

Notes of proceedings

Committee	Central Government Panel
Date	10 February 2009
Time	10 am
Venue	The Boardroom, Kingsgate House, London
Attendees	Curtis Juman (Chair) Barry Atkinson David Buchan Paul Connew Christina Earls Ian Grattidge Paul Haylock Jim Minogue Nick Sharman Martin Sollis Chris Welford Geoff Russell
Secretariat	Nigel Keogh (Secretary) Matthew Allen (Minute Secretary)

After noting apologies for absence and the minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting, the Panel considered the following items:

PANEL WORK PROGRAMMES FOR 2008 and 2009

The Panel reviewed the largely positive feedback from the Central Government Conference and drew valuable lessons for the future. It went on to discuss the necessity of a targeted marketing strategy that would utilise the full potential of the new CRM system.

October was confirmed to be a good time for the next Central Government Conference which would address the transformation and change agenda. This year there would again also be an Introduction to Central Government Finance event, but updates would however now be provided by Panel bulletins.

From a wide-ranging discussion on the business case for a *Guide to Central Government Finance and Financial Management*, there emerged a strong consensus on the way forward.

The Panel noted that the Secretariat planned to bring in additional resources to take forward the Central Government agenda and a full time Panel Secretary would be appointed to take forward the wider work programme of the Panel.

REPORTS FROM DEVOLVED ASSEMBLIES/PARLIAMENTS

A briefing on the transformation and alignment projects in Wales drew attention to the constraints of the legislative programme.

CIPFA PANEL UPDATES

The Panel reviewed the activities of other CIPFA Panels that were relevant to its remit. In doing this it took the view that the application of FM model in Central Government had been extensive enough for cross and intra-sector comparisons to be made. This should include an investigation of the link between effective Financial Management and the operational effectiveness.

A discussion of the contract issues associated with IFRS led to a discussion of the merits of developing links with CIPS. It concluded that the best way for this to be done would be through the OGC.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair updated the Panel on recent business at CIPFA Council, including in particular the international dimension and its response to the economic situation.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Panel confirmed that its next scheduled meetings were on the 23 June and 1 October but that the future programme of meetings would have to be reviewed to reflect its increased work programme.