

CIPFA in the Midlands Regional Council

Notes of meeting held: Friday, March 8th 2019

At Conference Aston; Aston University

Present: Kelly Watson (Chair); John Bloomer, Owen Campbell, Theresa Channel, Emma Cranidge, Tony Crawley, Paul Hector, Alison Jarrett, Phil Jones, Andy Morley, Sean Pearce, (SP) Sean Prosser (SPr), Martin Reohorn (11.30+) Richard Walton, Alastair Barr (CIPFA)

Dial in: Nick Harvey

| Agenda Ref | Notes | Action Owner |
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| 1. Apologies | Colin Sharpe, Andy Cardoza, Lee Yale-Helms, Hayley Mason | |
| 2. Review of actions | | |
| 2.1 re 2.1 | Allocation of responsibility for each county is on the main agenda. | |
| 2.2 re 2.4 | KW has begun some dialogue with Penna about events for retired members, but this has not been finished yet | KW |
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| 2.3 re 2.4 | CATS. In view of the difficulty in getting individuals to commit to working on a revival of CATS, we agreed that we would pursue the idea of developing close links with other existing audit groups within the Midlands | TC |
| 2.4 re 4.4 | Potential sponsorship opportunities were noted. Some events are already in the pipeline for June and July. | PH |
| 2.5 re 5.6 | KW met the Director of Finance at Northampton University, and the Uni is keen to host a 6 th form Management game. KW will also be meeting one of the lecturers regarding the University re-engaging with the CIPFA qualification | KW |
| 3. Student Society | SPr is still looking to re-start the Students' Society. NH suggested something could be launched at the National Conference in Birmingham (July 9,10). AB observed that there will be a student awards session at the Conference – an ideal opportunity to meet students and encourage involvement in CIM TC noted that the final exam now has a collaborative element to it, and other regions organise events to reflect this. SPr wanted to know if we had clear data on where all of our students are employed. The new CIPFA database <i>should</i> be able to provide this information. We need to road test it | SPr |

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| | Possible topics for Student events were discussed, with Mentoring and Ethics being 2 favoured subjects. | |
| 4. Events | | |
| 4.1 | TC wants to see the events programme reinvigorated, with a schedule of events drawn up and published well in advance. The use of off-the-shelf CIPFA courses would be a good way to build up the events offer. Mason Brandrick is our CIPFA contact, and he should bring a list of the courses CIPFA offer to the AGM. We agreed that we would aim for 4 such courses, on a range of topics. AM will circulate the details with the meeting minutes | AM/ TC |
| 4.2 | NH has prepared a framework showing all planned events - - including the 6 th form games & conference. | NH |
| 4.3 | The events checklist, prepared by the NW region, was noted with enthusiasm | |
| 5 6th form games update | EC reported on progress for the 2019 games. Games already agreed: June 12 th : Leicester (De Montfort University) June 19 th : Staffordshire University at Stoke June 19 th : Worcester University Other planned venues are: Birmingham – a date and venue are yet to be agreed Nottingham Trent (details to be agreed) Northampton University (to be progressed (See item 2.5 above) Lincoln University. They are keen to run the short format of the game, as they did with some success last year. KW added that CIPFA have indicated that they would like to incorporate a short format game into the Student Conference, held as part of the main CIPFA conference. This would be a good opportunity for CIM and our volunteers. Aston University are interested in hosting a short format game. TC mentioned that Mazars sponsor games in the NW. Aston University are also interested in developing a financial accounting game as an App. Matt Davies at Aston is the lead person. Depending on how this develops, we will need to ensure that Intellectual Property issues are properly covered, and Legal involvement from Mansell Street could be needed. | PH / KW |
| 6 National CIPFA issues | AB reported that apprenticeships are going very well – we now have more apprentices than students. The code of Ethics is being rolled out. Margaret Pratt is instrumental in this, and may be available to run a training session. The Ethics papers should be discussed at the next CIM meeting A Public Finance focus portal is in development. This will offer a resource for all public finance issues globally, and is due to be beta tested in April, and launched in July. AB reminded the meeting that the national conference in Birmingham is a great opportunity for CIM to promote ourselves – to attract new volunteers for example | NH / SPr AM / AB |
| 7. | Agreed that we should wait until we have something significant | TC / AM |

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| Communication | <p>to communicate! But we should take the opportunity to send something out about today's AGM using the new CIPFA database.</p> <p>We also noted the rather sparse use of Facebook , Twitter and Linked in. These could be useful in promoting our events and in disseminating information, but we lack anyone keen to push this forward.</p> | |
| 8. Succession Planning | <p>Owen Campbell, the current Honorary Treasurer is changing jobs and moving out of the Midlands Region. The current Assistant Treasurer, Emma Cranidge, is also heavily involved in the 6th form games and is considering whether she wishes to take on the Treasurer's role at this time.</p> <p>Andy Morley has indicated that he will be standing down from the role of Honorary Secretary after the 2020 AGM. There is currently no Assistant Secretary, so someone needs to be identified to take on the Secretary role. We discussed the idea of recruiting some paid support to cover, <i>inter alia</i>, the secretary's duties</p> | All EC |
| 9 Financial Reports | OC presented the 2018 accounts, which show a deficit of £1,867. The 2019 budget also forecasts a deficit (£6,800) as we aim to utilise reserves to invigorate the events programme – e.g. through subsidising or underwriting the CIPFA events (which cost £2k each) that we put on during the year. | |
| 10. Annual General Meeting | Preparations for this are complete. | |
| 11 Other Business | | |
| 11.1 | We thanked Kelly for her successful 2 years as CIM President, and presented her with her past president's badge. | |
| 11.2 | The allocation of lead individuals for each County within the Region was discussed, and some more names added to the list. The current allocations are shown on the document attached to these minutes. | |
| Calendar of meetings | No dates (or venues) have yet been agreed for 2019. This needs to be rectified as a matter of urgency. | TC /AM |