
CIPFA Cymru Wales Regional Executive: Annual Report 2015

CIPFA in Wales: leading, shaping and driving public services, financial management and governance in Wales

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President's introduction



I was delighted to be elected President of CIPFA Cymru Wales at last year's AGM. My first year in this role has passed very quickly: it has been an interesting, challenging and enjoyable year.

It has been a year of change and progress for CIPFA, both centrally and at the Wales level.

CIPFA continues to expand internationally; it now has more trainees outside the UK than within it. In order to allow CIPFA to be better placed to meet the challenges of a being a truly global organisation, in July 2015 CIPFA members voted to restructure the Council and revise other aspects of CIPFA's governance. In future it will consist predominantly of elected representatives who are regionally based rather than sector based as at present, thus facilitating a greater focus on regional matters. The Council will also concentrate on strategic issues, with a CIPFA Board taking on the more day to day management matters. The aim to of the changes are to strengthen CIPFA's governance structure, while improving the transparency of how Council operates,

The changes also means that the Board for the Regions, on which Wales, in common with the other regions, was represented, has been abolished, to be replaced by a more informal forum for networking and exchanging good practices.

At a Wales level we have seen CIPFA's activities develop in a number of respects. The CIPFA 'family' in Wales consists of the CIPFA Cymru Wales Region, the Devolved Government Team (which deals predominantly with policy and technical issues) and the CIPFA Cymru Wales Office that promotes CIPFA's business activities in Wales. Support is also provided by CIPFA centrally, particularly in the context of professional training.

During 2015 CIPFA won the tender to provide professional training for financial trainees in the NHS in Wales. This has been a significant success for CIPFA, which will allow us to reinvigorate our professional training offer in

Wales. Courses will start in autumn 2016 in Cardiff. These courses will be open to trainees from all organisations not just the NHS.

CIPFA has also been developing its capacity to better inform and comment on the development of public finance policy in the Welsh public sector. During 2015 CIPFA's Devolved Government Team responded to Welsh Government consultations on the Local Government (Wales) Bill and the Green Paper 'Our Health, Our Health Service', submitted comments to the National Assembly's Finance Committee inquiry on the future funding of Wales' public services. Finally, a briefing paper on Welsh public finances which included a 'Balance Sheet for Wales' was produced. Further details will be found in the Head of Devolved Government's report on page 17.

The CIPFA Wales Office has continued to raise CIPFA's profile and presence in Wales. During 2015 its activities included: supporting the Independent Commission of Local Government Finance chaired by Professor Tony Travers;

- undertaking with KPMG a project for the Welsh government on identifying and assessing the opportunities and options for administrative costs in local government; and
- delivering a range of training events.

Further details will be found in the Head of CIPFA Cymru Wales' report on page 19.

As in previous year we have provided a varied range of free CPD events during the year, arranging events across South, East and Mid Wales (See appendix A for more details.) These events covered topics as diverse as the current economic situation facing the UK, the implications on public bodies of new EU procurement regulations regeneration and the changing roles of financial managers.

It is also pleasing to see the CIPFA South Wales Retired Members' Section continue to thrive; in 2015 their programme of events included a river Tawe boat cruise, visits to Abergavenny Museum and the Millennium Centre. (See appendix A for more details.)

I attended their annual lunch in November 2015 and it was very pleasant event which gave me the opportunity to catch up CIPFA members whom I hadn't seen for many years.

The CIPFA Cymru Wales annual conference and dinner was held in the prestigious surroundings of Cardiff City Hall on 26 November 2015. The Conference theme was 'Improving performance - it's not just about the numbers. Conference speakers included Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Finance, Huw Vaughan Thomas, the Auditor General for Wales, Lynne Pamment from PwC and Andy Burns, Director of Resources from Staffordshire County Council.

The evening started with a drinks reception, which was followed by a fabulous dinner. The guest speaker was Richard Parks who provided a fascinating talk on how he had overcome the injury that had led to the early demise of his rugby career to become an extreme environment athlete.

During the Dinner John Matheson, CIPFA president, presented Sian Thomas and Selena Hardie with volunteer of the year awards in recognition of their support over the years to CIPFA in Wales

Our nominated charity for the year was the World Medical Fund for Children which provides medical care to children in rural Malawi. A raffle held at the dinner raised £540. Through donating the money via the 'Big give' which matched our donation, inclusive of gift aid tax relief we managed to raise a total of £1,215.

The 2015 annual conference and dinner built on the success of previous years. Some 100 people attended the conference while 80 attended the dinner. It was really good to see so many CIPFA members gathered together, learning, networking and enjoying themselves. The number attending show how far CIPFA Cymru Wales has developed as a region over the past five years.

Financially, the year has been a success for the Region; we had budgeted to break even, but following the success of our conference and dinner, we generated a surplus of just over £2,700, which will be used to fund additional free CPD events in future years (further details of our finances will be found in page 15.

We are half way through our 2014-2016 strategy period. We have made significant progress in achieving the objectives set out in the strategy, but recognise that not all of these have been met yet. Our priorities for 2016 include:

- assisting the recruitment of new students and building a support mechanism to support students and qualified members;
- increasing CIPFA's visibility and its voice in Wales; and
- Improving communication and joint working between CIPFA officers and the Regional Executive Committee.
- An updated strategy covering the period 2016 to 2018 will be developed later this year.

Our 2016 events programme is underway and the 2016 annual conference and dinner will take place on 24 November 2016, again in Cardiff. We have developed links with Professional Associations at Swansea Business School, with the aim of promoting joint CPD sessions in future years. We will also seek to provide free CPD sessions in North and West Wales.

Finally I would like to thank all CIPFA Cymru Wales Executive members for their hard work and enthusiasm during the year and for freely giving their time to the Executive Committee. Many thanks once again to Arthur Thomas who works tirelessly to deliver an excellent programme for our retired Members.

A particular thanks goes to Leigh Brook of Caerphilly County Borough Council for her superb work in supporting our annual conference and dinner, and to her employer for allowing her to do this work.



Iolo Llewelyn CPFA,

CIPFA Cymru Wales Regional President

E mail: President.cymruwales@cipfa.org

CIPFA Cymru Wales Regional Executive

Regional Executive members

The CIPFA Cymru Wales Regional Executive consists of elected and co-opted Members along with the Head of CIPFA Cymru Wales. The term of office for elected members is two years, running until March 2017; co-opted members are appointed annually.

Elected Members 2015 - 2017

Iolo Llewelyn, President and past member of Board for the Regions

Iolo is Governance Manager at the Wales Audit Office. Prior to his current role Iolo was Head of the Wales Audit Office's Quality Assurance, Accounting and Audit Support Function, and an audit manager responsible for a portfolio of NHS and local government audits. He qualified with CIPFA in 1990, and in 2011 he completed the CIPFA/ICAEW certificate in International Public Sector Reporting Standards. Iolo is a member of CIPFA's TIS Governance Panel and past member of its Audit and Accountancy Standards Panel.

Rhian Evans, Vice President

Rhian works at Wrexham County Borough Council as a Finance Business Partner. She has held a number of positions in local government finance and was a member of the project management team for the North Wales Education Consortia to develop a business case for a North Wales Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service which is now operating as GwE. Rhian began working for Meirionnydd District Council in 1989 as a Graduate Trainee Accountant and in 1993 qualified as a CIPFA member and moved to Wrexham Maelor Borough Council. She was a member of the CIPFA Wales Forum prior to the establishment of the all-Wales Region in March 2011 and was the inaugural Regional Treasurer.

John Dwight, Secretary

John retired from the Wales Audit Office in April 2015, where he had been an audit manager responsible for the financial audits at NHS, central and local government bodies. He was appointed as a trustee at the George Thomas Hospice Care charity in September 2015, and has continued to act as the Regional Secretary since his retirement. He was a member of the CIPFA Wales

Forum prior to the establishment of the all-Wales Region in March 2011 and qualified with CIPFA some 20 years ago.

Rebecca Nelson, Treasurer

Rebecca has worked for PwC for over twelve years having joined as a graduate in 2002. Rebecca is a first class honours graduate from Manchester University and a qualified with CIPFA in 2005.

Rebecca is a senior manager who specialises in the public sector. She has experience in external audit, internal audit and performance audit in a variety of sectors, including education, charities, local government and the NHS. She has recently completed a six month secondment to PwC's London offices to work as part of the technical accounting team that supports the national PwC public sector practice. As part of this role, Rebecca contributed to PwC's new publication Manual of Accounting: New UK GAAP. She also co-wrote PwC's response to the new Education SORP, the new Housing SORP and the new Charities SORP.

Gill Lewis, Immediate Past President, Elected Council member and past Chair of the Board for the Regions

Gill is a Business Consultant specialising in the public sector. She has recently been appointed as the Chair of the Public Services Staff Commission in Wales, and is on the Independent Commission for Local Government Finance in Wales. Gill has held a number of senior roles in a number of local authorities in Wales and Aneurin Bevan Health Board. Prior to joining Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Gill was a Senior Partner in the Wales Audit Office. Gill has been involved in volunteering for many years and has served on National Council and various Committees for 5 years and is past Chair of Board for the Regions. She was one of the inaugural members of the CIPFA Cymru Wales Executive and held the position of Chair during 2006/7.

Tony Hagland

Tony joined Blaenau Gwent Borough Council in 1989 and initially worked on the implementation of Community Charge before transferring to the Accountancy Division in 1990. After studying for AAT, he qualified with CIPFA in 2000, gaining a national Prize for the final year. Tony is currently employed as Chief Accountant (Corporate Services) at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, having worked on statutory accounts and returns for over 20 years. As part of the CPD required for this post, he obtained the CIPFA/ICAEW certificate in International Public Sector Financial Reporting in 2011. In March 2014, Tony joined the CIPFA Cymru Wales executive committee

Steven O'Donoghue, Regional Representative on CIPFA Council, Member of CIPFA Audit Committee

Steve was appointed Director of Finance & HR of the Wales Audit Office in April 2014 and is a member of the Management Committee. Steve was previously Head of Resources and Director of Finance at the National Assembly for Wales Commission. Prior to joining the Assembly in 2005, Steve spent six years as Financial Controller of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and, before that, ten years in finance roles in the Vale of Glamorgan Council and South Glamorgan County Council. Steve became a CIPFA member in 2000. He is an active volunteer in CIPFA Cymru Wales and was the inaugural Wales Region President 2011-13. Steve is now the Regional Representative for Wales 2014-16 on CIPFA Council and a member of CIPFA's Audit Committee.

Tony Era

Tony works as a Financial Auditor for the Wales Audit Office. His role involves undertaking audit engagements across a wide variety of Public Sector bodies within Wales. Tony completed his CIPFA studies in 2015 and has been volunteering with the Region since 2013. He is also the Welsh representative on the CIPFA Student Network.

Kavita Gnanaolivu (resigned December 2015)

Kavita works as a manager for Ernst and Young since joining in 2013. Prior to this, she worked as a Principal Finance Manager in Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. She has worked for Cardiff and Vale UHB for over 10 years having joined as an NHS financial management graduate trainee. She qualified as a doctor in 2000 before deciding to join the NHS graduate training programme in 2001 and gained her CIPFA qualifications in December 2004. Since then she has worked in financial planning, reporting and financial management. She is also a member of the Health Financial Management Association, Wales Committee as Financial Management Research Chair.

Gerard Moore

Gerard, who lives in Flintshire, retired from his role of Financial Controller at Merseyside Pension Fund in June 2011, but continues his involvement in pensions. He acts as a pension fund consultant on governance issues, and recently has been appointed as independent chair of three local pension boards, and provides training at various CIPFA Pensions Network events.

He also serves in a voluntary capacity, both as a member of the CIPFA Pensions Network Advisory Panel and by representing the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) on a specific aspect of institutional investing. In addition, he co-chairs the Corporate Governance Group at the International Securities Lending Association.

Lynne Flux (resigned December 2015)

Lynne is currently the Head of Process Enabling in the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW), which she took up in April 2013 following a three year stint at the National Assembly for Wales as their first Head of Internal Audit. Lynne started her career in the National Audit Office, qualifying in 1988 and moved into the NHS in 1994. She has held a number of positions in finance and corporate governance as well as international audit experience in the UN administration in Geneva and the Office of the Auditor General in Perth, Western Australia. She moved to Wales in 2004 with her husband and two children and worked in a number of roles in the health sector before joining the National Assembly for Wales in 2009.

Ken Finch

Ken started in local government with Merseyside County Council where he qualified with CIPFA in 1981. Moves to Chester City Council and Aberconwy BC saw his career progress to include being Aberconwy's last Chief Executive in 1996. Reorganisation involved being appointed as Director of Financial Services and he has a number of appointments subsequently including 18 months as Acting Chief Executive. Ken was a Finance adviser to the WLGA for a number of years. Ken has been involved with Institute matters since 1993 as a P3 Project Examiner and various roles with the then NWNW Society, including holding the offices of Chairman, President and Regional Representative to Council. When Wales took on its own identity he was proud to have been the inaugural Chair of the former CIPFA Wales Forum. Ken served on National Council and its Boards/Committees for 11 years and also served as the Chair of the Board for the Regions.

Tom Bowring

Tom works as the Operational Manager for Policy & Performance at the Vale of Glamorgan Council. His role involves managing the Council's policy, performance and transformational change teams. During his CIPFA studies, Tom won prizes for the highest scores in audit and business strategy papers and achieved the overall highest score at the strategic stage of the professional qualification in 2014. Tom has been volunteering with the Region since 2015.

Co-opted Members 2015

Lisa Young

Lisa is the Global Product Manager for Public Sector within UNIT4. Prior to this Lisa spent over 26 years in the public sector holding a number of roles within finance, commercial and audit both within local government and central government. Her most recent role prior to joining UNIT4 was within the Cabinet Office where she was part of the Next Generation Shared Services agenda. She qualified with CIPFA in 1997.

Sheila Crossley

Sheila is Head of Accounting and Tax at the Welsh Government. She is responsible for producing the Welsh Government's financial accounts and co-ordinating the Whole of Government Accounts across the Welsh public sector on behalf of HM Treasury. Sheila is also Deputy Head of Accounting Profession for the Welsh Government, and promotes financial training and CPD for over 120 qualified staff, and runs the finance graduate trainee programme. Sheila has recently been a member of a working group on the Accounting and Tax Trailblazer project, representing the UK public sector as an employer group. Sheila began her career in the private sector working for Shell Chemicals UK Ltd, and then Shell Chemicals International Trading Company working as a business partner for three manufacturing groups. This involved capital investment appraisals, cost accounting modelling and financial systems implementation. She then moved to Wales and worked in the training and enterprise sector before transferring into the Welsh Government.

Beverley Peatling

Beverley qualified in 1992 whilst working for Newport Borough Council in a range of accountancy and audit roles. She joined South Wales Police in 2001 as Head of Accountancy Services and has recently been appointed Director of Corporate Governance & Performance for the Older People's Commissioner of Wales. CIPFA volunteering has played an important and fulfilling role for Beverley, she was a P3 Project examiner for 5 years, sat on Regional Council for a number of years, was one of the inaugural members of CIPFA Cymru Wales executive and held the position of Chair during 2008/9. Beverley has recently been co-opted back on to the Regional Executive Committee and is keen to contribute to the great work that is being done by the volunteer network. Beverley is a keen mountain and coastal walker, loves travel and enjoys a very busy and active life with her husband and their four children.

Gratitude to employers

We express our sincere thanks to the employers of the Executive members, without whose support so much of what we do would not be possible:

- Wales Audit Office
- Wrexham County Borough Council
- Cabinet Office
- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales
- Ernst and Young
- Unit 4
- PWC
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Welsh Government
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
- Vale of Glamorgan Council

Attendance at Regional Executive meetings 2015

Attendance at Regional Executive meetings during 2015 is set out below:

Role	Name	13/03/15 AGM	21/04/15	24/06/15	17/09/15	12/11/15	3 & 4/12/15
President	Iolo Llewelyn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vice president	Rhian Evans	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Secretary	John Dwight	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Treasurer	Rebecca Nelson	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Executive member1	Tony Hagland	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Executive member 2	Steve O'Donoghue	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
Executive member3	Tony Era	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓
Executive member 4	Kavita Gnanaolivu (resigned December 2015)	x	x	✓	x	x	
Executive member 5	Gerard Moore	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Executive member 6	Lynne Flux (resigned December 2015)	x	✓	✓	✓	x	
Executive member 7	Ken Finch	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓
Executive member 8	Tom Bowring	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓
Past President	Gill Lewis	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
Co-option 1	Lisa Young (from April 2015)	.	.	x	✓	x	✓
Co-option 2	Sheila Crossley (from April 2015)	.	.	x	✓	✓	✓
Co-option 3	Beverley Peatling (from November 2015)	✓	✓

Regional Activity in 2015

Regional activity expectations have been set by the Board for the Regions; the following table shows how we performed against these during 2015:

Activity expectation

- At least 10 hours of CPD, of which 4 hours will be a networking opportunity
- At least one student event
- An up-to-date and relevant website

Performance in Wales

Achieved. Four free CPD events and annual conference held during 2015, attracting over 200 participants.

Students were invited to attend our annual conference for no charge.

In place, web-site used to advertise conferences and events, although the Regional Executive acknowledges that it needs to do more to keep this up-to-date.

Our thanks go to Neal Frost of Wrexham County Borough Council for continuing as our website co-ordinator.

- At least one other communication with members and students (this could include Spreadsheet)

Wales articles in every edition of Spreadsheet.

Newsletter issued in January 2015.

- At least one employer engagement event

Regional representation at various employee meetings organised by CIPFA Business Development Department

The full list of 2015 free CPD events is in Appendix A.

In addition to the above, the South Wales Retired Members Section held five events during the year, attracting 81 participants. At the Annual Lunch Kelvin Redwood was presented with his CIPFA Cymru Wales "80 Club 2015" Award

The Regional Executive would like record its thanks to Arthur Thomas for his enthusiasm in maintaining the South Wales Retired Members Section and their activities.

Financial summary

The financial year for the CIPFA Cymru Wales Region is January 1st to December 31st which aligns with the other CIPFA Regions. The audited Annual Accounts, prepared by our Treasurer, Rebecca Nelson, set out the Region's income and expenditure. Headlines are as follows:

- The Region received an annual subvention of £4,603 from CIPFA in 2015 which was based on the number of CIPFA Members and Students in Wales as at 1 January 2015. The subvention reduced by £31 from the amount received in 2014.
- Total incoming resources increased from £9,935 in 2014 to £16,903 in 2015 while resources expended increased from £12,202 to £14,403. The increase in incoming resources was due to the decision to charge for attendance at our annual conference and the larger numbers attending the annual dinner.
- The opening balance as at 1st January 2015 for the Region was £6,601. In accordance with our policy, we had budgeted to break even for the year in order to maintain balances at this level, which we had judged to be prudent. However following the success of the conference and dinner, we produced a surplus for the year of £2,702. This surplus will allow us to provide additional free CPD events to members in future years.

We are grateful to CIPFA member David Rees for auditing the Region's accounts.

We are also grateful for the in-kind support provided by our CPD event sponsors. We estimate this to be somewhere in the region of £1,500 for the year, which covered venue and facilities hire, refreshments and speakers where charges were not passed on to CIPFA Cymru Wales.

The CIPFA Cymru Wales Strategy

The Region has an agreed vision - that CIPFA in Wales will be leading, shaping and driving public services, financial management and governance in Wales.

In achieving this, we aimed to see, by 2016:

- A thriving membership with a thriving student base;
- Increased CIPFA profile in Wales;
- A seamless link between the Institute and CIPFA Cymru Wales Office and Region.

The Executive's focus has been on establishing strong foundations for the future sustainability of the CIPFA Cymru Wales Region and to work towards the aims for 2016.

Whilst we acknowledge that not all our plans have been achieved, we have set out our business plan for 2016, with renewed priorities for the year and will update the strategy and priorities again in late 2016 to cover the period 2016 to 2018.

Our priorities for 2016 can be summarised as follows:

Theme 1 – A vibrant and engagement members with a well-supported student and newly qualified base

- Maintaining a regular events programme and communication with members
- Assisting in the recruitment new students and building a support mechanism for students and newly qualified members

Theme 2 – CIPFA's profile in Wales

- Increasing the Institute's visibility and voice in Wales
- Increasing the influence of the Region, its executive and members

Theme 3 – A seamless link between the Institute, Devolved Government Team, CIPFA Cymru Wales Office and Region

- Clarifying roles and responsibilities of the Regional Executive and CIPFA Officers
- Improving communication and joint working between CIPFA Officers and the Regional Executive

We are dependent on having a number of ‘volunteers’ as members of the Executive, who are able to commit some of their time to delivering and supporting these activities. The Annual General Meeting and election of officers and members of the Regional Executive provide an opportunity to renew this pool of volunteers. We will also use our ability to ‘co-opt’ members to ensure we gain as wide a spread of skills and experience as possible.

Devolved Government Team

One of CIPFA’s three stated strategic objectives is to promote CIPFA’s policy voice and raise the profile of the Institute as an expert commentator. In Wales in 2015, the Institute’s profile was raised with the issue of four policy papers which sought to influence the public finance agenda in Wales. In March, CIPFA responded to the Welsh Government’s consultation on the Local Government (Wales) Bill. This was the first of the Institute’s contributions to this high profile policy issue, having previously worked with the WLGA to quantify the likely costs of local government reorganisation.

In June 2015, CIPFA submitted comments to the Finance Committee of the National Assembly for Wales. The Committee was undertaking an inquiry into the future funding of Wales’ public services. The Institute’s comments were framed around the limitations of the borrowing framework. Specifically CIPFA commented on the current funding settlement for Wales and the prescribed borrowing limits set by the UK Government which were already significantly lower than levels of affordable borrowing in local government in Wales. We noted that a prescribed level of borrowing sets limits on the fiscal levers available to the Welsh Government. The submission drew attention to the possibility of borrowing supported by a prudential management regime which is evident in local government. CIPFA commented that the funding through the mechanism of the Barnett Formula was inconsistent with a position of further devolution of tax powers to devolved administrations. The formal CIPFA position on the formula advocates a position where further resource allocation across the UK should be principles based, transparent,

accountable and should seek to address relative need as well as promotion of equity.

This submission was followed up with an invitation to CIPFA from the Committee to provide oral evidence at the Committee's June meeting.

In November 2015 the Health Service in Wales was the subject of CIPFA's comments with a response to the Welsh Government Green Paper, 'Our Health, Our Health Service'. Borrowing arrangements again came under the spotlight, with CIPFA supporting the view that borrowing powers should be available to NHS bodies, including health boards in Wales, together with the establishment of a prudential borrowing framework. CIPFA went on to note that there is a need for borrowing powers by NHS bodies by a legislative framework that would underpin the control of borrowing and ensure future financial sustainability.

Crucially, CIPFA also considered that the roles of those charged with governance and those charged with financial management and accountability for preparation of budgets and estimates will need to be supplemented with clearly stated responsibilities for any enhanced borrowing arrangements.

CIPFA also believed that leadership, governance and partnerships were key areas for consideration in the Green Paper. Working across organisational boundaries and through partnership or collaborative working arrangements requires careful consideration of the supporting governance arrangements. In devolving the appropriate codes of governance for NHS bodies in Wales, CIPFA advocated incorporation of the principles contained in the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and CIPFA publication 'International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector' in order to promote a consistent framework and culture across the sector. CIPFA also stated its belief that it was essential for good governance in Wales that Chairs and board members to exercise leadership and have the necessary skills and training to allow them to complete their scrutiny and challenge role effectively.

Finally, in November 2015 to coincide with the annual conference, CIPFA produced a briefing paper on Welsh public finances. The briefing paper was aimed at promoting better financial reporting of public services in Wales and included a 'Balance Sheet for Wales'. For the first time, the assets and liabilities of the devolved public services in Wales were quantified and reported. CIPFA was able to estimate that the devolved public sector in

Wales owns or controlled assets of around £42bn, most of which was represented by the roads network in Wales. It was estimated that public sector pensions form around 63% of overall liabilities currently recognised in Wales and was identified by CIPFA as the most significant liability to be met in future.

Each of the papers was accompanied by media releases again with the aim of raising CIPFA' profile within public services in Wales. This was an area of success for CIPFA in Wales in 2015 and plans will be developed further by the Region and CIPFA's Devolved Government Team to ensure that CIPFA continues to be recognised as an expert commentator on public management and finances in Wales.

CIPFA Wales Office

The Public Sector landscape in Wales dominated much of the conversation and activity during 2015 and CIPFA's involvement was evident. The changes emerging (and those to emerge) around financial devolution and local government reorganisation are being considered against a backdrop of budgetary constraint at a national and local level and a significant increase in service demand. This, along with uncertainty and the potential for change, makes financial, service and resource planning difficult and ensuring business as usual critical.



CIPFA activity in 2015 has taken many forms, each of these supporting our purpose in championing strong public sector financial management and governance.

At a national level:

- CIPFA has supported and advised the Independent Commission of Local Government Finance chaired by Professor Tony Travers, which is due to report in the next couple of months.
- CIPFA along with KPMG undertook a project for the Welsh Government on identifying and assessing the opportunities and options for administrative costs in local government.
- Following the KPMG/CIPFA study, CIPFA became a member of the Resource Efficiency Group to develop an approach to taking options forward.

Training and development:

- CIPFA will now deliver professional finance training (from 2016) to the NHS in Wales. This builds on our success in other parts of the UK and means that delivery returns to Wales.
- CIPFA along with the Society of Welsh Treasurers developed a leadership programme for senior finance staff, the first cohort is nearing completion. The initiative recognises the need to develop resilience, value and profile of finance. The second cohort is now being planned.
- CIPFA's Counter Fraud Centre has delivered a number of sessions in Wales both at a local level and for the Welsh Government.

The CIPFA Cymru Wales annual conference continues to go from strength to strength. Its agenda and contributors places CIPFA at the heart of the public sector debate in Wales. This year's key note address from the Finance Minister Jane Hutt AM recognised the role CIPFA has to play in Wales and it was also an opportunity to recognise the Minister's honorary membership of CIPFA.

CIPFA continues to develop its training in Wales with a blend of accredited, on site and open training events. 2015 saw training attracting significant delegate numbers.

The Institute's presence, voice and guidance have been sought during the year and increased significantly over the last year. Conversations and engagement at all levels within the Wales public sector continue to develop. Rob Whiteman the Institute's CEO is regularly in Wales and is an advisor to Public Services Wales 2025 and will address the WLGAs conference in June 2016.

Elections for the National Assembly for Wales take place in May 2016. The political make up, a government term starting, the agenda being set and the impact on the public services in Wales will all be determined. The financial and service challenges will not go away the key will be how organisations and individuals approach these to deliver a sustainable public sector and CIPFA will play its role.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Tidswell', with a horizontal line underneath.

Chris Tidswell - Head of CIPFA Wales

How CIPFA members in Wales can help

There are many ways that members across Wales can help:

- As an active member:
 - follow Regional matters and tell us what you want and if what we're doing is helping you;
 - attend CPD events; and
 - if you'd like to become more involved with the work of the Executive or create/join a special interest group, please contact the Regional President: President.cymruwales@cipfa.org
- As a CIPFA 'ambassador':
 - encourage CIPFA colleagues to participate;
 - encourage colleagues to study for CIPFA;
 - if you're a line-manager, allow CIPFA members in your team to have time to support CIPFA activities; and
 - contact the Head of CIPFA Wales if there are policy matters you think he should be aware of: chris.tidswell@cipfa.org
- As part of the CPD network:
 - offer to host events – we can source topics and speakers but we struggle to find free venues; and
 - offer to share your own experience of particular challenges or notable achievements at CPD events

Please be active in

CIPFA Cymru Wales

www.cipfa.org/regions/wales

and join our linked-in group

APPENDIX A

CIPFA Cymru Wales FREE Events Programme 2015

Date	Event	Venue	Appx. No. att'ees
13 March	Annual General Meeting, Regeneration of Ebbw Vale, Powys Joint Working	Llandrindod Wells	30
20 May	Public Contracts Regulations 2015, Establishing a Leisure Trust	Blaenau Gwent Borough Council	25
24 June	Transforming the finance function and CIPFA's ethical standards	Bridgend County Borough Council	25
12 November	Breakfast with the Bank of England	Cardiff City Hall	20

Retired members events programme 2015

Date	Event	Lead Volunteer	Numbers attending
26 March	Ninth Annual Meeting, Llangynwyd Village	Arthur Thomas	11
30 June	River Tawe Boat Cruise, Swansea	Gordon Parsons	18
13 August	Abergavenny Museum and Castle	Arthur Thomas	13
21 Sept	Millennium Centre Tour, Cardiff Bay	Kelvin Redwood	16
5 Nov.	Annual lunch with speaker-Iolo Llewellyn, President CIPFA Cymru Wales, Aberkenfig	Arthur Thomas	23