

CIPFA South East Regional President's Annual Report for 2018

Presented to the 2018 Regional Annual General Meeting on 27 March 2019

In my second year of representing you as Regional President I am pleased to report that the CIPFA South East Regional Council, has continued to deliver a broad programme of regular events that are designed to be inclusive for all our regional members and students. We have also collaborated with other regions and with other providers to encourage sharing of ideas and knowledge. I have very much enjoyed attending regional events and representing you and CIPFA at a number of functions.

We have delivered an excellent programme through a series of events providing much needed CPD, with the majority of this provided free or at minimal cost. I would particularly like to draw attention to our second innovative 'speed mentoring' evening we hosted in February with special thanks to Tom England from the SE Council and Will Ryan from Allen Lane our sponsors, this was a tremendous success.

Special thanks to Grant Thornton, who once again host us for our AGM and Spring Conference, which allows us to offer free attendance for all our members and students.

Supplementing John's work on developing the programme is a network of volunteers across the region that helps deliver our member and student events locally. We are especially pleased with the ongoing development of our regional hubs where volunteers are assisting with sourcing venues and supporting organisation for these local events. Our London Division continues to thrive and has delivered the usual three morning seminars with topical agendas resulting in good attendance at each.

Our major events have again been successful this year, with the Regional Spring Conference/AGM (April) and the Autumn Residential Conference at Wantage Hall, University of Reading (September) both attracting a widening range of delegates.

A number of our regional members joined the volunteers from CIPFA South West Region to help out at the very sunny Annual CIPFA Conference in July in Bournemouth. Our volunteers assisted delegates at the venue and attended the regional reception for guests and sponsors during the Conference. We look forward to supporting our colleagues in the Midlands in Birmingham in July for the newly renamed Public Finance Live event. .

The Annual Dinner in November was attended by around 200 members and guests. This was attended by CIPFA Vice President Carolyn Williamson. This year again, we also arranged presentation of certificates by Carolyn to some newly qualified members prior to the Dinner. A great welcome to the CIPFA family for our new members and their guests!

We held our annual 'Public Finance in Wessex' Conference in March which was well attended with some great speakers. This event, with support from the South West Region, was hosted by Hampshire County Council in Winchester. Our 'Public Finance in East Anglia Conference' in September at Newmarket was well

received and demonstrated our commitment to offer these full day low cost CPD events at a growing range of venues across our region.

Our Regional Student Network has been very active this year, organising a number of events such as induction sessions and revision workshops to support formal learning and to encourage networking and volunteering. The annual September pub quiz - held this time in the Railway Arms, Liverpool Street - was the usual success.

Our retired members group continued with its widening variety of interesting visits with an April visit to Stamford Bridge, home to Chelsea FC. An innovation in October (in partnership with CIPFA Penna) for our retired (or close to it!) members was an evening structured to explain some options for those wanting to continue using their skills in a range of new opportunities.

The CIPFA Regional Forum was held in Birmingham in November, hosted by our Midlands colleagues, where representatives from most of the UK's CIPFA regions attended. It was an excellent event which again demonstrated the value of strong regional activity to supplement the role of CIPFA corporately and plans are being developed for the 2019 Forum to be held in the North West.

Given that the region receives less than £4 per member annually from CIPFA funding centrally to operate its regional programme of events, a lot of hard work goes on to make all these events happen. I would like to thank all our regional volunteers including members of the South East Council for all their hard work and dedication. As with every year, I would strongly plea and urge you to volunteer and to help keep our region operating, we have been reliant on many of the same people for a few years now, some of which have indicated their intention to stand down over the next couple of years and we need to secure the future of the region by ensuring we have an adequate succession plan.

We remain especially grateful to those sponsors who have supported our events for several years, plus a number of others who have sponsored or supported us for the first time this year – either with funding, hosting or providing speakers: They are Grant Thornton, Zurich Municipal, CCLA, CIPFA-Penna, RP Martin, iMPower, 31Ten Consulting, Mazars, PA Consulting Group, BDO Hamlyn, PwC, KPMG, RSM and Allen Lane.

I should also like to extend thanks to all of the CIPFA HQ staff who have delivered support to our regional activities during the year.

I would like to thank you all for your support over the past year. It has been my pleasure to represent you. Finally, I look forward to seeing you during the rest of 2019 and beyond at some of our regional and national events.

Amy Crowson
Regional President
CIPFA South East

March 2019