

REGULATION AND SUPPORTING MEMBERS

CIPFA SUPPORTS MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

Regulation

- In May 2006, CIPFA's Council adopted the International Federation of Accountants' (IFAC) Code of Ethics for all members and students. The code, together with a foreword highlighting and interpreting ethical issues from a public sector perspective, form the new CIPFA Statement of Professional Practice (SOPP) on Ethics and is available from: www.cipfa.org.uk/conduct/ethics.cfm. CIPFA also published a booklet, *Ethics and You*, which was sent to all members and students. It contains an explanation of the ethical challenges facing finance professionals, the safeguards that help to counter them, and a suite of case studies that illustrate the dilemmas that people may face during their careers. A dedicated e-helpline can be accessed through the CIPFA website.
- A bilateral protocol has been agreed between CIPFA and the Charity Commission, which enables the exchange of information and referral of poor practice between both organisations. Under the agreement, CIPFA has a transparent mechanism through which to consider whether to refer any matters to the Commission for consideration; and the Commission is able to refer any cases of poor practice by CIPFA members to CIPFA for appropriate action within the disciplinary scheme. Such cases are thankfully rare, but it is nevertheless critically important for public confidence that they are speedily referred and acted upon by both organisations. Further details about the protocol can be found at: www.cipfa.org.uk/conduct/index.cfm.

Support

- CIPFA extended access to the online CIPFA Learning Centre (CLC) to students during 2006. Students can use

the interactive service to help them make the most of their work experience and improve their technical management and leadership skills and performance. The CLC can be found at: <http://learning.cipfa.org.uk>. Launched in 2005, the CLC was initially only available to members for planning, recording and taking forward their Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The CLC is a knowledge base which provides members and students with a management and leadership toolkit and a comprehensive database of authoritative accounting and finance material.

The toolkit offers a wide range of practical guidance and advice to help increase knowledge and improve personal effectiveness. Topics covered include: getting the most out of performance reviews; career management; designing an induction programme; delivering excellent customer service; turning vacancies into opportunities; creating the right impression at interviews; running a successful project; helping the team adjust to change; introducing coaching in an organisation; and adapting leadership styles. It provides a range of learning tools including: checklists; worksheets; handouts; diagnostics; hints and tips; references to further reading; and, web links to other useful resources. The database of technical accounting and finance material is categorised using CIPFA's Statement of Expertise. Students can access information under the topic areas of:

- Leadership and strategic management;
 - Strategic and operational financial management;
 - Financial and performance reporting;
 - Governance, ethics and values;
 - Audit and accountability;
 - Partnerships and stakeholder relations;
 - Change, risk and project management; and
 - Procurement and contract management.
- CIPFA launched a new website service which provides members and students with answers to the questions



most frequently put to its Technical Enquiry Service (TES). Available at www.cipfa.org.uk/pt/technical_faq.cfm, the new website is designed to be the first point of contact for people looking for fast and accurate answers to the most frequently asked questions. The site is in addition to the TES email and telephone enquiry service.

- Continuing the series of guides on particular parts of the public sector, a new guide to Central Government Finance and Financial Management was published. CIPFA published 28 new titles in 2006 and has a back catalogue of over 200 titles. Publications can be purchased through the CIPFA shop www.cipfa.org.uk. To get the latest information about CIPFA's publications and events direct to your PC, you can subscribe to the CIPFA shop e-newsletter.
- CIPFA has established a strategic partnership with the National School of Government, with the aim of pooling the resources of the two organisations to develop a range of training products and services in the areas of finance and governance. The partnership places emphasis on developing accredited and qualification-based training programmes to provide core financial skills training and professional development to staff in centres of government throughout the UK. It builds on CIPFA's aim to provide professional accountancy training throughout the Civil Service, and is in addition to the successful fast track programme for senior civil servants, being delivered in partnership with Warwick Business School.

CIPFA AND THE REGIONS

- CIPFA in Scotland celebrated its centenary in 2006 with a number of special events. In September, the Scotland Branch hosted the Conference for the Regions in Glasgow, which was attended by over 100 regional volunteers.

- CIPFA Northern Ireland has relocated to brand new offices at 3rd floor, Lesley Exchange 2, 22 East Bridge Street, Belfast BT1 3NR. As well as providing improved accommodation for the 16-strong team, the office has an excellent training suite.
- CIPFA regional volunteers continue to work hard at improving their communications with members. CIPFA in North West and North Wales received the CIPFA regional website of the year award for their innovative site, which has led to site visits doubling. The site can be accessed at www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/nw/index.cfm
- CIPFA's regions have been engaged in a project to increase the provision of high value, low cost local events to support the development of CIPFA members and students. Significant success was achieved in 2006 with a 28% increase in the number of members and students attending local and regional events.

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

- In 2006 628 voluntary roles were carried out in support of CIPFA's objective of Regulation and Supporting Members. Members, students and non-members contributed to the disciplinary scheme, continuing professional development and a myriad of regional activities. CIPFA is indebted to all those who contributed to its work.
- The Dr Hedley Marshall CBE Memorial award is a special award recognising outstanding service to CIPFA regional activities. The 2006 winner was Leslie Piper for her tireless work for CIPFA in the Midlands.