

# NOTE OF PROCEEDINGS

Committee	COUNCIL	
Date	<b>10 April 2008</b>	
Time	9.30am	
Venue	Robert Street	
Attendees	John Butler Caroline Mawhood Mike Barnes Caroline Gardner	President Vice-President Treasurer Past President
	Jennie Adair Caroline Al-Beyerty Ken Barnes Chris Bilsland Lynn Bradley Anne Britton Diane Colley Jane Cuthbertson Tim Day Mike Evans Ken Finch Clive Grace Scott Haldane	Neil Hunter Andrew Lovett David McBride (ICAEW) Mark McBride Declan McDonagh Jaki Meekings Mike Owen Ian Perkin Jeff Pipe Lesley Piper Trevor Salmon Martin Sinclair Lee Yale-Helms

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- 1 Twenty-nine members of Council were in attendance, with ten apologies for absence. The President welcomed David McBride to his first Council meeting as an observer from the ICAEW under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
  - 2 Council paid tribute to the memory of the late Jack Woodham, President in 1967.
  - 3 Council –

received an update on the work of the CIPFA Public Services Director of Finance Panel, particularly the current survey of Directors of Finance, Chairs and Chief Executives which would contribute to the development of a high-level principles statement in relation to the role of the DoF in public service organisations;

heard about the collaborative initiatives with the ICAEW under the MOU; David McBride said he was very impressed with our support of the ICAEW's Public Sector Advisory Board, but in addition there was the ICAEW's support of our own Practice Assurance scheme, jointly hosted meetings, and

exploration of joint working on international assignments, and on joint marketing of complementary qualifications for the charities sector;  
received a progress report from the Education & Training Director on the range of initiatives under the Maintaining and Growing the Membership agenda;  
noted the annual report of the Internal Auditors for 2007; the Chief Executive described initiatives which were already underway and others which the new management team would need to prioritise in order to continuously strengthen and improve controls and performance in all departments;  
approved twenty-two applications for membership from graduates under Byelaw 4 and approved the offering of membership to two candidates under Byelaw 6;  
Noted the latest list of disciplinary scheme cases and the annual reports from the chairs of the scheme's three committees;  
Approved new guidance for Members and students on their duty to cooperate and inform in respect of disciplinary matters;  
Approved amendments to the Practice Assurance Regulations and to its Statement on Public Practice, noting that over 250 Members had to date registered with the scheme;  
Approved the Resolutions to be put before the membership at the 2008 AGM;  
Received and welcomed the programme for the 2008 national Conference together with a report from the working group reviewing the Conference venues and timings for subsequent years.

- 4 Council received and discussed the Group Annual Report and Accounts for 2007. The Treasurer highlighted the 2.2% increase in Group income, surplus of £473,000 before adjustments, reserves of £12.9 million, and the pension deficit of £15.9 million. Council was pleased to note that the External Auditors' Management Letter gave the Group a clean bill of health. On that basis, Council approved the Accounts and authorised the Officers and Chief Executive to sign them.
- 5 The main debate of the meeting was on the subject of the Institute's International Strategy. Introduced by Clive Grace, the chair of the International Strategy Panel, and developed by Caroline Rickatson, the International Director, Council received gave a comprehensive introduction to the proposed Strategy for the development of CIPFA internationally. By way of setting the scene, Caroline reported that there has never been as much interest in public financial management in developing and newly-developed countries, and that CIPFA had significant supporters such as the World Bank and opportunities to bid for long-term funding.

The Strategy's objectives were described as becoming the leading global institute in public finance and accountancy (PFA), to be the preferred model and mentor for sustainable capacity development in PFA education and training, and to be the acknowledged champion of the public sector and be the recognised expert amongst all forums concerned with public financial management. Within that framework, our focus would be on building CIPFA's footprint in Africa, building on existing relationships worldwide e.g in Canada, and establishing new and stronger relationships with other donors and regional development banks.

Council split into discussion groups with specific questions to consider and fed back their views to the full meeting, input which Clive and Caroline found to be most constructive and welcome. For most, this was the first real opportunity to get to grips with the way forward for the Institute internationally, very much a learning curve, so much so that it was agreed that a case study of one country would be

presented to the May meeting and that progress with the strategy will feature regularly on the agenda. At the end of the debate, the Strategy received unanimous praise and support from those present.