

What's on 2019

Residential Event

We are housing Scotland

Finance Conference

12 & 13 November 2019

Crieff Hydro Hotel, Crieff

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Finance Conference 2019

The Future of Finance

About the Conference

SFHA's Finance Conference is the 'must-attend' event for the sectors finance professionals, senior staff and governing body members.

The 2019 conference will support delegates in driving change across the sector through a combination of expert speakers, interactive workshops and networking opportunities.

The programme features the topics deemed most important by frontline finance staff, who often are now also responsible for other functions such as IT, corporate services and human resources.

Over two days we will learn more about current regulation and governance, the political and economic environment, how to maximise your impact, how to manage risk, funding options and the impact of legislative changes on the bottom line – as well as so much more.

If you want to learn more and add value to your organisation, SFHA Finance Conference 2019 is not to be missed.

We are delighted ATFS are once again the main conference sponsor and thank them for their continued support.

Is this the conference for you?

The conference is aimed at all finance directors, managers, officers and other staff who have an interest in housing association and co-operative financial issues, including Chief Executives and Directors. Governing body members, consultants, local and central government and other professionals working on financial issues in the affordable housing sector will also find the conference of interest.

About the Venue

The conference returns to Crieff Hydro, located just over an hour's drive from Edinburgh and Glasgow. The hotel combines contemporary and comfortable accommodation with good conference services and excellent leisure facilities. For full details of what the hotel has to offer, visit their website at www.crieffhydro.com

The Exhibition

The exhibition in The Melville Hall is the networking hub of the conference and offers delegates an excellent one-stop opportunity to explore the latest information, products and services from leading suppliers to the housing sector. Tea/coffee will be served in this area at the designated programme breaks, although the Exhibition will be open all day from 9.00am.

Contact Information

For more information about the conference programme, please contact Karen Devin, SFHA Events Producer, on **0141 567 6086** or email at kdevin@sfha.co.uk

If your enquiry regards delegate bookings, please contact the event administrators on **0141 332 8113** or email events@sfha.co.uk

Conference Sponsors

SFHA wish to thank the following sponsors for their support of this year's conference:



Main Sponsor



Lunch



Tea & Coffee



Delegate Bag



Drinks



Dinner



Lanyards



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Finance Conference 2019

Programme Day One

Tuesday 12 November 2019

0900 Registration and Exhibition Viewing

1030 Welcome

Sally Thomas, SFHA

1045 Opening Plenary

Adrian Webster, Inspirational Speaker

To start your day the right way, we are delighted to welcome one of Britain's most in-demand motivational speakers. Adrian Webster tells it like it is, drawing on his own varied experience in corporate life and the public sector. Witty, engaging and energetic, Adrian inspires individuals, transforms teams and electrifies entire organisations with his simple but highly effective philosophy based on Tiny Noticeable Things (TNTs) and the Shape of Integrity.

1130 Tea/Coffee and Exhibition Viewing

1215 Workshops – Block A

A1 Cybercrime

**A2 Lending Latest:
Tales from the Frontline**

A3 Financial Risk and Stress Testing

A4 Taxation Update

A5 Social and Economic Impact

1315 Lunch and Exhibition Viewing

1415 Plenary: Scottish Housing Regulator

Ian Brennan, Scottish Housing Regulator

In the weeks before this conference, Scottish social landlords will submit their first assurance statements to the regulator. This marks a significant change in the way regulation works in the country. This plenary session will see Ian Brennan, Director of Regulation, give his regular conference overview of the sector from the perspective of the regulator including initial thoughts on the first assurance statement process.

1515 Tea/Coffee and Exhibition Viewing

1545 Workshops – Block B

B1 Financial Return on Digitalisation

B2 Get to Grips with Value for Money

B3 Financial Risk and Stress Testing

**B4 Sustainable People Practices
(formerly Accounting Update)**

B5 Preparing for New Data Collection

1645 End of Sessions

1830 Drinks Reception

1900 Dinner

After Dinner Entertainment –
The Ultimate Gameshow
This year's after dinner entertainment will be the Ultimate Game Show. You and your team will become the stars of your very own game show as you take on some of the most popular and famous rounds from a range of classic TV game shows.



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Finance Conference 2019

Programme Day Two

Wednesday 13 November 2019

0845 Registration and Exhibition Viewing

0930 Plenary: Economist Post-Brexit Update

John McLaren, Economist

The economic and political future of the UK is uncertain. The UK is scheduled to leave the EU just a fortnight before this finance conference. To share his views on the future of the UK economy, we welcome economist John McLaren. John has worked as an economist at both HM Treasury and at the Scottish Office and previously worked at the Centre for Public Policy for Regions at the University of Glasgow, and where until recently he was an Honorary Professor of Public Policy at the Business School.

1030 Workshops – Block C

- C1 Maximising Value through Procurement
- C2 Update on the Scottish Housing Associations' Pension Scheme (SHAPS)
- C3 FOI – Freedom of Information
- C4 Treasury Management & Funding
- C5 Legal Clinic

1130 Tea/Coffee and Exhibition Viewing

Your last opportunity to visit the Exhibition for this year's conference.

1215 Workshops – Block D

- D1 Learning Across Sectors
- D2 The Cost Benefits of Collaboration
- D3 Balancing Social Purpose and Value for Money
- D4 How Finance Can Add Value to Other Areas of the Business
- D5 Rapid Rehousing and the Impact on the Bottom Line

1330 Closing Panel Session – The Future of Finance Post 2021

Piers Williamson, The Housing Finance Corp; Polly Jones, SFHA

The Scottish Government have started work on their post 2021 housing programme which they state will allow the country to reimagine a housing system and create a vision for housing between now and 2040.

This panel session will discuss progress with the current housing programme as well as what work has been done so far on creating a vision for how our homes and communities should look and feel in 2040 and the options, choices and investment required to get us there. Hear a range of views on what we might see in future when it comes to financing the sector.

1415 Lunch and Depart



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Finance Conference 2019

Workshops

Block A

A1 Cybercrime

Douglas Armstrong, Scottish Government; Alison Stone, SCVO

As organisations online services evolve, the risk of disruption and reputational damage can increase. In this informative session, speakers will address what constitutes a 'cybercrime', what an association's legal position is regarding cyber risks and what you can do about it.

A2 Lending Latest: Tales from the Frontline

Alan Brown, Eildon Housing Association

Housing associations are borrowing more than ever to help the Scottish Government meet their current 50,000 homes programme as well as funding other priorities such as improving energy efficiency and fire safety in existing homes. In this session we will hear from Alan Brown, Director of Finance at Eildon Housing Association, about the organisations' recent private placement journey. Alan will offer helpful tips on what to do – and what not to do – for those looking to borrow in this way.

A3 Financial Risk and Stress Testing

Paul McNeil, HRC

Paul McNeil will tackle one of the big topics for the sector in this workshop. Come along to learn more about how financial risks materialise, how to quantify financial risk and how to conduct appropriate stress testing and analysis.

A4 Taxation Update

Colin Brown and David McKinlay, RSM UK Audit LLP

Conference regulars RSM will provide a view and annual update of the practical and commercial tax and VAT issues they are working on with housing association clients, their subsidiaries, other stakeholders and trading partners. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and discuss any issues you may have.

A5 Social and Economic Impact

Social housing providers are social purpose organisations. Social value is part of everything we do. Measuring and understanding our social and economic impact can inform investment decisions, demonstrate value for money, improve services, drive growth, and influence stakeholders.

At this workshop you'll meet the cross-sector team who are developing a common approach to measuring impact, as part of SFHA's Innovation and Future Thinking Programme. And you'll have the chance to test the first prototype of the new framework.

Measuring and using impact information will support openness, curiosity, honesty, great decision making and better outcomes for people and communities in Scotland. Come along to this session to help make it happen!



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Finance Conference 2019

Workshops

Block B

B1 Financial Return on Digitalisation

Derek Adam, Cairn Housing Association; Rob Wray, HACT

Technology is transforming how housing associations deliver services and is enabling them unprecedented levels of engagement with their tenants. This sessions' speakers will discuss how they are using digital technology to deliver more inclusive, efficient and cost-effective housing services. They will set out the business case for delivering services online, how to measure the return and what cultural changes were required to ensure operational agility.

B2 Get to Grips with Value for Money

Kirsty Wells, House Mark; Ian Thomas, Trivallis

This session will cover the findings of the recent Scottish Sector Scorecard and what the next steps are for value for money work in the sector. The second speaker will discuss their value for money journey including how their new Value for Money Strategy delivers efficiencies for customers and for the business. You'll also hear more about the lessons learned from that journey so far.

B3 Financial Risk and Stress Testing

Paul McNeil, HRC

Paul McNeil will tackle one of the big topics for the sector in this workshop. Come along to learn more about how financial risks materialise, how to quantify financial risk and how to conduct appropriate stress testing and analysis.

B4 Sustainable People Practices (formerly Accounting Update)

Jude Lean, RSM UK Audit LLP

"People are central to business delivery and there are a number of changes taking affect within the employment landscape, in order to support and strengthen this view, creating modern working practices as supported by the good work plan. We will be taking a look at key people challenges including diversity, engagement, talent management and cultural development, in order to minimise risk and deliver effectively. Several government initiatives are aimed at large organisations such as gender pay gap reporting, employee engagement and the impact on the sustainable development of the company however these are pertinent to all companies."

B5 Preparing for New Data Collection

Stuart Eglinton, SE Training

Data gathering is an important component to identifying inequality, initiating activity and evaluating progress as required to meet equality legislation. Collecting data on the protected characteristics of tenants will become a requirement in 2020. This data collection will often fall to housing association finance teams who are now commonly responsible for IT and corporate services. How should you prepare for this new data collection? Attend this session to find out.



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Finance Conference 2019

Workshops

Block C

C1 Maximising Value through Procurement

Colin Taylor, Scotland Excel; Lynette Lees, Clydebank Housing Association

Interested in hearing practical tips for improving your association through procurement using finance as the focus? This is the session for you. Come along to hear from a procurement expert on how to ensure you are getting the best value for the communities you serve through your procurement processes. A speaker from the sector will also outline their own experiences and answer any questions you might have.

C2 Update on the Scottish Housing Associations' Pension Scheme (SHAPS)

Rachel Holmes and Ron Watson, TPT

Hear the latest updates on SHAPS including the results of the 2018 valuation and experiences following the accounting changes introduced in 2019.

C3 FOI – Freedom of Information

Eileen Barr, TC Young

At the time of the conference, FOI extension will be have just taken place. This session will have experts on hand to answer any questions you may have about the requirements.

C4 Treasury Management & Funding

Alistair Berwick and Richard Murphy, ATFS

This session from Treasury specialists ATFS will provide an overview of what's happening in treasury management within the sector. With continued focus by the SHR on Governance and Financial Management what should you be doing to ensure you are complying with the regulations and keeping your members up to speed. Alistair and Richard will also look at the latest funding structures being offered by lenders/investors to the sector along with the latest update on market rates.

C5 Legal Clinic

Paul McMahon, McMahon Employment Law

In this session, legal advisors will be on hand to not only outline the main emerging issues over the past year, but also to answer any questions you may have about these and any other issues you'd like to highlight.

Important Notice

This programme is correct at the time of writing. We reserve the right to make alterations or substitutions if necessary. All timings may be subject to change. Views expressed by speakers at the event or in documents or notes provided are their own and may not necessarily be the views of SFHA.

GDPR And Your Privacy

SFHA has an updated privacy policy to ensure it meets GDPR standards. You can view it at www.sfha.co.uk/privacy-policy.

Notice Of Filming

Throughout the conference there may be photography and the photos will be used for SFHA promotion and publicity and on social media. By your attendance at the conference, you acknowledge that you have been informed that you may be photographed or asked for comment as part of the release in promotional material. If you do not wish to be photographed as part of this event, you should inform SFHA staff immediately. Thank you for your cooperation.



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Finance Conference 2019

Workshops

Block D

D1 Learning Across Sectors

David Hourston, Brewin Dolphin

What can we learn from other sectors? Our speaker has worked across several sectors including housing and will discuss learning across sectors and allow a chance for discussion between attendees on their own hints and tips.

D2 The Cost Benefits of Collaboration

*Shirley Robison, Barrhead Housing Association;
Stephen McAvoy, Muirhouse Housing Association*

Collaboration is a housing sector buzzword, but what does it mean in practice? A speaker from FLAIR (the Federation of Local Associations in Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire) will highlight their successes over 30 years of collaboration as well as share any tips for those considering a similar venture. While a speaker from ARCHIE (The Alliance of Registered Co-operatives and Housing Associations, Independent in Edinburgh) will discuss the aims of this new partnership, formed in early 2019.

D3 Balancing Social Purpose and Value for Money

Helen Forsyth, Berwickshire Housing Association

Social purpose and value for money can be considered two sides of the same coin, but how does this work in practice for housing associations who need to run a sustainable business and wish to transform the communities they operate in at the same time? Our speakers will explore what practical steps your organisation can take to achieve this.

D4 How Finance Can Add Value to Other Areas of the Business

Gillian Houston, Arneil Johnston

The role of finance staff goes beyond accounting, but how can the finance function add value to other areas of the business? Examples of this added value include modelling, streamlining operations and providing comprehensive analysis of strategic initiatives. Learn from those who do it best in this session.

D5 Rapid Rehousing and the Impact on the Bottom Line

*Jacqueline Fernie, South Lanarkshire Council;
Stewart Gibb, West of Scotland Housing Association*

The move to Rapid Rehousing for people who are chronically or episodically homeless, combining rapid access to permanent housing with community-based, integrated treatment, rehabilitation and support services has started in Scotland. Overall costs of services used by people experiencing homelessness can be considerable, suggesting the potential for significant cost offsets with rapid rehousing. However, this approach requires a significant 'spend to save' investment. Join this session to learn more about costs – and savings – associated with the shift to rapid rehousing.



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Finance Conference 2019

Book now

Full Delegate (Residential)

Special
Offer:
**Early Bird
Discount**

Early Bird Rate

(until 25 September):

SFHA Members £550	Non Members £870
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Once again we are offering an **early bird discount** rate for residential delegates. To take advantage of this special rate, confirmed bookings must be received by Wednesday 25 September 2019.

Normal Rate

(bookings made on or after 26 September):

SFHA Members £580	Non Members £899
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- Conference attendance on both days
- Lunch and teas/coffees on both days
- Conference dinner on Tuesday evening
- Accommodation (B&B) on Tuesday 12 November

Day Delegate plus dinner

Tuesday 12 November
and Conference Dinner

SFHA Members £319	Non Members £490
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- Conference attendance on Tuesday
- Lunch and teas/coffees on Tuesday
- Conference dinner on Tuesday evening

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Free!

Book three and bring a colleague for free!*

If your organisation books three day delegates you can bring a fourth delegate for free

To receive this discount, please email events@sfha.co.uk and include the names of the booked delegates.

*All delegate places must be booked at the same time and from the same organisation to qualify. This discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount or promotion.

2 Day Delegate

Tuesday & Wednesday

SFHA Members £510	Non Members £820
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**Attend
both days
and save**

Day Delegate

Tuesday 12 November

SFHA Members £285	Non Members £440
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Day Delegate

Wednesday 13 November

SFHA Members £280	Non Members £435
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- Conference attendance on chosen day(s)
- Lunch and tea/coffees on chosen day(s)

Accommodation – B&B

Monday 11 November

SFHA Members and Non Members £109
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