

Notes

Meeting: Regional Presidents' Meeting

Date: 8 July 2019, at ICC Birmingham

1. Update from the Spring Forum. All matters to be covered were included in the agenda for the meeting.
2. Student and Members Board. The proposal to have someone from regions to liaise with SMB has developed since the initial proposal was discussed. There is now a vacancy on SMB for a regional representative. This will give an 'additional voice for the regions'. The role will initially be for one year with someone co-opted on to SMB. Christina Earls offered to lead the discussion with Jayne Owen (SMB Chair) and regional presidents. Rhian Evans (Past President of Wales region) has expressed her willingness to take on the role on SMB.
3. IT development project. A proposal was circulated prior to the meeting calling for financial support from regions to enable the project to proceed. The proposal included financial support of 10% of regions' reserves, across all regions. There was resistance from some regions for this approach while others were willing to contribute. It was made clear that the project could not proceed without funds being found to support it. It was felt a fairer proportion of funding should be considered; perhaps taking into account the number of members in the region as well as the reserves held, and regions should be able to comment on how much they can commit. Current systems are working satisfactorily in some areas, but there was a general acknowledgment that IT processes are 'clunky', taking more time and effort than should be necessary, with particular difficulties setting up events and event bookings. Action: it was agreed to circulate an alternative proposal to fund the project. Regions will be involved with the specification and testing of the new system, and will not be required to pay until the project has been successfully completed.
4. Development plans. Regional development plan templates will be issued by the end of August. The purpose is to gain an overview of what regions are planning for the year ahead. Feedback was requested on the progress being made against the plans. Although some feedback is currently provided at the regional forums in the spring and autumn and during teleconference meetings during the year, CIPFA wants to have systematic feedback on a regular basis. This might be no more than an email with key points on activities and expenditure of development funding, perhaps every two months. Further information will be provided when the development plans are circulated.
5. Annual conference, PF Live. Midlands Region had set up a stand in the foyer as a focal point for regions and volunteers. There would not be a regional dinner this year but instead a drinks area set-aside for regions at the GT drinks reception to which all were invited. A session was arranged about the Sixth Form Games (aka CIPFA Management Games). Midlands region has held many Games over the years

and these have proved successful at informing young people about public sector finance and promoting CIPFA.

6. Autumn Forum, 14-15 November, Chester. It was agreed to include a session on 'embedding ethics' in regions and what progress has been made since ethics was discussed at the autumn forum last year. The agenda is almost finalised for the forum. North West region are keen to have participation from regions and to have an action led programme for all those attending the forum.
 7. AOB
 8. Regional representatives on CIPFA Council should be reminded to maintain contact with their local Council. Jayne Owen to raise at CIPFA Council meeting.
 9. Hedley Marshall Award update. Four potential suppliers have been approached to give design options and costs for a new trophy. To link it back to the original trophy, it will incorporate imagery from Coventry Cathedral or the cathedral's stained glass windows. The new award will be ready in time for the Autumn Forum in November.
 10. CIPFA 2020. A review of the CIPFA professional qualification is underway, known as CIPFA 2020. Feedback will be sought from a wide range of students, employers and other organisations. Regions are encouraged to participate in the review, perhaps by hosting a roundtable discussion. The review will be carried out between August and October. Further information will be sent out by Chris Glennie shortly.
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Next teleconference meeting: Thursday 12 September 2019, 14:00 – 15:00

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