

CIPFA South East Regional President's Annual Report for 2022

Agenda item 4.1 - Annex 2

Presented to the 2023 Regional Annual General Meeting on 27 April 2023

I would like to start by thanking all of you for joining us today. With many of us working virtually and adopting hybrid working arrangements, having a chance to meet face to face is very welcome. As always it is a pleasure to return to Grant Thornton's offices for our annual Spring conference and AGM.

In my second and final year representing you as Regional President I am pleased to report that the CIPFA South East Regional Council has delivered a broad programme of events, both face to face and virtual, that were designed to be inclusive for all our regional members and students. Supplementing John Barker's work on directing and resourcing this programme was a network of volunteers across the region who helped publicise these virtual events locally and therefore contributed to their success.

Our digital CPD programme for 2022 has been well received and followed a series of themes agreed by Regional Council, with topics covering the following: COPF26 and Towards Net Zero, Climate Change, Workplace Wellbeing and Successful Hybrid Working, CIPFA Prudential and Treasury Management codes, CIPFA's Financial Management journey. We will continue to utilise our regional Zoom platform to encourage flexible delegate participation to supplement our programme of live events.

The CPD programme for 2023 aims to include a mix of virtual and face to face events and will continue to explore topical issues.

Highlights of the year include:

- Public Finance Live returned in July as a face-to-face event in Liverpool with good representation from the regional council. All agreed that the sessions and topics were informative and interesting but being able to meet in person again was the real benefit.
- The CIPFA Regional Forum was hosted in Dublin by the Republic of Ireland region, where representatives from most of the UK's CIPFA regions attended and remain appreciative of the continuing collaboration and support across the regions.
- The Annual Pan Accountancy Lunch took place at Mansion House giving regional council representatives the opportunity to network with other accountancy bodies.
- Our Speed Mentoring evening was a resounding success, bringing together 25 mentors and 25 mentees.
- The Annual Regional Dinner took place in November; we are delighted to be able to continue to offer this fantastic event to our regional colleagues and to have been able to raise a significant amount of money for my nominated charity, POPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide. Prior to the dinner we hosted a Newly Qualified Members presentation ceremony where CIPFA Past President Mike Driver was able to present certificates to newly qualified members, recognising all the hard work and dedication that it takes to achieve the CIPFA qualification.
- Some of our Hub group live events were planned to return during the year – in Sussex, Norfolk, Hampshire, Surrey, Essex, Kent and Hertfordshire – although a

postponement for National Mourning and then sponsor and speaker availability prevented the full delivery of our intended programme towards the end of the year.

- At the annual PF Awards Dinner held in November, CIPFA South East was represented by John Barker. It was an opportunity to network further with our sponsors and share our regional developments with colleagues from other regions, CIPFA and Public Finance.

Our retired members group has sadly not been able to undertake any events this year, following Eric Keighley stepping down due to health issues. Regional Council thanked Eric formally for his work and we are continuing to seek contact with him and hope he may join an event when his health improves. We are actively seeking a new retired members representative and hope events can restart in 2023.

Our Regional Students Network were able to resume face to face events this year, including the very popular Pub Quiz in October. The executive have also worked hard to bring students together via a range of virtual events, including virtual yoga sessions and a life coach class.

I would like to thank all our regional volunteers including members of the South East Council for their hard work and dedication. To help ensure our region can continue to operate and offer a diverse events programme, we have set up a Succession Planning Working Group this year. The focus of the group is refining the responsibilities of key roles within the Regional Council and actively seeking a successor for John Barker as he steps back from his secretarial, sponsorship and event lead role in 2023. I would strongly urge anyone to consider volunteering. I would also like to formally offer a sincere thank you to John for his extraordinary work over the past decade in delivering the regional events programme which has gone from strength to strength as a result of his efforts.

We remain especially grateful to those sponsors who have supported our events for several years, plus several others who have sponsored or supported us for the first time this year – either with funding, virtual hosting or providing speakers: They are Grant Thornton, Zurich Municipal, CCLA, CIPFA, CIPFA-Penna, RP Martin, IMPOWER, 31Ten Consulting, Technology One, Moore Optima, Hammond-Clark, Institute for Fiscal Studies, Trowers & Hamlins, Aberdeen Standard (Abrdn) and Allen Lane. I would also like to extend thanks to all the CIPFA HQ staff who have delivered support to our remote regional activities during the year.

Today marks the end of my two years as Regional President. It has been an honour and a privilege to represent the South East region and thank you for your support. It has been a pleasure to meet and represent so many of you in person and online and I would like to wish our new President John Barker the very best of luck.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you either virtually or in person at upcoming regional and national events later this year.

Kathryn Long
Regional President
CIPFA South East
April 2023