

# CIPFA in the North West – Dec 2017

*Institute Council Member – Shaer Halewood*



After surviving my first Council in October, back again I was for a second time – so I thought! Tickets booked and ready for the President’s dinner on the same evening, a few days before I was struck down with Bronchitis. Horrible it was, every had it before and I’ll thank it not to come by my door again.

However, no need to despair, I get the minutes so can still tell all....

Unfortunately for me I was supposed to be presenting a slot on **Ethics** relating to the adoption of the SOPP at the meeting from my work on the Ethics Working Group. My EWG colleague Christina Earls thankfully stepped in and presented it on my behalf. Here’s the highlights:

The Standard of Professional Practice on Ethics (SOPP on Ethics) applies to all CIPFA members (including affiliates, associates and Members) and Registered Students. The SOPP on Ethics is based on the International Ethics Standards Board of Accountants Code of Ethics (the IESBA Code), which CIPFA adopts in full. The IESBA periodically updates its Code and Council were asked to approve the adoption of the 2016 IESBA Code (the most recent version) to become the SOPP on Ethics.

The key changes are as follow:

- 1 Paras removed that permitted an audit firm to provide certain bookkeeping or tax services to a Public Interest Entity (PIE) in emergency situations.
- 2 Provisions addressing management responsibilities were strengthened.
- 3 Guidance related to “routine and mechanical” accounts preparation services (in respect of PIEs) was enhanced and clarified
- 4 New sections addressing professional accountants’ responsibilities when they become aware of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations (NOCLAR) committed by a client or employer.
- 5 Some consequential and conforming changes have been made to sections 100, 140, 150, 210 and 270.
- 6 NOCLAR – Non-compliance with laws and regulations that Council were specifically asked to pay attention to.

Other items from Council were:

- New visioning statement for CIPFA that links to the outcomes for improving public services
- Update on the work of the Brexit Advisory Commission – more details can be found here: <http://www.brexitcommission.org/>
- Great news - CIPFA President is now also Chair of the CCAB for 2018
- Business Plan update – new business plan for 2018 with growth expected in some areas – E&T, Consultancy & Property Asset Management
- Faculty Board update following a recent review was that the number and structure of Boards need streamlining and clarifying via review of Terms of Reference. Board strength was thought leadership and they work best where they were related to sectors. Potential to reduce numbers to 4 Boards from next year.

- Council agreed to propose a Bye-law to the AGM to enable Members to stand for election in their region of residence or their region of work. Council also agreed that regions should not endorse candidates for the National Council
- Feedback from the Regional Forum (in Edinburgh in November)
  - Good cycle of engagement between regions and Council/HQ
  - Next Forum to look at Membership offer, promoting the value of CIPFA to employers and the improved CIPFA website
  - Diversity issues had also been raised and the Executive were tasked with looking at this over the next few months

**And finally.....**never one to be miss out on a function, I, along with a few other members of the North West attended the regional forum in November. The forum is an opportunity for CIPFA regional Council volunteers to get together and discuss best practice, innovations, what works for them and what doesn't and to catch up with HQ and members of CIPFA Council and the Exec on what's going on and how to pass the message out to regional members and students.

The venue was Edinburgh which was just amazing and I took the opportunity to go up a couple of days earlier to have a look round. Of course, it wasn't without the usual CIPFA mishaps as we had a fire alarm on the evening of the dinner! We were all back in tucking in our dessert in not time though. Here's the best bits:



Chair of CIPFA Scotland Alison Cumming and CIPFA JVP Carolyn Williamson open the event



Dinner Delegates



Quick visit to the Castle!

Shaer

**Our regional webpages are:**

**Twitter** – search 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>