

CIPFA South East Regional President's Annual Report 2016

Presented to the 2017 Regional Annual General Meeting on 23 March 2017

In my second (and final!) year of representing you as Regional President I am pleased to report that the CIPFA South East Regional Council has continued to deliver a broad programme of regular events that are designed to be inclusive for all our regional members and students. We have also collaborated with other regions and with other providers to encourage sharing of ideas and knowledge. I have very much enjoyed attending regional events, and representing you and CIPFA at a number of functions. I have also been pleased to volunteer at two university open days, encouraging young people to consider a career in public finance.

We have delivered a superb programme through a series of events providing much needed CPD, with the majority of this provided free or at minimal cost. This effort contributed to CIPFA South East being awarded 'Regional Events Programme of the Year' for 2016. I received the award at the Regional Forum held in Greenwich in October. This kind of success is made possible in part through the tireless work of our Regional Secretary, John Barker, who works extremely hard on networking to obtain excellent quality speakers, and persuading them in most cases, to speak for free. He has also been very successful at forging strong links with key business sponsors, which again helps us fund some of our events across the region. Special thanks to Grant Thornton, who once again host us for our AGM and Spring Conference, which allows us to offer free attendance for all our members and students.

Supplementing John's work on developing the programme is a growing network of volunteers across the region that helps deliver our member and student events locally. We are especially pleased with the development of our regional hubs where volunteers are assisting with sourcing venues and supporting organisation for these local events in our Cambridgeshire, Essex, Kent, London, Thames Valley and Wessex Hub Groups. We started planning to establish new hubs during 2017 in Hertfordshire and Sussex. Our London Division has delivered the usual three morning seminars with topical agendas resulting in good attendance at each.

Our major events have been very successful this year, with the Regional Spring Conference/AGM (April) and the Autumn Conference (October) both attracting a wide range of delegates and reaching capacity numbers. We were pleased to have welcomed the CIPFA President or Past President to both these events.

A number of our regional members joined the volunteers from CIPFA North West Region to help out at the Annual CIPFA Conference in July in Manchester, as it was the first time in three years it had been held outside of London. Our volunteers assisted delegates at the venue and attended the regional reception for guests and sponsors during the Conference.

The Annual Dinner in November was attended by around 200 members and guests. Whilst CIPFA President in 2015, John Matheson had not been able to attend in his presidential year, and it was our pleasure to invite him for 2016 instead. This year, we also arranged presentation of certificates by John to some newly qualified members during the Dinner. A great welcome to the CIPFA family for our new members and their guests!

We held our now established annual 'Public Finance in Wessex' Conference in March. This event, delivered jointly with the South West Region, was hosted by Hampshire County Council in Winchester. It was well attended and John Matheson, as CIPFA President, was a welcome guest speaker.

Our Regional Student Network has been very active this year, organising a number of events such as induction sessions and revision workshops to support formal learning and to encourage networking and volunteering. I was pleased to attend the Student Society and London Division Quiz in September.

As well as the certificate presentations at the Annual Dinner, we held an earlier presentation evening at Mansell Street in May where we were honoured to have the CIPFA President John Matheson at the event to present our new members with their certificates. The photos of this and many other regional events are on CIPFA's Flickr pages. You can find links to these, and information about our events from our regional page on the CIPFA website. www.cipfa.org/members/regions/south-east

Our retired members group continued to embark on a widening variety of interesting activities and visits. This year a talk by Bernard Winchester on the Gordon Riots and a group visit to St Paul's Cathedral were both well supported.

We have continued to forge alliances with other accountancy bodies through attending networking events such as the Pan Accountancy Lunch at the Mansion House (October), the intra professional lunch hosted by CIMA, and a number of other events where ICAS, ACCA, ICAEW and representatives from international accountancy bodies were present. We held a joint event in May with the Central London ICAEW Group on 'Devolution – What's in it for London?' hosted by CCLA, which resulted in some lively discussion, especially in the networking session after the presentations!

The first CIPFA Regional Forum was held at Greenwich in October, hosted by your region, where representatives from most of the UK's CIPFA regions attended. It was an excellent event which demonstrated the value of strong regional activity to supplement the role of CIPFA corporately and plans are being developed for the 2017 Forum to be hosted in Scotland.

A number of our CPD and networking events have been kindly hosted by some of our sponsors like PA Consulting Group, CCLA and Grant Thornton. We have also hosted some NHS workshops covering regional and national agendas, and hosted a roundtable event on service integration. We will

continue to reach out to our NHS colleagues to encourage greater cross-fertilisation of ideas at this time of increasing collaboration.

Given that the region receives less than £4 per member annually from CIPFA funding centrally to operate its regional programme of events, a lot of hard work goes on to make all these events happen. I would like to thank all our regional volunteers, and of course urge many more of you to think about volunteering too, to build on our success.

We remain especially grateful to those sponsors who have supported our events for several years, plus a number of others who have sponsored or supported us for the first time this year – either with funding, hosting or providing speakers: They are Grant Thornton, Zurich Municipal, CCLA, CIPFA-Penna, RP Martin, iMPower, Mazars, PA Consulting Group, BDO Hamlyn, Ernst & Young, PwC, KPMG, RSM and Allen Lane.

I should also like to extend thanks to all of the CIPFA HQ staff who have delivered support to our regional activities during the year.

I would like to thank you all for your support over the past two years. It has been my pleasure to represent you. I would also like to introduce to you your new Regional President, Amy Crowson - who I hope you will provide with the same level of support that you have shown me.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you during the rest of 2017 and beyond at some of our regional and national events.

Rosanne Fleming
Regional President 2015/17
CIPFA South East

March 2017