

Developing a medium-term financial strategy

"A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow"

A **short online CPD-certified course** with Andrew Hardingham

An understanding of best practice concerning local authority financial planning is a necessity for council finance staff. This short series of CPD-certified tutorials is designed to help financial planners, accountants and modellers take a step back, and think about the issues around **preparing, agreeing and maintaining a robust medium-term financial strategy**.

Over a series of three one-hour presentations, we will consider the factors that will help you engage in the MTFS process, consider what drives the strategy's creation and examine its role and relevance across your organisation.

We will delve into the characteristics of a robust strategy and how it links to other plans within your council. We will consider how planning, analysis and adaptability underpin the strategy.

Understand & Examine the MTFS process

- What drives the strategy's creation?
- Examine its role and relevance across your organisation
- What are the characteristics of a robust strategy?
- How does the MTFS link to other plans within your council?
- How is the corporate plan reflected in financial planning?
- Risk, opportunity and threat in the financial strategy
- Building a flexible and adaptive strategy for different scenarios

The course will offer an opportunity for questions and open discussion.



CURRICULUM

Week 1

Tuesday 20th April, 14:30 - 15:30

Budget setting legal requirements, ownership and responsibilities – and how the MTFS and other financial documents interrelate.

Week 2

Tuesday 27th April, 14:30 - 15:30

Considerations around effective timelines and a close examination of a three year plan.

Week 3

Tuesday 4th May, 14:30 - 15:30

Planning assumptions. The link between TMS and capital strategies to the MTFS and the role of elected members.



Presenter:

Andrew Hardingham

Andrew is an award-winning strategic resources director and S151 officer with significant experience of delivering change projects in public sector organisations -

and bringing sustainable finance solutions to organisations dealing with major finance challenges.

Andrew qualified in the 80s and has worked across a range of authorities including London boroughs, district and unitary councils; and has been appointed to the boards of various public sector-owned trading companies.

Working across both local and central government Andrew has delivered change solutions including: major back-office outsourcing; tax efficient delivery models (including setting up cost sharing groups); developing local authority teckel and trading companies, as well as restructured treasury management portfolios.

Andrew has set up, trained and served on audit committees and helped established a shared internal audit and counter fraud service. Andrew is currently working with the LGA as one of the team of Finance Improvement & Sustainability Associates and is a trustee/director of a charitable foundation supporting the leading Arts and Heritage centre in Devon.

3 CPD hours

Who should attend?

Heads of finance service
Financial and budget planners
Financial analysts and modellers
Lead service accountants and business partners
Assistant directors of finance

Why attend?

Build your knowledge about financial strategy
Develop skills to mitigate risks and threats to your plan
Understand the bigger picture and key inter-relationships
Gain CPD credits to enhance your career prospects
Opportunity to ask questions and gain expert insight

Why Room151 Training?

Room151 is the online resource for local authority finance and treasury teams covering treasury, strategic finance, funding, resources and risk with unique insight into the challenges faced by local authorities. Our training courses are developed in conjunction with leading industry professionals and are designed to provide practical solutions.

REGISTER HERE for 3 x 1 hour sessions starting at 14:30 on 20th April and continuing on 27th April & 4th May

- The course fee is £195 + VAT with a 25% discount available for those delegates booking before 6th April.
- Content will be available to participants on demand, post-event.
- This course has been independently reviewed & certified as conforming to universally accepted Continuing Professional Development (CPD) guidelines.
- Any questions please contact phillipe.stankovski@room151.co.uk