

CIPFA SE REGION AGM 19 MARCH 2018
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CIPFA South East Regional President's Annual Report for 2017

Presented to the 2018 Regional Annual General Meeting

In my first year of representing you as Regional President I am pleased to report that the CIPFA South East Regional Council, despite a challenging environment in terms of resource, 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.

We have delivered an excellent programme through a series of events providing much needed CPD, with the majority of this provided free or at minimal cost. I would particularly like to draw attention to our innovative 'speed mentoring' evening we hosted earlier in the year with special thanks to Allen Lane our sponsors, this was a tremendous success. Also the Summer School/Autumn conference which celebrated its Diamond Anniversary and returned to Wantage Hall at University of Reading, its well loved venue for many years. An excellent couple of days was enjoyed by all those that attended, and my thanks go to the dedicated organising committee for their efforts in making this such a success.

This effort contributed to CIPFA South East being awarded 'Regional Events Programme of the Year' for 2017. I received the award at the Regional Forum held in Edinburgh in November. This kind of success is made possible in part through the tireless work of our Regional Secretary, John Barker, now in his 50th year of volunteering, who works extremely hard on networking to obtain excellent quality speakers and much appreciated sponsorship for our regional programme. I am delighted to announce that in recognition of the hard work and dedication John has put in over the years, he was awarded the CIPFA Hedley Marshall award, again presented at the Regional Forum.

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 network of volunteers across the region that help to deliver our member and student events locally. We are especially pleased with the ongoing work of our regional hubs where volunteers are assisting with sourcing venues and the supporting organisation for these local events. Our London Division continues to thrive and 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 (September) both attracting a wide range of delegates.

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. Our volunteers assisted delegates at the venue and attended the regional reception for guests and sponsors during the Conference. We look forward to supporting our colleagues in the South West in Bournemouth in July.

The Annual Dinner in November was attended by around 200 members and guests. This was attended by CIPFA Vice President Sarah Howard. This year again, we also arranged presentation of certificates by Sarah 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 annual 'Public Finance in Wessex' Conference in March which was well attended with some great speakers. This event, delivered in liaison with the South West Region, was hosted by Hampshire County Council in Winchester. We reinstated, after a three year break, our Public Finance in East Anglia Conference at Newmarket and we plan to grow this again as an annual event.

Our Regional Student Network has been very active this year, organising a number of events such as the annual quiz, the induction sessions and some revision workshops to support formal learning and to encourage networking and volunteering.

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 Past President Brian Roberts 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, led by Eric Keighley, continued to embark on a widening variety of interesting activities and visits. This year saw group visits to Farnborough Airport and Windsor Castle which were both well supported. And our retired colleagues again provided their valued support as exam invigilators.

The CIPFA Regional Forum was held in Edinburgh in November, hosted by our Scottish colleagues, where representatives from most of the UK's CIPFA regions attended. It was an excellent event which again demonstrated the value of strong regional activity to supplement the role of CIPFA corporately and plans are being developed for the 2018 Forum to be held in the Midlands.

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 including members of the South East Regional Council for all their hard work and dedication. This year more than ever, I would like to make a plea for new volunteers to step forward. We have been reliant on many of the same people for a few years now, some of whom have indicated their intention to stand down over the next couple of years and we need to secure the future of the region by ensuring we have an adequate succession plan.

On this note, two of our long-standing Council Members, Alan Finch and Alison Sweeting are standing down with immediate effect. I would like to, on behalf of the region, thank them both for their tireless hard work and dedication over the years. They have both been instrumental in the ongoing success of the Autumn Conference (previously known as the Summer School) amongst many other things that have been of huge benefit to our region.

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, LSE, CIPFA-Penna, RP Martin, iMPower, Mazars, PA Consulting Group, BDO Hamlyn, Ernst & Young, Hampshire County Council, PwC, RSM, Aberdeen Asset Management, Camdor International, 31ten Consulting, 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, in what has been a difficult and challenging year at Mansell Street.

I would like to thank you all for your support over the past year. It has been my pleasure to represent you. Finally, I look forward to seeing you during the rest of 2018 and beyond at some of our regional and national events.

Amy Crowson

**Regional President 2017/18
CIPFA South East**

March 2018