

# CIPFA in the North West – Apr 2018

*Institute Council Member – Shaer Halewood*



Ahh spring is in the air, saw lots of new lambs on my train journey to London for April's Council meeting. The sun was shining and it made a very pleasant 2 hour commute.

At the start of the year, all Council members were required to complete a self-assessment questionnaire and the results were in. They were encouraging and strong with good responses on:

- Council members knowing their role, feeling able to contribute to strategy and having the right skills to do this
- Being able to ensure proper accountability to the CIPFA Membership
- Having an effective Council workplan that focuses on the right things
- Council meetings and papers are effective, timely and the correct frequency and meetings enable Members to actively contribute

Some areas for improvement were also noted, namely:

- Engagement between the Council and Boards, Committees and Regions could be improved
- Sometimes the role of Council is unclear (but this was recognised that there had been significant change over the past 12 months)
- The process for co-opting Council members could be clearer

New Non-Exec Directors appointed to CIPFA Board – Mark Lovell and Joe Sealey were approved by Council and will be appointed from 1 May 2018.

The 2017 Annual Accounts were presented and approved by Council and can be viewed here: <http://www.cipfa.org/about-cipfa/annual-report> These will be presented to the AGM in July. The External Auditor's Audit Findings Report was also presented and being on the Audit Committee I had already been party to these as they had been presented to the Committee in advance. The agenda also included the outcomes of the Internal Audit report and provided the Head of Internal Audit opinion for 2017.

A report was presented to Council by Ken Finch, Chair of the Audit Committee about compliance with the CIPFA Code of Governance. The Code covers 7 principles:

1. Organisational Purpose
2. Leadership
3. Integrity
4. Decision Making, Risk & Control
5. Board Effectiveness
6. Diversity
7. Openness and Accountability.

Ken concluded that overall CIPFA can demonstrate good compliance with the 7 principles in the code although there were two areas for further consideration.

Under Principle 4 – Decision Making, Risk & Control, the Code encourages the use of Benchmarking which is quite difficult for CIPFA to do as there are no other organisations that operate in the way the CIPFA does.

In addition, Principle 6 – Diversity is a new section and needed further consideration. At the last Council meeting it was agreed that this would be one of the focusses of the Regional Forum in the Autumn.

Finally, the last papers were relating to the AGM and Conference 2018, with some changes to be agreed at the AGM that will be the subject of a ballot shortly and the format and venue for the National Conference. The Conference is being held in Bournemouth this year where I've never been to. So I'm packing my knotted hanky and inflatable flamingo for a bit of Southern Beach Life.

***And finally.....*** Super excited to have been invited to the **2018 Public Finance Innovation Awards** in my capacity as National Council Member on the same evening. I've not been before and it was WOW! a really spectacular evening with a jam packed room. I was also pleased as punch that my fellow North West colleagues from Wigan Council won the Grand Prix Award. It was very well deserved as I know the great job that Wigan are doing with their Deal and Donna Hall their Chief Exec is a superstar. Here's a sneak 'before' the dinner.



Fellow Council Members Claire Gravel and Chris Earls at the PF Awards Dinner



The room looking spectacular for the dinner

Shaer

**Our regional webpages are:**

**Twitter** – search [twitter.com/CIPFANW](https://twitter.com/CIPFANW)

**LinkedIn** – search for the Group CIPFA North West

**Facebook** – search for the Group CIPFA North West

**CIPFA Website** - <http://www.cipfa.org/members/regions/north-west>