**Minutes of the Executive Committee**

**16th April 2021**

**Venue: Private Virtual Meeting**

**SDCT Website:** [**www.cipfa.org/partners/society-of-district-council-treasurers**](http://www.cipfa.org/partners/society-of-district-council-treasurers)

**In Attendance:** Simone Hines (President), Angela George (Secretary), Terry Collier, Adrian Rowbotham, Peter Stuart, Homira Javadi, Sian Moore, Richard Baker, Sal Khan, Simon Freeman, Jenny Poole, Helen Smith

1. **Apologies**: Alan Peach, Alison Scott, Sal Khan, David Stanley, Peter Catchpole, Clare Fletcher, David Heyes, Tracey Bircumshaw.

**Goodbyes**: Alan Peach is retiring in May. The Executive asked for their best wishes to be passed on and thanked Alan for his contributions to the Executive.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meetings and matters arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting of 12th March 2021 were agreed. Any matters arising are considered below on the agenda:

1. **Finance, Budget and COVID Issues**

A general discussion took place on the issues raised by Alex Skinner (MHCLG) at the previous meeting. Key points were:

* Simone to raise frustrations with the ARG guidance to BIES and also to lobby with DCN, particularly around 30th June deadline.
* Simone to also link with Jenny on the issues she has raised for her authority.
* Business Rates Retention – agreed that there should still be some level of incentive for growth but accept that this will be a mixed position and may be difficult to get a single view from districts. Simone to raise with DCN to see what their stance to BRR is going to be.
* Covid Grants – Audit Issues. A paper has been produced by GT and this will be circulated (on SDCT Website)

Alex Skinner will attend the SDCT meeting on 28th May to discuss issues in greater detail.

**Action – Simone**

1. **Audit Issues**

A general discussion on the frustrations and concerns over the ongoing outstanding audit issues which have been well documented, including the delay in completing audits and the level of audit fees.

It was agreed that Alison Scott would be the SDCT representative on the Streamlining the Accounts project.

**Action – Alison**

1. **Consultation Responses:**
   1. **NHB Consultation – submitted by Simone Hines (on SDCT Website)**
   2. **CIPFA Prudential Code – submitted by Adrian Rowbotham (on SDCT Website)**
   3. **CIPFA Treasury Code – submitted by Tracey Bircumshaw (on SDCT Website)**
   4. **UK Infrastructure Bank – HM Treasury**

Simone updated the Executive on a meeting between some members of the Executive and HM Treasury and relevant slides were circulated. Itt was agreed that the proposals were at an early stage of development and the HMT team would be invited back to a future meeting of the Executive once the proposals were more advanced.

* 1. **MHGLG / LGA Round Table 23rd March**

Terry Collier and Glen Hammons circulated a note of the key issues for discussion at the meeting on 23rd March on the subject of ‘SR2021 and beyond’. It was agreed that Richard Bates would substitute for Glen for any follow up.

Adrian and Alison would be attending the next Roundtable on 27th April (subject Local Welfare), and Tracey and Sal would attend on 20th May (subject Local Government Finance Reform)

1. **Member Issues**
   1. Advisor Areas and support – there are several changes required following Mark, Glenn and Alan leaving the SDCT Executive.

**Action – Angela to progress**

* 1. **Second Vice President Vacancy**

Following Mark’s departure, Alison was now the VP and so the 2nd VP is now vacant. Anyone interested should please express an interest to Simone / Angela**.**

**Action - All**

1. **Any Other Business -** 
   1. **CIPFA CPD Requirement’s for CFO’s –**A template will be produced to be completed by CFO’s.

**Action - Simone**

* 1. **CIPFA Pensions Panel –** Jenny gave an update and stressed the importance of CFO’s obtaining competent skills around pension issues.
  2. **Reserves (MHCLG) –** Terry and Simone will take part in this discussion with MHCLG

**Action – Simone and Terry to feed back.**

* 1. **Breathing Space –** The Executive discussed concerns and preparations for the start of this scheme from 4th May
  2. **Potential Annual Meeting for wider membership** – A proposed date is still awaited for this.

**Action - Angela**

**Action – Angela**

1. **Date of Next Scheduled Meeting:**

**28th May 2021 (Virtual)**