess of £1.6bn.



13:30-13:50

Andrew Carter

Chief Executive, Centre for Cities

Andrew became Chief Executive of the Centre in April 2017. Before that he was the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Policy Research with overall responsibility for the Centre's research and policy programme.

Andrew has over 20 years of experience working on urban economic policy issues for public and private development agencies, consultants and research institutes. He has also spent time in the US as part of the Churchill Foundation's Fellowship Programme, reviewing urban economic policy development policy and practice in American cities including New York, Washington DC, Boston and Chicago.

He is a regular media contributor and chairs and speaks at conferences across the UK and Europe on a wide range of urban and economic issues.



13:50 – 14:10

Andrew Oswald

Environment and Energy Team Leader, West Suffolk Council

I have worked at West Suffolk council for the past 12 years within the Environment and Energy Team. I currently lead a team responsible for managing contaminated land, air quality, environmental permitting, internal environmental performance, renewable energy generation and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. For the past 3 years have led the council's work on generating income from renewable investments. I worked on the initial project team set up to buy Toggam solar farm and maintain responsibility for the contract management and financial performance of the site. Besides the solar farm I have delivered £3m of investment into income generating renewable energy projects.



14:10 – 14:30

Hamant Bharadia

Acting Director of Finance, London Borough of Lambeth

Hamant Bharadia is CGMA and CIPFA qualified professional with 28 years of local government experience within Finance and IT. As Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 officer leads on the financial strategy and policy for the Council and the development and implementation of all financial aspects of the Council's budget processes for both revenue and capital.

Having worked at various levels with technology, organisation redesign and financial management as subject matter expert, project lead or senior responsible officer has been exposed to both client and provider perspective. Often acting as the bridge between Finance and Technology to interpret and deliver business specific and practical solutions covering a wide range of back office transactional processes to client servicing systems such as social care and housing for example.



Andrew Hardingham

Strategic Director for Transformation and Change, Finance, Plymouth City Council

With more than 25 years of experience as a qualified accountant, and 20 years as a chief finance officer across a range of public sector organisations, Andrew Hardingham has successfully shaped a new vision for change within the sector. Andrew joined Plymouth City Council in 2015 as Director for Finance and Section 151 officer, leading a 370-person multi-disciplinary team, and has ensured the delivery of more efficient and viable services; during this time he has also served as Interim Strategic Director for Transformation and Change. In 2017, Andrew's Finance team were the winners of the Achievement in Health and Social Care Integration award. In 2018, Andrew was the winner of the Public Finance Leader of the year award, namely for his leadership, creativity, innovation and commitment within public sector finance. During this time at Plymouth, Andrew has been instrumental in developing alternative service delivering models and delivering financial solutions, saving the Council many millions of pounds. He has also contributed to the LGA Peer Review Programme.

Thank you for attending our conference.

We hope you found the day interesting and insightful. Speaker presentations will be made available to download on completing the post show survey which will be emailed to you within one week after the event.

We wish you a safe journey home.

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