

CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of
Public Finance & Accountancy

annual general meeting 2020

Tuesday 7 July at 4.00pm

Contents

	Page
Notice and Agenda for the Annual General Meeting	3
Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting	4 – 8

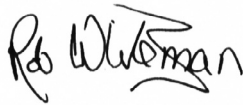
How to attend the meeting: Due to the current government coronavirus restrictions, the AGM will be held virtually via GoToWebinar on Tuesday 7 July. Members wishing to attend the meeting must register by end of business on Thursday 2 July 2020.

To register please paste the access link <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4609780972010613771> into your browser. Further details will then be sent to you with the confirmation of your registration.

Members having any difficulties registering to attend the AGM or who would like further information please email the Council Secretary (council.secretary@cipfa.org)

10 June 2020

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy will be held virtually on Tuesday 7 July 2020 due to the current government coronavirus restrictions.



Rob Whiteman, CBE
Chief Executive, CIPFA

Agenda

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To confirm the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting (see page 4 – 8)
- 3 To consider for adoption the Report and Accounts for 2019
- 4 To re-appoint the auditors for the ensuing year
- 5 To receive a report on the election of Officers and Council for terms starting at this AGM
- 6 To consider any other competent business

2019 Annual General Meeting

Monday 8 July 2019

Birmingham

The President, Sarah Howard, welcomed Members to the annual general meeting of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. She noted that all members had received an email that contained a link to download the Annual Report and Accounts, and had been offered the option to request a hard copy.

Apologies from Chris Bilsland, Mike Weaver, and Stephanie Donaldson were noted.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 July 2018, printed in the booklet on pages 4 to 9, were agreed by the meeting and signed by the President.

The next agenda item was the Annual Report and Accounts for 2018. The President said that she would begin by highlighting the main activities of the year, and then ask Peter Woodman to introduce the financial review. The Institute's operating context was well known to Members, notably:

- A combination of financial pressures, increasing demand and uncertainty continue to create challenges for the public sector, with areas such as the NHS, housing and health and social care attracting national attention.
- The particular pressure local government was under, with stories such as the issuing of section 114 notices in local government prompting plenty of self-reflection. While events like these often brought negative headlines, they provided an opportunity to open a conversation on how we could better approach public finance.
- Brexit remained the main talking point in Parliament, taking up valuable political bandwidth, with little attention being paid to key policy decisions affecting the public sector, causing delay and uncertainty.

On a more positive note, the President felt that it had been promising to see greater devolution being achieved, with business rates set to be retained by councils, and significant tax changes in Scotland. Place-based solutions and local innovation would enable public services to be resilient after ten years of austerity and nearly three years of Brexit uncertainty. So, against this backdrop, CIPFA was seeking to continue to remain responsive to the issues of the day, as well as prepare for the challenges of tomorrow.

CIPFA continued to build on its reputation as an authority on public finance matters, providing honest and reliable commentary on issues affecting the public sector. During 2018, CIPFA spokespeople had been quoted in national, regional and trade media, speaking out on topics including local government funding, the Northamptonshire section 114 notices, sustainability transformation partnerships, and the Spring and Autumn Budgets. The team had maintained a regular supply of articles and blogs, providing expert advice and commentary on issues such as commercial investments in local government; health and social care integration; ethics; and the future of public audit, a topic on which she personally had been focused on along with a number of other colleagues in the room. Internationally, the Institute had regular articles published in PF International and on the IFAC Portal on topics including accrual accounting, improving PFM, and talent management.

In addition to providing commentary and insight on these challenges, CIPFA's policy and technical experts worked to develop a number of new tools and resources to support the sector, including publishing a beta version of the CIPFA Financial Resilience Index. Work was well underway on developing the Financial Management Code, where CIPFA was listening to members' feedback, and the Board was committed to looking at streamlining local government accounts. Such tools were part of a suite of initiatives designed to provide practical support to our members in improving the financial sustainability of public services. This was important because we know our members are under pressure. The ethics survey completed by CIPFA in September last year found that

almost 60% of public sector finance professionals have come under pressure to act unethically at least once in their career. CIPFA's most recent Standard of Professional Practice on Ethics also reflected the 2018 IESBA International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants. The Institute was the first professional accountancy body in the UK to adopt the new Code in full, and the President thanked the Ethics Group in giving this whole topic the attention it deserves.

However, advancing public finance and promoting best practice could not be achieved by CIPFA alone. The Institute had also worked closely with its stakeholders to support the resilience and sustainability in the sector. We had worked with the Institute of Fiscal Studies on a multi-year research programme examining the issues related to reforming England's system of local government finance. During 2018, we hosted a roundtable with the IFS on the issue of fair funding and we were part of a consortium behind a report, *Fair and Sustainable Funding for Local Government*.

Of course, work on advancing public finance extended well beyond the UK. CIPFA had worked with our partners internationally to promote good financial management across the globe, including being part of a highly successful international conference in Abu Dhabi in September 2018, and joining the 2018 World Congress of Accountants in Sydney, Australia where we launched the *International Public Sector Financial Accountability Index* with IFAC. The index analysed information from 150 jurisdictions across the globe to develop an understanding of public sector financial reporting and accruals adoption.

CIPFA continued to grow student numbers and was now training finance teams in 16 UN agencies. The key to CIPFA's success was, and always would be, rooted in maintaining excellence in the education and training we provide for students. As President, one of the things she had focused on was how we inspired and developed the next generation of public finance professionals. Partly we did this by celebrating success and showcasing what is great about being a public finance accountant. We did this, for example, at the Public Finance Awards in May and at the CIPFA Scotland graduation ceremony shortly after. She was particularly looking forward to presenting prizes at the Student Conference.

Partly it was also about making sure our qualification is fit for purpose, ensuring future public finance accountants can operate flexibly in the changing world, whilst keeping ethics and integrity at the heart of what they do. This year CIPFA had signed an MoU with Rutgers Business School, part of Rutgers University, to create a pathway for their students and graduates to practice government accounting outside of the United States. The agreement would give students the opportunity to qualify with CIPFA as a Chartered Public Finance Accountant through our online learning platform. The first session would be open to students in September.

CIPFA had also embraced the opportunity of the apprenticeship scheme. We had been on the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers since 2017 and received positive feedback when we were inspected by Ofsted in December 2018. Feedback showed apprentices with CIPFA were highly motivated, enjoyed their learning and development, and were acquiring new knowledge, skills and behaviours to prepare them for their careers. CIPFA had been delivering apprenticeships at levels 3, 4 and 7 and by the end of 2018 had 223 individuals in the programme, from all types of backgrounds and the scheme is progressing well. In 2018, CIPFA had also been approved as an end-point-assessment provider for the level 7 Professional Accountant apprenticeship, making it the only body in the UK to provide both training delivery and EPA for this standard. CIPFA was now uniquely placed to provide a seamless, end-to-end service that fully supported the development of the talent and skills needed amongst future public finance professionals.

During the year CIPFA's advisory services had provided a number of local authority financial resilience reviews. These were onsite assessments carried out by experienced peers resulting in a thorough and confidential report outlining short and medium-term prospects and any transformation plans necessary for financial assurance. CIPFA was also close to launching the London Counter Fraud Hub, having successfully passed through the final set of governance gates in November 2018. Passing both user acceptance testing and the pilot phase means the platform and services we have developed are now set to go live in 2019.

Volunteers continued to play an integral role in promoting CIPFA's vision and engaging with the next generation of public finance professionals. She had been greatly impressed by the dedication of volunteers she had met during her time as President, many of whom are in the room today. They upheld the values of our profession in every way and she gave her personal thanks to all who had contributed to making 2018 a successful year for the Institute.

Peter Woodman, CIPFA's Director, Finance and Performance, introduced the 2018 accounts. He noted that the full details of the Institute's finances were in the 2018 Annual Report and Accounts. The main statements were on pages 30 to 32 with the notes to the accounts following on pages 33 to 51.

2018 had been a good year for CIPFA, as we returned an operating profit for the first time since 2013. This was a welcome position particularly as it followed the significant cuts in expenditure made in the latter part of 2017. Income had increased by 8.3% over the course of the year, although this was in part due to the sale of our academic journal Public Money & Management (or 4.6% excluding PMM sales). This decision to sell PMM had been taken after careful consideration of the options and to allow the journal room to grow, whilst ensuring free online access to members. As a result of this promising position, we had been able to continue to investment in our strategic priorities, including building our advisory services based on customer need, and becoming the provider of choice for public finance lifelong learning programmes for students, members and other customers.

We continued in 2018, to deliver against our strategy becoming both a registered apprenticeship training provider and end point assessment organisation, and joining forces with CIMA to deliver a qualification leading to joint membership targeted at the UK central government finance leadership fast track programme. CIPFA continue to benefit from profits generated by its wholly owned trading subsidiary, CIPFA Business Limited, with turnover and profits similar to the previous years, as the company continued to invest in the London Counter Fraud Hub that passed through the final set governance gates to put the platform and services in a go-live position.

CIPFA had ended 2018 with a positive balance sheet of £1.0m, an improvement on the 2017 negative balance sheet, following the positive net in year movement in funds of £5.5m. The vast majority of this (circa 4.3m) was due to actuarial gain on the defined benefit pension scheme. It was vital to continue to push forward into new areas. Internationally, it was important to get out to the rest of the world and show that CIPFA is very much a global body that is interested and committed to working with international partners. CIPFA had a very strong reputation globally that continued to grow, evidenced by the conference in the UAE and our MoU with Rutgers University in the United States. It would be critical that we maintained strong relationships over coming months and years.

The necessary but difficult decisions taken at the end of 2017 had made 2018 a year of considerable change and stabilisation, but with the dedicated support of our staff, we had successfully streamlined our operations and improved our productivity and profitability.

The President then introduced the two Motions under Ordinary Business, which had been subject to a postal and online vote of all Members. Both Motions were proposed by the Vice President, and seconded by the Junior Vice President. No questions on either Motion were raised. There was no Special Business.

The Report and Accounts for 2018 were adopted, with 987 votes in favour, and 19 votes against.

Crowe Clark Whitehill were reappointed as the Institute's auditors for 2019, with 974 votes in favour, and 31 votes against.

Sarah Howard then formally introduced CIPFA's new President, Carolyn Williamson. Carolyn had served CIPFA as Vice President this past year. She was Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Corporate Resources for Hampshire County Council and was responsible for the Corporate Services Shared Partnership arrangement which encompassed Finance, HR and Transactional Services to the seven partners across Councils, Police & Fire.

She was is the Chief Financial Officer for Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Pension Fund, and was also responsible for Hampshire County Council's IT Service and led on the Digital Strategy implementation for the County Council.

Carolyn had become CIPFA qualified in 1991. She had been presented with the Iain Doig CIPFA award in 2004 for her contribution to CIPFA and with the CIPFA Public Reporting and Accountability Award for Innovation in 2004. She had been Chair of the Local Authority Scotland Accounts Advisory Committee (LASAAC) and a member of CIPFA/LASAAC until 2005. She had been a member of the CIPFA Council since 2013 and had held chairmanship roles on the Audit Committee and Student and Members Board, as well as attending CIPFA Council.

It therefore gave her great pleasure to be able to hand over the President's badge and role to Carolyn, and to wish her well for the future.

The new President thanked the outgoing President for her support. It had been an honour to support her as Vice President, not least because it had helped her better understand the role, preparing her to set out on my own tenure. She felt privileged to represent CIPFA, its members, and its public sector values. Sarah's leadership this past year had helped to enhance CIPFA's reputation as a world leader in public finance. Her commitment to building an Institute that was able to nimbly meet the changing needs of its members would resonate into the future. The profession needed to be attractive to future generations in order to meet the challenges tomorrow will bring, and Sarah had worked tirelessly towards this goal.

The meeting joined her in thanking her for serving as CIPFA's President and for the work she had done on behalf the Institute.

The now Past President thanked her for her kind words. It had been an honour to be President for this year and she thanked everyone for their support during her year. Special thanks went to Rob Whiteman, CIPFA's CEO, and all his team, especially Lynn Starr, for their support throughout the year, and to all of the Honorary Officers, including Carolyn, for their support.

The President explained that her priorities as President would be to focus on championing the good work of the profession, and building collaboration, inclusion and diversity into our professional community of practice. Despite the challenging circumstances the sector found itself operating within, it was her view that, now more than ever, it was important to take time to reflect on the great work going on in local bodies across the country. As a profession, we have incredible capacity for innovation and doing things differently. We must work together and learn from one another to overcome our most pressing challenges. In championing this cause, she knew that she would be backed by a highly experienced and motivated team.

She introduced Andy Hardy, who would be taking on the role of CIPFA Vice President. Andy was Chief Executive officer of University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust (UHCW). Prior to this appointment in 2010, he had served as Chief Finance Officer, as well as Deputy Chief Executive Officer. Previously he had acted as Chair of the Finance Directors' Group of the Association of United Kingdom University Hospitals and in 2014, had been appointed the National President of the Healthcare Financial Management Association. He had been a council member of CIPFA since 2015 and was a previous Chair of the Health and Social Intervention Panel. In January 2016 Andy had been was appointed Professor of Industry at the University of Warwick. In addition to his Chief Officer role, Andy had been appointed as Chair of the Coventry and Warwickshire STP Footprint in March 2016.

The President was delighted to give him the Vice President's badge. It would be an honour to serve with him.

The Vice President thanks the President, and said that to be elected as Vice President of the Institute was indeed an honour and privilege.

In his time as a member of CIPFA Council, he had developed a deep appreciation of the service the Institute was able to provide to its members across all areas of the public sector. As specialists in public sector finance, it was only right that the training and leadership that CIPFA offers should reflect the specialist skills required in our profession. He was honoured to contribute to the development of this work. He was very much looking forward to his year as Vice President and supporting the continuing evolution of the Institute. As the President had said, the sector faced a number of challenges, but he would do his utmost to support her in her year of office.

The President then introduced Mike Driver as the new Junior Vice President. Mike was Head of the Government Finance Function and Chair of the CIPFA Governance and Financial Management Panel.

He had served as CFO at the Department for Work & Pensions and the Ministry of Justice. Across Government, he was a member of the Commercial Function Oversight Board, and was also a member of the CIPFA Council.

She was delighted to give him the Junior Vice President's badge and invite him into the Presidential Team. It would be an honour to serve with him.

The Junior Vice President thanked the President for her kind remarks. It was both an exciting and challenging time to join CIPFA's presidential team, and he was very pleased to offer additional capacity to support her and the Vice President.

Kelly Watson, Past President of CIPFA's Midlands Region congratulated the new Honorary Officers, and welcomed Members to the Midlands Region, wishing them a very enjoyable Conference.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting.



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