

## **REGIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

### **INTRODUCTION and ANNUAL SEMINAR 2008**

As I highlighted in my Report last year I have sought through the Board for the Regions to argue both for the consideration of the change of the manner in which minor Regions are funded and also for the most fair and equitable representation of the different minor regions on Council. The Board for the Regions in its activities 2008/9 has been reviewing its structures and procedures in the Regions and as a part of this is continuing to review, as a priority, the funding for the Minor Regions.

Principally through the provision of a significant CPD event provided free annually, as well as an excellently maintained website (where Members can have access not only to the Committee and other members of the Group, but also the whole CIPFA website), European Group member interests are always trying to be met and your interests best represented. Of course there is a feedback mechanism and the Committee are always happy to hear your suggestions and even better perhaps, welcome you as a volunteer!

Attending as many meetings of the Board for the Regions as I can, ensuring that we are represented by at least two Committee members at the Conference for the Regions, and above all by insisting that all Regions (regardless of subvention level) have access to Core Region and Institute activities, I can ensure Members that the CIPFA European Group is certainly punching, and achieving notice, well above its weight in the Institute.

In all areas I would like to express my gratitude to those volunteers who are already working to ensure that our Members might have an access to advice and services that is not significantly diminished as a direct result of not living and working in the UK.

I would particularly like to express my thanks to Vicky Bainbridge who stepped forward to assist Ian Howe as Member Secretary. Ian steps down from his position of Honorary Secretary at the General Meeting 2009 after 4 years of excellent support to the Region. I would very much like to thank Ian for his stalwart support and for his work particularly in the early days to establish our now flourishing website. Ian picked up an award for that, on our behalf, in 2003. Thanks also to Mark Crisp whose support as vice Chair I am glad to have been able to count on throughout a very busy year for him. Hilary Street, our member of CIPFA South East, has continued to take forward work on the development of our website and regularly participates in workshops with other Regions, and is constantly trying to drag our site into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Watch out for face book, twitter, and on line booking for future events.

As a CIPFA Region we have the largest proportion of our membership attending our training event. Our Annual Seminar, since 2004, is not only a strong CPD provision and an essential means for Members to stay in touch, but it also represents a very strong element of the European' Group's strong ethos to work to promote the Institute and its relevance in Europe as part of the Institute's International Strategy.

On 15 October 2008 the Group held its annual seminar and members' meeting at the FEE Conference Centre in Brussels. Presentations were received from Caroline Mawhood, CIPFA President and Chair of FEE Public Sector Committee and Caroline Rickatson, CIPFA's new

International Development Director. We are very grateful to FEE for their most generous hospitality for our events.

At the members' annual meeting, the Chair of the CIPFA European Group, presented the European Group Regional [Annual Report 2007](#) and the draft European Group [Development Plan](#) for 2009. A lively discussion took place about the development of a European Strategy for CIPFA. The International Director agreed to take away and consider Members' remarks and confirmed that a European Strategy would be developed and might be the basis for further discussion at next year's GM. Members were invited to contact CIPFA with any further ideas and reflections that might assist this work.

## **GROUP FINANCIAL REPORTS**

At Appendix 2 is attached the final balances for 2008 along with an estimated outturn for 2009 and an overall estimate for 2010.

The accounts were prepared with diligence and on time by the Treasurer, but the final accounts for 2008 were presented in draft form only due to illness. The amounts shown in the annex are, as verified with CIPFA Secretariat, consistent not only with these accounts but more importantly with the Regions and Societies Combined Balance Sheets 2008 and the CIPFA Group SOFA for 2008.

The summary of our financial statements is at annex 1. On the face of it, the Group has retained a surplus for 2008 (thanks solely to a positive adjustment from CIPFA in 2007) of £1482, but this is significantly reduced in 2009 (also recognising that the Group not incurring certain key costs on a one off basis), and the forecast for 2010 (when no exceptional incomes or reductions in expenditures are foreseen) is a significant deficit of £2143.

The group has an estimated annual fund requirement for "normal activities" of c. £5500-£6000. The current subvention is almost half of the lower estimate. The Region will once again push for a level of subvention that is sufficient to allow the conduct of an adequate and equitable level of activity for the Region both in respect of service to Members and in respect of CIPFA's responsibility to ensure a fair and reasonable opportunity for Regions both to serve its Members and to ensure its representation and consultation. The Region does not have a large financial reserve and is happy to apply its meagre reserve to expenditures. However it emphasises that to maintain its core functions from 2009/10 the Group will require and request an increase in subvention of an amount up to £6000 and/or plan to make an annual call on the funds placed at the disposition of the Board for the Regions, "The Development funds".

## **CONCLUSION**

As Chairman I would hope to provide all the support and encouragement to existing and any other member who feels they would like to contribute to improving even further the achievements of the Group's volunteers so far.

I will submit the Annual Report to CIPFA along with the financial summary and Notes in annex. These results highlight the importance of ensuring that even smaller Regions can exercise a full and reasonable range of services to its Members and that the current methods of funding do not provide a suitable and stable base for the effective organisation of Regional events that provide deserved added value to CIPFA members living and working in Europe.

Leslie Milne,  
Chair, October 2009

**Analysis of CIPFA European Group Receipts and Expenditure;  
Financial Year 2008, Forecast Outturn 2009, and Budget 2010**

<b>Nature of Expenditure/Receipt</b>	<b>*2008</b>	<b>2009*</b>	<b>2010**</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
UK Conference and sponsors	216	0	0
Conference for the Regions	593	700	900
CCAB Annual Meeting	240	0	300
CIPFA Annual Conference	435	90	800
European Seminar 07 ( part)	824	0	
President's Dinner	275	0	300
European Seminar/GM 08/09/10	2842	2800	2800
Training volunteers	49	0	200
Admin/Postage/other	26	50	50
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£5500</b>	<b>£3550</b>	<b>£5550</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
<b>SUBVENTION</b>	<b>£2625</b>	<b>£2625</b>	<b>£2850</b>
Balances B/F/Development Fund Bid	<b>£3274</b>	<b>£1482</b>	<b>557</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£5899</b>	<b>£3024</b>	<b>3407</b>
<b>Cash in Hand</b>	<b>£1083</b>	<b>£1083</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET ANNUAL POSITION</b>	<b>£1482</b>	<b>£557</b>	<b>£-2143</b>

**As reported in last year's Annual Report, at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007, I presented to the Board for the Regions a demand, as foreseen in our 2008 Development Plan for an additional £3000 for our Region to maintain the capacity of our Region to deliver a suitable range of services to our Members. The outcome, following the disclosure of previous oversights in reimbursements of costs has been the retrospective addition of an amount of £1856 to the balance carried forward in 2008. This amount and the delay in the payment of the contribution to the costs of the meal at the 2007 Annual Seminar (supported by the ICAEW) gives the large carry forward indicated of £5899. Without this adjustment, and despite non excessive expenditure levels in 2008, a loss would have been carried forward to 2009 and not the £1482 shown.**

**Due to costs being met from other sources in 2009 for the Annual Dinner and attendance at Annual Conference, costs to the Region are reduced by c £750/800. These are not guaranteed annual "savings". Again without these elements a loss would have been carried forward to 2010.**

**To Note there is an estimated annual fund requirement for "normal activities" of c. £5500-£6000. The correction of 2007 was applied pending the outcome of ongoing discussions vis a vis the future funding of Regions. The Region will once again push for a level of subvention that is sufficient to allow the conduct of an adequate and equitable level of activity for the Region both in respect of service to Members and in respect of CIPFA's responsibility to ensure a fair and reasonable opportunity for Regions both to serve its Members and to ensure its representation and consultation. The Region does not have a large financial reserve and is happy to apply its meagre reserve to expenditures. However it emphasises that to maintain its core functions from 2009/10 the Group will require and request an increase in subvention to £6000 and/or plan to make an annual call on the funds placed at the disposition of the Board for the Regions, "The Development funds"**

**\*Please Note the final amounts shown are agreed to the final draft accounts for 2008 and to the CIPFA Combined Balance Sheets for Regions and SOFA 2008.**