



NOTE OF PROCEEDINGS

Committee BOARD FOR THE REGIONS
Date 22 January 2008
Venue 3 Robert Street, London, WC2N 6RL

Attendees –

Members

Mike Owen (Chair)	Institute Council
Ian Black	President, Channel Islands
Mike Evans	Regional Representative, South Wales and South West of England
Chris Gill	Representing Chairman, CIPFA in the Midlands
Claire Gravil	Institute Council
Nick Harvey	National Student Forum
Sarah Howard	Chair, Yorkshire and Humber Region
Neil Hunter (Vice Chair)	Regional Representative, North Eastern Region
Andrew Lovett	Regional Representative, CIPFA South East
Mark McBride	Chair, NI Branch; Regional Representative, N Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Channel Isles and Europe
Leslie Milne	Chair, Europe Branch
Barry Parsonage	Representing Chair, North West & North Wales Society
Lesley Piper	Regional Representative, CIPFA in the Midlands
Trevor Salmon	Institute Council
Derek Yule	Representing Chairman, CIPFA in Scotland
Steven Watson	Chair, CIPFA South East

Executive

Steve Freer	Chief Executive
Adrian Pulham	Education and Training Director
Chris Harris	Resources Director
Barry Mather	Council Secretary
Rob Cuming	Business Development Manager (Education and Training)
Mia Spencer	Corporate Website Executive

After establishing that there were no declarations of interest, noting the outcomes of the last meeting, confirming the minutes of the previous meeting, and noting changes to the membership the Board considered the following agenda items:

- **Role of the Regions**

The main item on this agenda was the report from the small sub group the Board had tasked with taking forward discussions at the regional conference and developing a 'job description' for CIPFA Regions.

The aim had been to detail the key activities which regions should undertake, the key outputs arising from these activities and the performance indicators which would measure the effectiveness of these activities. In progressing this work however the sub group had reflected on the diversity within Regions and concluded that though there were certain core activities common across the regions the examples of process which could contribute to the delivery of an activity differed from Region to Region as did their frequency.

Rather than a single comprehensive job description the group had therefore sought to build a model which provided a core job description plus a range of optional activities to reflect the circumstances of each individual region. (This was illustrated diagrammatically in the group's report)

The Board considered this model in depth. It was agreed that the model helped present the activities of the regions in a simple and clear way and had the flexibility to be adopted by all regions.

The debate centred around the degree to which further prioritisation of the core activities would be helpful. The Board identified three key issues around the issue of prioritisation for the group to consider ahead of the next meeting. In addition all regions were asked to consult with their regional councils/committees and report back to the next meeting so that the final version of the model could be agreed.

- **Conference for the Regions**

The Board noted that sound progress was being made in confirming the organisational arrangements for the annual regional conference event which was this year to take place in Plymouth from Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th September 2008.

The pressing issue for the Board now was to reach agreement on the theme for the conference to allow a detailed programme to be drafted. Members discussed a number of ideas and agreed that a small sub group should be formed to take this forward and develop a detailed programme for ratification at the Board's next meeting.

The Chair confirmed that the 2009 event was scheduled to take place in the North East (ie the Yorkshire and Humber and North East Regions would act as joint hosts.)

- **Development Fund**

The Board reflected on the use which had been made to date of the Board's Development Bidding Pot and considered how best to take this aspect of the funding for the Regions forward in the future.

The Board reached the conclusion that it was not the existence of the Fund but its distribution that was at issue. The Board resolved that a Development Fund top-sliced from the subvention budget should be retained but that funding should in future be targeted proactively llocated by the Board to support identified priorities.

The Board also received a project update report from the NI Branch which had been in receipt of Development Funding in 2007.

- **Low Cost, High Value Local Events**

Members received a report from its Events Working Group on a number of initiatives designed to increase the number of low cost, local events available to CIPFA members and endorsed each of the actions proposed.

- **Education and Training Report**

The major 'for information' item on the Board's agenda was an in-depth report on developments in the Education and Training Directorate. The Board reflected on these developments in detail.

- **Other matters**

The Board received its regular report on the work of the National Student Forum and its forthcoming Annual Conference.

The Board also received a progress report on the regional websites and the website award.

The Board's next meeting is on Tuesday 22 April 2008.