

## **CIPFA & Directors of Finance Submission to the Christie Commission**

*31-03-2011*

CIPFA and the CIPFA Directors of Finance Section have submitted a joint response to the Commission for Future Delivery of Public Services (The Christie Commission).

CIPFA and the Directors are calling for a modernised system of funding to support sustainable public services over the long term in Scotland.

To achieve this, CIPFA and the Directors make a recommendation that there should be a fundamental but independently led review of how we allocate resources to health and local government in Scotland to ensure that resources are directed towards the achievement of outcomes.

Other recommendations in the submission include:

- that as part of a revised system of public sector funding, a review of the proportion of resources which can be raised locally, to promote accountability for local policy decisions, and funding mechanisms which financially incentivise local public bodies to grow the local economy, attract investment and deliver positive outcomes for the local area (para 2.8);
- that long term financial planning by Scotland's public services should be supported by greater visibility of future years' grant funding as a minimum linked to the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review (para 3.2);
- that the Commission, in their consideration of financial sustainability, take account of the recent findings of the joint work of the SFRG regarding the future cost of current service models, the future affordability of the current policy frameworks, and the need to invest more now in prevention and early intervention (para 3.5);
- that the work of the current pilots on outcomes based budgeting should be supported and the results reviewed and taken forward as the basis of a model for the public sector (para 3.9);
- that the Commission take account of the early findings of the piloting of the 'Total Place' initiative and consider its potential contribution to any future reform programme in Scotland (para 3.12); and
- that the reform of external audit and inspection is accelerated in line with the original recommendations of Professor Crerar, principally the development of a single external scrutiny body for all public services, focussed on reviewing progress towards the delivery of outcomes in local areas (para 3.14).

The full version of the submission is now available. Please [click here](#) to download.