

CSE ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Introduction – Highlights and Challenges

This year has seen us trying to build on the decision last year to adopt the theme of ‘Revitalising the Region’; trying to put things in place that serve the members in the Region more effectively. Of course all of us are either already facing, or will shortly face, the need to sign up to Continuing Professional Development – and it is with this in mind that our focus has been on trying to stimulate more activity within the region to help to meet the CPD challenge. Of course the purpose of the Region is also to try to encourage networking amongst Members and to instil a sense of fun and enjoyment within our professional lives.

We have had some moderate success in achieving our aims this year – but need to try to consolidate and extend this in the next few years. We have always had a fairly sound base on which to build. The London Division continues to be both successful and active and some of our annual regional events continue to be well supported. This year we have started to stimulate activity outside of London, with fledgling groups starting to develop programmes for Members in Essex, Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley and Wessex.

Our students are also becoming more active with a student conference being run last year and students and newly qualified attending more events and becoming more active in helping develop regional activities. This year saw the commencement of graduation ceremonies for the newly qualified, and we have run 2 this year. This is intended to be a celebration of finally coming to the end of their studies, but no doubt some also felt this to be a bit of a rite of passage! Nevertheless more will be planned for next and subsequent years.

On the fun side we have maintained some of our long standing and popular events. The first of these was the annual Regional Quiz last February, which was well attended and keenly competitive. This was won for the second time running by a team from one of my old local authorities – the London Borough of Redbridge – but accusations of bias on my part will be hotly defended!

The 49th Annual Summer Conference was well attended this year with a significant increase in numbers – this blends both learning and fun over three days (Thursday to Saturday) in late September. This year we had presentations from Steve Freer, the IDeA, David Bowles (ex-Chief Executive of Lincolnshire County Council), the International Accounting Standards Board, and two ‘management gurus’ – a refreshing change of focus from Organisational Psychologist Bill McAneny (“when asked to sort out someone’s time management problem I told them next time they were late they’d be sacked”) and with the emphasis firmly on the humour a Ruby Wax style presentation from Kate Hull of HumourUs. This of course was supported by a wide range of social events including some quite outrageous hogging of the karaoke by Alison Sweeting from Corydon and Mike Collier from Hertfordshire.

As next year is the 50th anniversary of the Summer Conference I understand several special events are being planned – with no expense being spared – so if I were you I’d get your reservations in early – places will be allocated solely on a first come first served basis!

We also rang the changes at our Annual Dinner with a new venue (the Renaissance Chancery Court) and the introduction of a live band for those who wanted to dance the night away. Both the

venue and the band were a great success, and the food (and of course company) was excellent. On the strength of that we aim to keep the format and venue much the same next year so I hope that you will all try and make it again in 2007.

The Annual General meeting was well attended and was based on the theme of 'Expecting the Unexpected' – some fascinating insights being provided here to the response to the July 7th London bombings and the Buncefield oil fire. Thanks in particular to friends and colleagues who attended to see me get 'sworn in' as Chairman of the Region for this year.

Another success of particular note is the fact that our CSE Web-site, for the second year running, won a prize at the annual Conference for the Regions as being one of the best web-sites amongst the regions – something not just judged on its quality but how it has been developed over the preceding 12 months (so succeeding 2 years running is quite an achievement). Thanks to David Horn and Craig Adams for their continued hard work on this. I understand that they now plan to include a photo-download facility so that any who wish to download photos from the annual dinner or other events will be able to do so.

I do feel that we have made a good start this year, but we have a lot still to do and significant challenges to face. In particular trying to maintain momentum and a pace of improvement is always difficult when we are reliant on volunteers who have to fit this around the day job and their personal lives. To assist in this we are drawing together proposals for the pilot appointment of an 'implementation manager' to assist us in driving forward developments at a much faster rate. These proposals will be considered by the Institute in the New Year and we are hopeful that this will be agreed for operation as a trial later in 2007.

Of course I would also say that there is much that you can do as individual members. Clearly the more support that we can get at events, whether local or regional, the more we are likely to be able to sustain a vibrant and active region. For those who would like to contribute more the crying need is for individuals and groups to take responsibility locally for what is going on in your areas. So if you can develop a group who is interested in helping to support Members in your area, whether through events or more informal networks, please let me know. The Regional Council is there to provide the support and back-up necessary to ensure that the entire Region is active and supporting it's members effectively - but we are reliant on you as individuals to make it happen in your area.

Part 2

Ref	Key Activity	Performance Indicator(s)	Actual
Hallmark 1. Accessible and Responsive	To support the delivery of events/activities to engage with members in locations within easy travelling distance of their homes	Increase the numbers of members participating in local activities	Achieved
	Develop the use of web based communications with members and local groups	Increase by 10% hit rate on web site	Achieved
	To increase numbers of members on e-mail to facilitate better communications with members	Increase % of e-mail addresses held	Partly Achieved numbers held increasing slowly
	Produce timely CSE Newsletter in both paper and electronic format	Achieve target frequency/timing	Paper Editions Achieved, changing to electronic format in 2007
	Sustain and increase the retired members mailing list	Hold two meetings per year maintaining target attendance	Achieved
	Recruit volunteers to help achieve development plan objectives	All identified vacancies are filled	Achieved
	Ensure that information on web site is kept up to date and redundant information removed	Information updated/deleted within two weeks	Achieved

Ref	Key Activity	Performance Indicator(s)	Actual
Hallmark 2 Strong Sustainable Growth	Evaluate the impact and benefits of the undergraduate prize at ARU	Fully argue case presented to ETM Group	Not Achieved
	Establish performance indicator for the above	At least one appropriate and authoritative indicator established	Not Achieved
	Asses whether to continue with the prize and if the decision is yes, whether to extend to another university in the region	Prize awarded	Partly Achieved
	Encourage and sponsor students to attend ACIPFAL and NSF conferences Send student coach to CIPFA or ACIPFAL conference (depending on accessibility of venues)	At least one student to each conference At least 30 students attending	Achieved Not achieved distances to great
	Co-ordinate briefings at CETC and ARU	80% of briefings attended	Achieved
	Holding student events	10% increase in number of contacts with students	Achieved
	Develop further student mentoring schemes	90% satisfaction with scheme Increased take up Demonstrate publicity	Achieved
	Introduce Action Learning Groups (geographically, trainee, senior management)	Minimum of three Groups established	Not Achieved
	Student Team building course	25 students attending	Achieved.

Ref	Key Activity	Performance Indicator(s)	Actual
Hallmark 3 Upholding Highest Standards	Promote involvement in CPD in line with national CIPFA policies	Full participation of members for phase 1 and 2	Not Achieved
	Employer engagement programme	Define and implement a programme to make contact with key employer groups in order to secure their support the revitalising vision. At least 3 groups to be contacted in 2006.	Achieved
	Partner engagement programme	Define and implement a programme to make contact with key potential partners or current competitors in order to work with them to secure the revitalising vision. At least 3 partners to be contacted in 2006.	Achieved
	Develop events to meet the personal and professional development needs of members and students	Two events per year	Achieved
	Organise and secure the delivery of the Regional Summer Conference	Increase attendance at this event	Achieved
	Organise a high quality event to support the CSE AGM	Increase attendance at this event	Not Achieved, attendance as per last year
	Encourage and sponsor members to attend CIPFA conference and Conference for the Regions	Appropriate attendance at both conferences	Achieved

Ref	Key Activity	Performance Indicator(s)	Actual
Hallmark 4 Influential in the Profession	Promote links with accountancy and other relevant bodies in the region	Attend at least three meetings where invitations have been received	Achieved

Ref	Key Activity	Performance Indicator(s)	Actual
Hallmark 5 High Profile in the Public Service	Organise and deliver a successful annual regional dinner	Maintain attendance level around 200. Invite influential people to attend	Achieved
	Provide a graduation ceremony for newly qualified members	70% of those invited attend	Achieved
	Establish links with local treasurers' groups from local government, health and other public sector groups	Attend at least three meetings where invitations have been received	Achieved

Ref	Key Activity	Performance Indicator(s)	Actual
Hallmark 6 Delivering Real Improvement on the Ground	All items in this area are covered in benchmark 3.		

Ref	Key Activity	Performance Indicator(s)	Actual
Hallmark 7 Best Use of Resources	Produce Budgets and accounts	Budget by 01.01.06 2005 Accounts by 28.02.06. Audited accounts for AGM	Achieved
	Ensure sufficient administrative resources is available to deliver the development plan	Administrative posts filled	Achieved
	Actively pursue sponsorship for all Regional activities	Set a base line for future years and work with the Institutes Conference and sponsorship officer to achieve this	Achieved

Part 3

Date	Event	Numbers Attending
28.02.06	Quiz Evening	63
15.03.06	Annual Conference -	52
15.03.06	Annual General Meeting	46
04.04.06	Retired Members - Trip to Courts of Justice	39
05.06.06	Graduation Ceremony	37
30.06.06	Students attending ACIPFAL conference	10
14.16.09.06	Summer Conference - Reading University	71
11.09.06	Golf Day	15
12.10.06	Retired Members - Trip to Kew Gardens	18
06 to 08.10.06	Student team building Course	9
20.10.06	Annual Dinner - Renaissance Chancery Court	202
03.11.06	Student Conference	29
	In addition 8 CPD Open days were held for the South East	
	Region in Robert Street	102
30.11.06	Graduation Ceremony	28
	Sub Divisions	
	East Anglia	
24.05.06	The Efficiency Agenda	51

	London Division	
28.03.06	Half day seminar - The Pension Crisis	100
28.06.06	Evening seminar - London Raising Star or Fallen Angel	65
10.10.06	Half day seminar - Rising to the Top - How to Succeed in Public Finance	92
	Home Counties Group	
21.01.06	General Meeting	12
18.03.06	General Meeting	11
20.05.06	General Meeting	10
23.09.06	General Meeting	5
17.11.06	General Meeting	10
Total		1077
	South East Region Total Membership	5399
	Activity Level	5.0129991

Chairman's personal comments

The progress that has been made this year, and which will hopefully be consolidated next, has only been possible through the efforts and dedication of the volunteers that sit on CIPFA Council. It is very much a team effort with everyone playing a part, but there are those who go above and beyond the efforts of those others. It is therefore only right that I pay tribute to their efforts in particular. Firstly, many thanks to Mike McManus (CSE Council Secretary) for his hard work in trying to keep the Council (and me in particular) in order – and for putting up with me constantly missing his deadlines. Secondly to John Hilsden, Events Secretary, who has worked extremely hard this year at arranging our AGM, the annual dinner and the graduation ceremonies. A lot of work has fallen on John's shoulders this year and he has risen to the task manfully – although he did the back-up of Mike McManus when he fell ill during leading up to the annual dinner. Thankfully John is now fully recovered and is working hard on the next set of events!

A lot of work has also fallen on the shoulders of our Development Group Chairpersons: so again many thanks to Laura Brackwell, Sam Foley, and Christina Earls for their efforts and enthusiasm in trying to drive the region forward. Finally particular thanks for her support to Alison Sweeting who, not only almost single handed organises the Summer School, also agreed to be my Vice Chair this year. Of course the bad news is that this means that she will be Chair of the Region in the not too distant future – and I'm not sure the Region is quite ready for that yet!

Steve Watson

Chairman