CIPFA North West Society

**Presidents Blog – May 2016**

**CIPFA Council Election Results**

Well I didn’t get elected to CIPFA Council this time but congratulations to my regional colleagues Ken Finch from Wales and Jane Cuthbertson from North East who did get elected. I know they are well deserving of it as they work tirelessly to support members and students. Even though I didn’t get elected I did get 495 votes which is amazing, so a big thank you to everyone who voted for me. Within the region we spend a huge amount of our own time in organising events, supporting members and students, writing articles, establishing initiatives like mentoring and contributing to developing CIPFA centrally so it really does mean a lot that this has been recognised, not just for me personally but for the whole region.

**Resource Directors Network (RDN)**

I had a discussion with Cliff Dalton from CIPFA last year about establishing a Regional Resources Directors Network. A few years ago the NW Region had a Senior Management Group which was a Chatham House rules group for CFO’s to discuss items relating to their own organisations and share information on a best practice type basis. This group had become more or less defunct as the regional CFO’s meetings among LA’s duplicated this. However as the role of CFO is changing with more becoming Resource Directors, it is recognised that this role may not include the s151 responsibilities and therefore these positions may not be held by qualified accountants.

We have identified a need therefore for a wider network that considers not only finance issues but other resources e.g. property, IT, HR, Legal etc and to provide a safe environment for them to discuss items that might impact them in these areas. After a while of planning we are in a position now to start developing what this will look like so keep your eyes out for further information on this as it will be a good support mechanism for RD’s.

**CIPFA Mentoring**

We’ve been thinking about mentoring quite a bit in the North West and are starting to formulate something of a plan. We recognise that as students you sometimes need some extra support, whether it’s to support your studies or to help in the workplace. Likewise newly qualified members often find themselves promoted to quite senior roles once a member of CIPFA and in some cases might not have the relevant experience to deal with some of the issues. While organisational HR policies are in place to support you often an independent ear helps just to talk things through. With our mentoring policy we aim to provide this support to you to ensure

you feel supported throughout your career journey. Some well-established members have also mentioned that they might well benefit from this approach as having a coach can help immensely during your career. I’ve enquired round the other regions to see whether they have formalised anything like this and so far it doesn’t sound as though they have. I think for starters a database of willing mentors and subjects would be a good starting point and then we can formulate some sort of process to match people together. If you would like to take part, let us know at [CIPFANWNW@cipfa.org](mailto:CIPFANWNW@cipfa.org) and we can start to build up a valuable network

**Decided whether you’re in or out yet?**

I’ve been reading about Brexit or Bremain quite a bit and I think I’ve made

my mind up. CIPFA Thinks have produced some good literature to help

you decide. Their publication Treuble and Strife is a good read and a summary

of the key issues can be found on the website:

<http://www.cipfa.org/cipfa-thinks/eu-referendum/introduction-to-the-report>

**Future event planning**

When we organise events we always try to have a variety of speakers covering a breadth of topics, but are they really the topics that matter to you most? If there are any topics or speakers that you would like to see at our events then let us know and we can see about arranging this. The events we hold are for your benefit so we need to make sure that for the cost and time away from the office that we are providing the most value for you

**12 July 2016** – free Pre-Conference event at Manchester Central. Click on the link below to book on: <http://www.cipfa.org/training/c/challenges-and-opportunties-what-will-you-change-after-today-20160712-manchester> or email cipfanwnw@cipfa.org



**13 – 14 July 2016** CIPFA National Conference at Manchester Central. Join us on the regional stand to meet our regional council, taste some excellent regional produce and enter our special NW based quiz, in theory NW members should have the advantage over the rest of the delegates…..

**And finally…..**

On a bit of a go slow in May although while everyone was working away on the elections I was having a bit of a jolly at Chester Races. It’s a bit of a tradition for me to go on Ladies Day as I’ve been going for almost 20 years. As usual though the bookies were the winners on the day but the sun shone so I didn’t complain.

**Shaer**

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