

**CIPFA**

The Chartered Institute of  
Public Finance & Accountancy

Northern Ireland Branch

# Annual Report 2009



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## **PART 1**

### **Introduction from Regional Chair**

This report summarises the performance of the CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch during 2009, which has been another very successful year. The Branch has continued with its programme of lunchtime events. These events together with the CIPFA Northern Ireland Annual Conference attract delegates from across the public sector including CIPFA members and senior officers responsible for the management of resources within the public sector in Northern Ireland. The events also provide networking opportunities for our members and students.

The events programme aims to improve communication with our members and students, as well as providing practical support with Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The high profile nature of these events alongside the attendance of senior officials from within the Northern Ireland public sector increases the profile of the Institute and helps confirm CIPFA's key presence in Northern Ireland. This is evidenced by the attendance of the Finance Minister for the Northern Ireland (NI) Assembly, who opened the CIPFA Northern Ireland 2009 Annual Conference.

One of the most pleasing highlights of the year was the continuing growth in CIPFA students within Northern Ireland. We look forward to the new CIPFA Northern Ireland Student Society developing its role in the coming year.

Like all regions, CIPFA Northern Ireland is very reliant on the input of volunteers. We are very fortunate to have an excellent group of hardworking and committed colleagues who have devoted time alongside busy working and personal lives to support the invaluable work of CIPFA nationally and locally. We are also grateful to their employers who allow time off for CIPFA activity. Our main highlights are:

#### **(a) Highlights of 2009**

- The Northern Ireland Branch won the 'Most Improved Region' award at the CIPFA Conference of the Regions
- CIPFA Northern Ireland Annual Conference opened by the Finance Minister
- Successful Lunchtime Events Programme
- Successful Annual Debate held with the Chairpersons' Forum
- Successful events run by our Students' Society
- Newly qualified CIPFA Members

#### **(b) Key Issues faced in 2009**

- Continuing pressure on volunteers in terms of time available
- Impact of world financial crisis on sponsorship income towards local events and the Annual Luncheon

We look forward to again providing an interesting programme of activities in 2010, implementing our Development Plan, and working alongside Robert Street and other stakeholders in promoting the success and sustainability of the CIPFA Professional Qualification.

**Michael Carson**



**Chair, CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch**

## PART 2

### Local CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch Events

#### *(1) Data Security - 6 February 2009 (55 attendees)*

The first CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch lunchtime event in the 2009 series, entitled **Data Security - Lessons Learned**, was hosted jointly by CIPFA and NIAO in February 2009. The keynote speaker at this event was **Caroline Mawhood**, Assistant Auditor General in the National Audit Office and CIPFA President.



A full house of accountants and auditors

Following a recent run of well publicised breaches of data security, the issue of keeping public records and information secure has moved towards the top of the agenda of public bodies. Security of personal information by public bodies is an issue that was brought sharply into focus in November 2007 with the loss of Child Benefit records by HMRC. In her presentation, Caroline touched on her experience of the HMRC case and also outlined the key lessons learned and the good practical steps that all public bodies should take to keep personal data secure.

#### *(2) IFRS - Lessons and Impact of NAO Trigger Point One Audit – 7 May 2009 (45 attendees)*

Central Government Departments in England and Wales fared badly in their recent IFRS audits, so this event considered the implications for Northern Ireland.

In this session, **Patrick Gallen** an Associate Partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers, reviewed the findings from the National Audit Office (NAO) on how government departments fared in the restatement of their 1 April 2008 Balance Sheets which were subject to audit by 31 December 2008. He also outlined the implications for Northern Ireland Finance Directors and Accounting Officers on the lessons learned from GB, particularly in relation to where a "clean" rating could not be given because of significant matters outstanding. Patrick ended the session with a discussion on the main technical issues that needed to be addressed before preparation of the full 'shadow' 2008-2009 accounts by 30 September 2009.



Patrick Gallen, PricewaterhouseCoopers, with the CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch Chair, Michael Carson

### (3) Turning the Tide - Impact of the Credit Crunch on the Public Services – 5 June 2009 (40 attendees)



The CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch Chair, Michael Carson, with Mike Turley, Lead Partner, Deloitte – Little and Large!

In January 2009, Deloitte published a study: 'Turning the Tide' which examined the impact of the economic downturn on the operations and finances of UK public sector organisations. The study outlined how public sector organisations are likely to be affected. It also made a series of suggestions as to how public sector leaders might react to key challenges, both in the short term as part of tactical response and through longer-term, more strategic reforms.

During this session, **Mike Turley**, Lead Partner with Deloitte, outlined the findings of the report and the likely implications for public sector bodies.

### (4) Making the Assembly Work for You – 18 September 2008 (30 attendees)

To work effectively with the Assembly and the Executive, it is essential that those who work in the public sector have a thorough understanding of how government operates under a devolved administration.

In this session, **Quintin Oliver**, Director, Stratagem addressed 'Making the Assembly Work for You' using illustrated rich examples, lively case studies and interactive participation from delegates.

Quintin Oliver is a successful serial entrepreneur, having worked a decade each in the public, voluntary and private sectors lobbying and helping the Northern Ireland political structures to work. He sits as a non-executive director (Eaga plc), chairs a social enterprise (The Consultation Institute), serves on a Scottish anti-sectarianism charity (Nil by Mouth) and runs the international Secretariat of the Iraq / Helsinki project that links Northern Ireland politicians to the merging peace process there.



Quintin Oliver, Director, Stratagem with Kathryn Thompson, CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch

### (5) Annual Debate - The Economic Climate - Cause vs. Solution – 23 October 2009 (20 attendees)

The 'credit crunch' is a well-worn term nowadays. We have not known anything like it in recent economic history; it's been an unprecedented combination of events – the global financial crisis, the economic downturn and evaporation in trust in national politicians. And now, the spotlight focuses on the big squeeze on public expenditure and the impending general election.



Do we really understand what caused the current economic predicament? What actions need to be taken forward now? Will 'quantitative easing', slashing public services, increasing taxes and abandoning public sector pension schemes help solve the crisis?

To enable a mature and insightful discussion on the causes of and solutions to the current economic crisis, CIPFA Northern Ireland in partnership with the Chairs' Forum put together an expert panel of commentators who debated these issues under the chairmanship of the BBC's **Declan Curry**.

Other panellists (left to right in the photograph below) included:

**Richard Ramsey**, Ulster Bank, who provided expert economic analysis of the local economy that is hugely dependent upon the public sector. Richard joined the bank following ten years in the public sector - including spells as Principal Economist at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and with Invest NI.

**Antoinette McKeown**, Chief Executive Consumer Council, who provided the consumer's perspective of the economy. Antoinette joined the Consumer Council in July 2009 from the Equality Commission where she spent eight years as Head of Policy and Development.

**Stephen Kingon**, Chair of Invest NI, who brought a practical business perspective to the debate. As well as running a large publicly funded body, Stephen is an enthusiastic supporter of local companies.

**Roy Leighton**, Chairman of the UK's Financial Services Skills Council, who defends the majority of banks claiming the 'glass is half-full' and that we should adopt a more positive outlook.

Following the success of CIPFA's Annual Debate on post-primary transfer arrangements in 2007 and regional transport in 2008, the 2009 debate adopted the same format of a short commentary by each speaker followed by an hour of topical debate. The event closed with a light lunch and an opportunity to carry on the discussion and network in a more informal atmosphere.

## **(6) Impact of the New Charity Commission – 13 November 2009 (63 attendees)**



*Seamus Murray from the Charities Commission with Michele Woods, Vice Chair, CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch*

The Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 established a new body called the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland which will establish a compulsory register of all charities operating in Northern Ireland. It will also provide a charity test of who is and who is not a charity and will put in place new requirements for all public collections. All of this seeks to provide better supervision, control and support of charities. The Commission, which has been up and running since March 2009 expects its first registrations from April 2010.

In this session, Seamus Murray, from the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, outlined the main implications of the new arrangements for charities and also for public services which are increasingly being provided by the voluntary and community sectors.

## PART 3

### CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch Annual Luncheon (4 March 2009)

CIPFA Northern Ireland's Annual Chairman's Luncheon is always a popular event for CIPFA members as well as invited guests. The 2009 event was certainly no exception. This year the lunch was held in Belfast Castle and the Northern Ireland Branch was delighted to welcome Caroline Mawhood, the CIPFA President and over 100 guests including representatives from other professional bodies and senior executives from across the public services in Northern Ireland.



*(L-R) Michael Carson, Chair, CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch; Caroline Mawhood, President CIPFA; Brendan McAleer, Head of Corporate Services and Finance, CCMS and Mike Smith, Chief Executive and Director, Titanic Quarter Ltd*

Branch Chairman, Michael Carson, welcomed everyone to the lunch. He opened the event by announcing that Brendan McAleer, Head of Corporate Services and Finance, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS), was the winner of the CIPFA Northern Ireland Student of the Year Award 2008 for the Professional Qualification. Brendan said, "I feel really honoured to receive the title of Student of the Year 2008. Even though I thoroughly enjoyed my studies with CIPFA Northern Ireland, I am relieved to have now graduated to become a CPFA Accountant!"

Mike Smith, Chief Executive and Managing Director of Titanic Quarter Ltd, was the keynote speaker at the lunch. Mike provided an interesting account of the impact of the economic downturn and uplifted spirits by highlighting the impressive range of opportunities that will be

provided by the exciting Titanic Quarter redevelopment of the former shipyards in Belfast – dubbed the biggest building site in Ireland.

The CIPFA Northern Ireland Annual Chairman's Luncheon is a key event in the Branch calendar. The luncheon provides an opportunity for CIPFA members, guests, sponsors and other supporters to meet for an informal lunch in the pleasant surroundings of Belfast Castle.



*(L-R) Una Foy, CIPFA Northern Ireland Office and Terry McGonigal, Director of Finance and Performance Management, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service - CIPFA Accountants are a happy bunch really!*



*(L-R) Neil Gray and Bobby McCambridge, NI Audit Office members – discussing audit standards, or football?*



*(L-R) Joanna Cunningham and Dawn Bell, Sellick with Kate McKay, CIPFA Northern Ireland Office - blooming and marvellous*



*John Dowdall, CB, Comptroller & Auditor General with Patricia Blair, CIPFA Northern Ireland Secretary*

## **PART 4**

### **CIPFA Northern Ireland Annual Conference (24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010)**

#### **Annual Conference – Tough Times**

In keeping with tradition, CIPFA Northern Ireland's Annual Conference was once again a resounding success. The sleepy town of Newcastle, County Down, was awoken by the bellowing 'voice of business' – Lord Digby Jones, regaling tales from his days as former Chief Executive of the CBI and erstwhile Minister of State for Trade and Investment when he most famously claimed that Whitehall could be run with 'half as many civil servants'! Such was the lure of this larger than life character that our very own charismatic leader, Sammy Wilson MLA was happy to forego an element of his busy schedule in order to listen to the great man and take part in the Question & Answer session much to the absolute delight of everyone in the audience.

The impetus set, the conference went from strength to strength, encapsulating a plethora of high calibre speakers such as; Ben Page, Chief Executive of Ipsos MORI; Dr Vince Cable, the 'sage of the credit crunch' and we were treated once again to an element of cultural infusion provided by the affable Monsieur Jean Pousson – doyen of the Institute of Directors' stance on strategy and strategic finance, reminding us all that "We must plan for the future because those who stay in the present will remain in the past" (Abraham Lincoln).

While we were all carried away by the 'tres gentile' Parisian accent, we were however, quickly brought back to the reality of an unseasonably sunny Newcastle afternoon by our own lovely local lilt in the guise of Glenn Houston, Chief Executive of the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority; Eleanor Gill, former Chief Executive of the General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland and current Director of Erga Strategies, underlining why customer needs must be responded to and Sean Connolly, expert in the development of human potential relaying his message that 'you can achieve anything'. His use of sporting anecdotes, combined with the inherent mystique and awe that is encapsulated within his martial arts, ancient teachings and health techniques, left us all wanting to hear more.....

There was great excitement at the prospect of Monty Halls - ocean adventurer, marine biologist, expedition leader, author, motivational speaker and star of the BBC's 'Monty Halls' Great Escape taking centre stage. Whilst there was a little disappointment at the non-appearance of 'Reuben', his faithful hound, the man himself proved to be a huge crowd pleaser. His charm and engaging personality brought the conference to a resounding crescendo by anecdotally reliving and sharing his experiences of circumnavigating the globe with diverse groups of people, only to discover that when faced with fear

or danger, people all react exactly the same! Likewise, Stephen Berry unpacked for us some learning from the global experts in organisational strategy – not the authors or academics - but the elephant, giraffe, lion and zebra.

Not all of the action however took place in the Grand Ball Room; the Chandelier Suite played host to a range of exhibitors. It was great to see old friends such as Sellick; Reed; PWC and Hays. It was equally as rewarding to welcome the new faces of: Queen’s University Belfast; the Post Office; Financial Skills Council; Real Asset Management; Asbah; DBA Speakers and not forgetting the inimitable Mr Maurice Dowle and Ireland Luxury Tours who provided such a professional speaker concierge service.

Back to the ballroom however and the magic of Walt Disney’s Tom Madden, where he transported us to a world where customer expectations are not only met but exceeded. In spite of the enchantment and lure of Tom Madden’s presentation, it was however, Tigger, who stole the show and indeed the entire conference! Men, women, the young, the not so young, veteran conference delegates, first time conference delegates, even speakers, ambushed each other shamelessly in the main foyer in the vain hope of getting snapped with the timorous tiger ‘.....just for the kids you understand’. Whatever the reason, the philandering lothario, kindly donated by The Disney Store, continued to be a hit with the audience throughout the conference and his eventual auction at the conference dinner raised hundreds of pounds for the Ulster Cancer Foundation.

And so ended another CIPFA conference. To quote Tigger, it was ‘...fun, fun, fun, fun, fun..’ but, unlike Tigger, it is not ‘the only one’. Roll on 2010.



*Michael Carson, CIPFA NI Chair, contemplating hard times*



*The CIPFA President, Roger Latham; Michael Teague, Sellick; Lord Digby Jones; and Michael Carson, CIPFA NI Chair*



*Delegates taking a quick break from conference sessions and visiting the exhibition hall during coffee*



*Delegates at the CIPFA Northern Ireland 2009 Conference*

## PART 5

### 'the account'



'the account' magazine is the CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch Newsletter. It is produced 3 times per year and reaches a circulation of 4,000 public sector employees in Northern Ireland and further afield. To access recent issues go to the CIPFA Northern Ireland website - [www.cipfa.org.uk/ni/the\\_account.cfm](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/ni/the_account.cfm) .

## PART 6

### Website

During 2009, the Branch's Facebook presence was improved and a Website Survey was also added – both providing members and other users with an easy route to give their views and suggestions. The website was routinely kept up to date and also further enhanced to improve communication with members, students and other interested parties.

The Branch is indebted to one of its student members, Michael Tattersall, for maintaining and developing the website and also reporting progress to the CIPFA NI Branch Committee.

The website statistics for 2009 are incomplete due to a change during the year in CIPFA's methodology for recording and collecting hits. However, for all but one of the available months, the hits exceed 2008's figures (on a like for like basis, hits in 2008 were around 680 per month):

<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>
744	995	1,201	1,249	n/a	n/a
<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
n/a	n/a	814	861	755	273

Note: Statistics from September onwards no longer include downloads - previously downloads accounted for 20-25% of the total hits.

The home address of the CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch website is [www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/ni/index.cfm](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/ni/index.cfm) .

## **PART 7**

### **CIPFA Northern Ireland Student Society**

The ever-growing body of CIPFA students in Northern Ireland has organised itself into a formal Students' Society and the 2009 Annual Luncheon was the perfect platform to re-launch itself. It also took the opportunity to highlight its raison d'être – to promote and support CIPFA students throughout all stages of their CIPFA studies.

Another important aspect of the Students' Society is to provide a forum through which students' voices can be heard within CIPFA. Jill Adair, Chair of the Society is a member of the CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch Committee and has been acting Secretary of the Branch since May 2009 (covering for maternity leave). Nicola Woods is the Northern Ireland Representative of the CIPFA National Student Forum. This allows any particular concerns of students to be raised within CIPFA both locally and nationally.



*(L-R) The CIPFA Northern Ireland Students' Society Officers: Chair, Jill Adair; Vice- Chair, Tim Johnston, and Secretary, Nicola Woods – not thinking about their studies*

The Society delivered 2 successful events in 2009: 1 social and the other to assist students as they progress through the CIPFA accountancy qualification. The social event was a pub quiz held in November 2009 and the other event was an IPDS workshop held in October 2009. The latter event was extremely well attended, with over 50 PQ students and their employers in attendance. This was a half day event from 9.30-12.30 and was run by one of CIPFA's IPDS assessors. However, the students felt the event could be improved and plan to organise another IPDS event in 2010 taking on board students' views. They also intend to run smaller workshops dealing with practical aspects of IPDS and exam techniques.

## **PART 8**

### **Annual Report**

### **2009 Development Plan Performance Report**

#### **2009 Primary Performance Indicators – CIPFA Regions**

The table on the next page summarises the CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch performance in 2009 against a number of primary performance indicators. This is the first year of these indicators and they reflect the implementation of the Regional Activities Model (RAM) in 2009. Figures for other regions are included for information.

	Number of PQ members as at July 2009 (latest) - for info only	Number of CPD event hours	Number of best practice activities (low cost-high value CPD events)	% of total (i.e. not just PQ) members who attended at least one event	Customer satisfaction with events (regional responses)	Number of PQ students as at July 2009	Draft Jan 1 2010 PQ student stats	Number of events for students	% of students who attended at least one event	Customer satisfaction measured by annual survey - members % (very/quite satisfied)	Customer satisfaction measured by annual survey - students % (very/quite satisfied)
CIPFA Quartile		1	1	1	2		1	1	1	2	2
SE	4447	40	8	14%*	96%	1,005	1038	3	13%*	72%	79%
MIDLANDS	2444	51	10	8% (individuals)	79%	454	471	1	11%	72%	70%
NWNW	1743	57	10	25%*	93%	395	372	5	21%*	87%	84%
SWWE	1559	49	4	25%**	tbc	226	215	0	tbc	56%	66%
SCOTLAND	1197	41	4	31%	85%	271	260	4	70%	86%	89%
Y&H	1013	25	9	45%*	100%	185	183	2	45%*	74%	69%
NORTH EAST	632	29	11	44% (indiv approx)	86%	157	146	3	20%*	84%	84%
NI	181	23	7	25%	97%	116	118	2	15%	90%	100%
EUROPE	86	8	1	27%*	100%	4	4	0	0	64%	67%
ROI	71	0	0	0	0	13	11	0	0	67%	25%
CI	28	0	0	50%*	no info	2	2	0	0	50%	

\* Gross attendance figures (members)

\* Gross attendance figures (all)

Customer satisfaction =

(Very satisfied + quite satisfied)

The tables below details the CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch performance in 2009 against all its key objectives as set out in the 2009 Development Plan. Key Regional Activities Model (RAM) targets are in **BOLD**.

Ref	Key Objective	Key Task	Performance Indicators	2009 Actual
<b>Quartile 1</b>				
<b>Educating, training and continuously developing outstanding members</b>				
	Promote a number of training and development events – Key RAM targets in bold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Hold at least 5 Lunchtime Events during 2009</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Provide at least 12 CPD event hours in 2009</b> (CPD certificates to be provided)</li> <li>➤ Increase numbers attending the AGM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Baseline % will be 2009 outturn - % members and % students attending at least 1 event</b></li> <li>➤ <b>&gt; 12 CPD hours</b></li> <li>➤ Number of attendees &gt;15</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>25% of members and 15% of students</b> attended at least 1 lunchtime event in 2009. 5 events held in 2009. Annual Luncheon and the Annual Conference also held.</li> <li>➤ <b>23 hours:</b> Lunchtime events – 10 Hours; AGM – 1 hour; Annual Debate - The Economic Climate - Cause vs. Solution – 2 hours and CIPFA NI Annual Conference (24 – 25 September 09) –10 hours</li> <li>➤ 2009 AGM held at same time as Annual Branch Luncheon in March 2009 – 20 members attended compared to 15 in 2008.</li> </ul>

	<p><i>Improve communications with members</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Operate a Members' Helpline, which will respond to members queries within 24 hours</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Organise an Annual Debate on a public sector topic- subject to financial resources</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Publish 'the account' 3 times per year</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Support CIPFA Education &amp; Training Division by undertaking exam invigilation 2 times per year</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Contribute to 'Spreadsheet'</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Review existing panel representation and nominations to panels</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Arrange appropriate feedback from panel members</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Respond within 24 hours</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Planned for late 2009</i></li> <li>➤ <i>3 Issues planned</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Exam invigilation 2 times during year</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Contribution to 3 issues</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Annual Review</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Feedback from one member p.a.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Target met</i></li> <li>➤ <i>High quality debate held - 'The Economic Climate – Cause vs. Solution' - 23/10/09. Co-hosted with Chairpersons' Forum.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>'the account' magazine was distributed in February and July 2009. The December 2009 edition was postponed and issued in January 2010.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Completed for June and December exams</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Articles submitted for each issue.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Review completed and responses made to requests for panel representation</i></li> <li>➤ <i>One panel member (Colin Langford – Education &amp; Training) made a presentation to the Committee at the December meeting.</i></li> </ul>
	<p><i>To promote CIPFA's qualifications to potential students</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Make an annual presentation to AAT students</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Make an annual presentation to public sector employers</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Make an annual presentation to NI University students</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Give 1 presentation to AAT students</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Give 1 presentation to employers</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Give 1 presentation to university students</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Presentation given (April 2009)</i></li> <li>➤ <i>1 presentation made (Feb 2009)</i></li> <li>➤ <i>2 presentations made UUJ (Mar 09) and QUB (Mar 09) – and Strathern Grammar School (Feb 09)</i></li> </ul>
	<p><i>Consider innovative ways to support students</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b><i>Organise at least 2 events (CPD or social) for the Student Society.</i></b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b><i>Provide funding and other support for 2 events</i></b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Student Society reconstituted February 09. 2 events held (IPDS event) and quiz evening.</i></li> </ul>

Ref	Key Objective	Key Task	Performance Indicators	2009 Actual
<b>Quartile 2</b>				
<b>Meeting customer needs and expectations</b>				
	<i>A standard overall satisfaction question to be included in all post regional event surveys – Key RAM targets in bold</i>	➤ <i>Satisfaction results to be reported</i>	➤ <i>Surveys in place (2009 will be the baseline)</i>	➤ <i>Customers satisfied – 97%</i> ➤ <i>Members - 90% (very/quite satisfied)</i> ➤ <i>Students 100% (very/quite satisfied)</i>
	<i>Recognise involvement of Volunteers</i>	➤ <i>Submit nominations, if appropriate, for CIPFA awards and Bye Laws 5 &amp; 6 membership</i>	➤ <i>Considered nominations</i>	➤ <i>Considered by the Committee and decided that in 2009 no nominations would be made.</i>
	<i>Support prestigious events</i>	➤ <i>Contribute to planning CIPFA NI Annual Conference</i> ➤ <i>Organise Annual Chairperson's Luncheon</i>	➤ <i>Organise Conference</i> ➤ <i>Organise Luncheon</i>	➤ <i>Conference successfully ran on 24 &amp; 25 September (over 160 attended)</i> ➤ <i>Lunch held on 4 March 2010</i>
<b>Quartile 3</b>				
<b>Setting High Standards and delivering best practice</b>				
	<i>To assist in the development of best practice guides and CIPFA Codes of Practice</i>	➤ <i>Contribute to 2 Codes of Practice per year</i>	➤ <i>Contribution to 2 Codes</i>	➤ <i>Contribution made to 'On Board' 4 and Cash Flow toolkit</i>
	<i>Support nominations, if appropriate, for CIPFA awards and Bye Laws 5 &amp; 6 membership</i>	➤ <i>See Quartile 2 above</i>	➤ <i>See Quartile 2 above</i>	➤ <i>See Quartile 2 above</i>

Ref	Key Objective	Key Task	Performance Indicators	2009 Actual
<b>Quartile 4</b>				
<b>Developing our people and making best use of our resources</b>				
	<i>To ensure high standards for the use of resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>To deliver objectives within approved resource allocation</i></li> <li>➤ <i>To provide financial activity analysis to each Branch Committee meeting</i></li> <li>➤ <i>To provide Finance Report to AGM</i></li> <li>➤ <i>To obtain sponsorship for key Branch events, including 'the account', Lunchtime Events, Annual Conference and Chairperson's Luncheon</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Ensure that CIPFA NI website is kept up to date</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Balance sheet remains strong.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Reported to each Branch Committee meeting.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Report presented to AGM.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Obtain sponsor for 2009 programme.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>website updated and reviewed by Committee</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Financial position remains strong.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Circulated by Treasurer prior to each meeting.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>2009 Report presented to AGM on 5 March 2010</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Sponsorship in 2009 didn't materialise – reserves were used in 2009 to deliver agreed objectives and to support the Professional Qualification.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Volunteer Co-ordinator maintains website to CIPFA standard and presents a report to each Branch Committee appointed.</i></li> </ul>
	<i>To ensure high accountability and transparency of Branch resources to members</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Branch Development Plan in place at beginning of year</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Promote all Branch events</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Provide opportunities for volunteer involvement</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Branch Development Plan sent to all members</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Utilise a range of promotional channels.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Increase and promote range of volunteering opportunities.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>CIPFA NI distributed hard copy 2009 Plan to members in March 2009.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Promotion through 'the account', Spreadsheet, email and website.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Circulars to members of non executive positions advertised in local press</i></li> </ul>

## PART 9

# CIPFA Northern Ireland Membership and Statistics - 2009

### CIPFA NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH COMMITTEE

The CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch meets 4 times a year to plan and implement a range of events and activities to support the CPD of members and students in the province. All this work is voluntary and unpaid. We are grateful to Committee Members, their employers and families for supporting their valuable work.

Similarly, we are grateful to members who serve on the Branch's 3 sub-groups.

Attendance figures in 2009 for Committee Officers and Members are in brackets.

In 2009 CIPFA Northern Ireland Officers were:

- Regional Chair: Michael Carson - Northern Ireland Audit Office (4)
- Regional Vice Chair: Michele Woods – Department of Social Development (2)
- Honorary Secretary: Patricia Blair - Northern Ireland Audit Office (1 – Maternity Leave)
- Honorary Treasurer: Catherine O'Hagan – Northern Ireland Audit Office (1)
- Immediate Past Chair: Mark McBride – Belfast City Council (3)
- Council Members – Trevor Salmon – Belfast City Council (0), Mark McBride – Belfast City Council (3)
- Ex Officio member (Head of CIPFA NI) – David Nicholl (4)

In 2009 CIPFA Northern Ireland elected Committee members were:

- Jonathan Adams – Belfast Education and Library Board (3)
- Michael Burton – Public Service (4)
- Heather Cousins – DSD (2)
- Joanne Devlin – PwC (0)
- Geoffrey Crossey – Public Service (4)
- Peter Harvey – DHSSPS (2)
- Una Foy – CIPFA NI Office (3)
- Kate McKay - Ex Officio member (CIPFA NI Office) (1 – Maternity Leave)
- Michael Tattersall – Child Support Agency (2)
- Kathryn Thompson – Northern Ireland Tourist Board (4)

The Branch has two sub-groups

(1) **Events Sub-Committee** which comprises the following members:

➤ Patricia Blair	➤ Nicola Briggs
➤ Michael Carson	➤ David Clement
➤ Heather Cousins	➤ Peter Harvey
➤ David Nicholl	➤ Steve Mungavin
➤ Kathryn Thomson	➤ Kate McKay (Non-Member)
➤ Michele Woods	

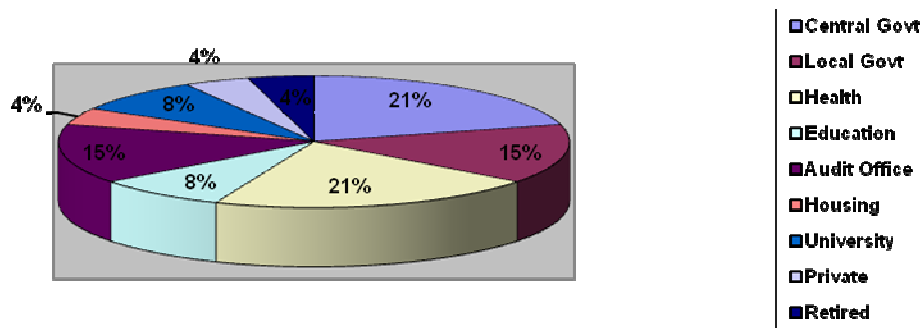
(2) *'the account' Editorial Board*, which comprises the following members:

➤ Heather Cousins	➤ Colin Evans
➤ Diane Forsythe	➤ Tim Johnston
➤ Kate McKay	➤ David Nicholl
➤ David Reid	➤ Ian Winton
➤ Brigitte Worth	

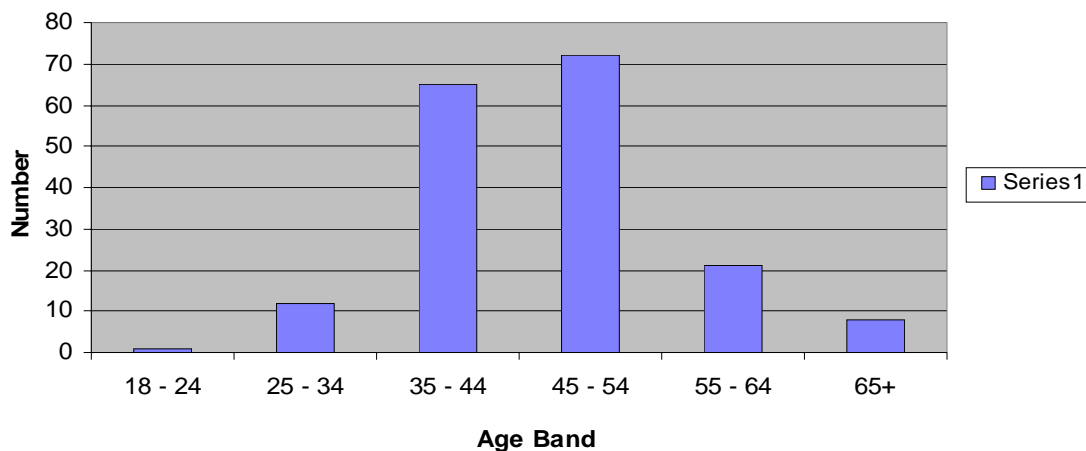
## CIPFA NORTHERN IRELAND MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

The Northern Ireland Branch is one of the smaller regional CIPFA Branches in the United Kingdom with 188 CIPFA qualified full members and 118 student members.

A breakdown of the CIPFA Northern Ireland Membership by sector and age is provided below.



Age Profile of Northern Ireland Members



## PART 10

### Spreadsheet Articles 2009

#### (1) Annual Luncheon 2009 (4 March) – April 2009 issue

The article has been copied at Part 3 of this Annual Report.

#### (2) Minister congratulates NI students – June Issue

On 16 March the Northern Ireland Minister of Finance and Personnel, Nigel Dodds MLA OBE MP MLA, hosted an awards ceremony on behalf of CIPFA Northern Ireland in the historical surroundings of Parliament Buildings.

Over 45 students were presented certificates of completion for the CIPFA Professional Qualification, CIPFA Advanced Diploma in Public Audit, CIPFA Diploma in Public Audit and the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT). The certificates were formally presented by Dr Adrian Pulham, Director of Education and Training at CIPFA and Patricia McDonagh Head of Education, Training Operations and Partnerships at the AAT.

Congratulating the students on their commitment and achievement, Minister Dodds highlighted the growing demand for people with financial management expertise as the public sector faces up to the challenges of the current economic climate.



*Minister Dodds (Centre) on the steps of Stormont with (L-R) Patricia McDonagh, AAT; Dr Adrian Pulham, CIPFA; David Nicholl, CIPFA Northern Ireland and Una Foy, CIPFA Northern Ireland*



*Event officials and students celebrate their success on the steps of the Great Hall, Stormont*

### (3) IFRS issues over lunch – June Issue

The second in the 2009 series of short snappy lunchtime events on topical issues affecting the public services proved to be extremely popular. A group of executives attended the event in May 2009 to examine why IFRS is still an issue for public bodies and the challenges ahead of the 30 September deadline for preparation of the full 'shadow' 2008-2009 accounts.



*(L-R) Patrick Gallen, Associate Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Michael Carson, Chair CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch*

Patrick Gallen, an Associate Partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers, provided the keynote presentation mapping the transition to IFRS basis by Central Government and Health in the UK. Patrick also highlighted the key success criteria that were common to bodies that fared well in the NAO audit and outlined future IFRS developments. Delegates left with no doubt about the challenge ahead but were well armed with practical tips on the key to success. In particular, Patrick highlighted the need to provide resources and training for change implementation, ensure management buy-in, establish and monitor a project plan, involve auditors along the way, provide training and most importantly to take the plunge and start early!

### (4) Northern Ireland Annual Conference launched – June Issue



*Dr Vince Cable and Lord Digby Jones to address CIPFA Northern Ireland 2009 Conference*

**As reported in Part 4 the 2009 event was a great success (for full Conference Programme please see Part 11 of this report. Also visit [www.cipfa.org.uk/ni/annual\\_conference.cfm](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/ni/annual_conference.cfm)) and note that plans are already underway for the 2010 conference.**

## (5) Trainees join Class of 2009 – September Issue



*(L-R) The newly appointed Comptroller and Auditor General in Northern Ireland Kieran Donnelly (centre) with new accountancy trainees Diane Roxborough, Leanne Jackson, Michael Whitford and Gerard Byrne.*

Two new groups of trainees have started CIPFA's professional qualification this autumn.

Following a rigorous selection process, the Northern Ireland Audit Office has appointed 4 new members of staff to start their Graduate Trainee scheme, which will further their policy of 'growing their own' qualified auditors. The Northern Ireland Audit Office graduate trainee package, which combines practical audit work across the public services with study for the CIPFA Professional Qualification, has attracted literally hundreds of enquiries.

The Northern Ireland Civil Service trainee accountancy scheme was launched three years ago to meet the growing need for qualified accountants throughout the service and reflects the increased emphasis placed upon sound financial management. The current intake of ten trainees has been recruited from various government departments. The three and a half year programme combines learning and practical experience in a range of accountancy and finance-related disciplines.

## (6) Annual Debate 2009 – December Issue

The CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch Annual Debate, chaired by Declan Curry, and run in partnership with the Chairs' Forum was another success.

This year's title: 'The Economic Climate - Cause vs. Solution' a theme, was debated with vibrancy and gusto as each of the panel delivered their own commentary on the current situation: Roy Leighton, Chairman of the UK's Financial Services Skills Council, in defence of many of the banks, argued that we should adopt a more positive outlook and claimed that the financial services sector is not a "basket case" but that there should be a return to banking basics, for example, "banks should only lend to those who can pay them back" and likewise, "they should only lend money within the market sector that they understand".

Antoinette McKeown, Chief Executive of the Consumer Council, brought the effect of the recession into stark focus, claiming that "1/3 of the population is only 1 month's income away from financial difficulty". She also highlighted the increased cost of living in Northern Ireland compared with other parts of the United Kingdom, citing fuel and electricity as examples.

Richard Ramsey, Ulster Bank, recommended that the current Northern Ireland economic model needs to change radically and he estimated that "it will take 10-15 years to fix the current economic situation". Finally, Stephen Kingon, Chair of Invest NI, who brought a very practical business perspective to the whole debate outlining

the impact of the recession on businesses and stating that there is "a 30% fall in demand; there still remain cash flow difficulties as well as problems with companies diversifying into property, all combined with a general lack of pro-action and intervention". Stephen also called upon the government to 'put its' money where its' mouth is' pointing out that the Northern Ireland Executive has publicly stated that "the economy is its number one priority".

It was refreshing to see younger faces in attendance this year. There was an excellent representation from the girls of the Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch and a delegation from Holy Cross College, Strabane, Declan Curry's old school, who like the Assumption girls, came armed with questions and a steely determination to glean the answers.

Such was the success of the day and in particular the latter, that it prompted Brian Rowntree CBE, Secretary, Chairs' Forum to throw down the gauntlet and invite schools from across the province to take part in a Schools' Annual Debate early next year – watch this space!



*Roy Leighton, Chairman of the UK's Financial Services Skills Council with Panel Chair, Declan Curry*



Girls from the Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch, grill the panel members

## **(7) Lunchtime lessons – December Issue**

The CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch series of lunchtime presentations continues to prove popular with members and the wider public finance community. The 2009 series was brought to a resounding conclusion by Seamus Murray from the Department of Social Development who gave an up to date picture of the requirements of the New Charity Commission. This included analysis of the definition of a charity, what constitutes 'public benefit' as well as the financial returns that will be required to be submitted by April 2011. Further information about the requirements of the charity commission can be found on their website [www.charitycommissionni.org](http://www.charitycommissionni.org)

In autumn 2009, Quintin Oliver provided a highly interactive and stimulating presentation entitled 'Making the Assembly Work for You'. In his presentation he teased out from participants what they understood lobbying to mean. He used the case study of the Gurkas quest for UK residency as an example of a longstanding issue but one which was brought to a quick and successful conclusion for the lobbyists. Quintin described lobbying as 'a competitive sport' and urged a strategic approach using basic questions – what is the problem? Who are the decision-makers? What are the pressure points? What tactics need to be used?

## **(8) 2010 Lunchtime programme – December Issue**

The CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch 2010 series of lunchtime events got underway on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January in CIPFA's offices with a presentation by Richard Pengelly of the Department of Finance and Personnel. In this session, Richard provided an up to date picture of government spending priorities and the likely future levels of public expenditure. Other topics to be covered by the 2010 series include:

IFRS – Emerging from the Shadows  
Friday 12 March 2010  
Northern Ireland Audit Office

Effective Joined-up Public Services  
Friday 23 April 2010  
Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Successful Partnerships in Practice  
Friday 4 June 2010  
Belfast City Council

To book on any of these events, please visit [www.cipfa.org.uk/ni](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/ni)  
There is a nominal charge of £25 for attending individual events or £125 for the series of six – one event is free!

## **(9) Northern Ireland Branch is Top Dog – December Issue**



*Conference photo of 2009 Branch Committee – almost a full house. The President confers the Branch with the Award for 'Most Improved Region'. Tiger was made an Honorary Member for the night*

At CIPFA's Annual Conference for the Regions which took place in Leeds in autumn 2009, the Northern Ireland Branch scooped the award for Most Improved Region.

With a high profile in Northern Ireland, the branch took significant steps to secure its future membership with the reestablishment of the Northern Ireland Students Society.

## Part 11

### CIPFA NI Branch Annual Conference Programme - 2009

#### *Day One*

- 9.00 am Conference open  
Registration - Tea/Coffee in Chandelier Suite
- 9.30 am Conference welcome  
Roger Latham, CIPFA President  
Michael Carson, Chair, CIPFA Northern Ireland Branch
- 9.45 am Address by a senior Government representative
- 10.00 am Tough times - delivering customer value in a challenging world  
Lord Digby Jones
- 11.15 am Tea/Coffee
- 11.45 am A1 - Back to basics for banking [Centenary 5]  
Charlie Ferguson
- A2 - Future developments in IFRS [Annesley Suite]  
Una Foy / Alan Bermingham
- A3 - Discover your true potential [Grand Ballroom]  
Sean Connolly
- 12.30 pm Lunch
- 1.45 pm Can we ever meet public expectations?  
Ben Page
- 2.30 pm B1 - Good governance in practice [Grand Ballroom]  
Sir Alistair Graham
- B2 - Transforming services through partnership [Annesley Suite]  
Michael Kitts
- 3.00 pm Tea/Coffee

- 3.20 pm C1 - Following a strategic path [Grand Ballroom]  
Jean Pousson
- C2 - Raising public service standards [Annesley Suite]  
Glenn Houston
- 4.00 pm Disney's approach to quality service - delivering the magic!  
Tom Madden
- 5.00 pm Close of day one

***Day Two***

- 9.15 am Registration  
Tea/Coffee in Chandelier Suite
- 9.45 am The economic storm – cause and impact  
Dr Vince Cable MP
- 10.30 am D1 - Responding to customer needs [Annesley Suite]  
Eleanor Gill
- D2 - Strategies of the Serengeti [Grand Ballroom]  
Stephen Berry
- 11.15 am Tea/Coffee
- 11.45 am Coping when the chips are down  
Monty Halls
- 1.00 pm Conference close and lunch

Please note next year's CIPFA Northern Ireland annual conference will take place on 23 & 24 September 2010.