

Report

To: CIPFA LASAAC

From: Ben Matthews, Technical Advisor
Hazel Watton, Technical Manager

Date: 17 April 2024

Subject: Better Reporting Group Update and Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update on the Better Reporting Group and for CIPFA LASAAC to approve the Better Reporting Group updated Terms of Reference.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In the [joint statement](#) issued by DLUHC and other system partners in February 2024 it acknowledged that further longer term work is required to address the systemic challenges that have led to the current local audit backlog. It referenced the re-launch of the Better Reporting Group (BRG) to inform CIPFA LASAAC's strategic plan workstream looking at long-term reforms to financial reporting based on the needs of accounts users.

2. Better Reporting Group re-launch

- 2.1 The BRG has since been re-launched and the first meeting following the re-launch was held on 28 March 2024. There are further meetings scheduled throughout the year and set out below:
- 30 May 2024 (this date is likely to change)
 - 24 October 2024
- 2.2 There are currently eight members of the BRG. There has also been a further expression of interest which is being followed up.
- 2.3 The initial workplan for the BRG included three significant projects, which were:
- BRG Project A: IFRS 16 Presentation and Disclosure
 - BRG Project B: Presentation of Statutory Items/Adjustments
 - BRG Project C: Group Accounts
- 2.4 BRG project A: IFRS 16 Presentation and Disclosure is considered complete following the statement recently issued by CIPFA LASAAC confirming mandatory implementation of IFRS 16 Leases in 2024/25.
- 2.5 The focus of the 28 March meeting was therefore on BRG project B: Presentation of Statutory Items/Adjustments. Papers from the 28 March BRG meeting have been included for information in this Agenda pack.

- 2.6 The remaining items in the workplan will also include consideration of the Redmond review recommendations.

3. Updated Terms of Reference

- 3.1 In earlier meetings the Board has asked for clarity on the relationship between CIPFA LASAAC and the BRG. When considering this and issues for other working groups CIPFA came to the view that the reasons for progressing this as a CIPFA group rather than a CIPFA LASAAC subgroup are not as compelling as previously thought. CIPFA suggests that it would be better to reframe the governance of the Better Reporting Group as a group reporting to CIPFA LASAAC. Suggested updated BRG terms of reference are included at Annex A.

The Secretariat seeks approval from CIPFA LASAAC of the Better Reporting Group updated Terms of Reference.

Recommendations

CIPFA LASAAC is asked to note the Better Reporting Group update and make any comments it sees fit.

CIPFA LASAAC is asked to consider and approve the Better Reporting Group updated Terms of Reference.