

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
date	1 June 2007	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY (CIPFA) CONFERENCE 2007

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of the CIPFA 2007 Conference and seek approval for the attendance of the Chair of Finance and Resources.

2 BACKGROUND

CIPFA Conference is the largest event in the area of local government and public sector finance. It presents an opportunity for delegates to hear some of the leading experts in the field of finance speaking on a range of current and emergent issues for the public sector.

3 REPORT

3.1 The CIPFA Annual Conference is to be held in Bournemouth on Wednesday 13 June and Thursday 14 June 2007. Speakers include Paul Coen (LGA), Robert Chote (Director of Institute for Fiscal Studies), Prof Tony Travers (Director, Greater London Group, LSE) and Brendan Barber (General Secretary, TUC) amongst others. Subjects to be covered are wide ranging and include meeting the challenges posed by the Comprehensive Spending Review, New Visions for Governance, Modern Regulation and Making the most of Technology.

3.2 It is considered particularly important that, in addition to the Head of Resources and Finance who attends as the Authority's Chief Financial Officer, the Chair of Finance and Resources Committee should also attend. This is an opportunity for them to continue their engagement with both specific financial issues affecting the Service and those wider issues affecting Local Government and the public sector as a whole.

3.3 The conference programme (see Appendix A) is varied and also contains a series of specific workshops which in previous years have proven to be very useful and challenging.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The anticipated cost of attending the conference, including accommodation for two nights, travel and subsistence is yet to be confirmed, but will be approximately £800. This can be contained within the budgetary provision for Member Conference Expenses.

5 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

6 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial assessment has revealed there are no equality issues arising from this report.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

That approval is given for the attendance of the Chair of Finance and Resources at this conference as part of an ongoing programme of member training and development.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

CIPFA CONFERENCE 2007

TUESDAY 12 JUNE	
15.45	CIPFA AGM
16.45 – 17.30	The Fringe Lecture John Sergeant , Author, Journalist and former BBC Chief Political Correspondent
WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE	
Session 1	
09.15	Opening Remarks CIPFA President, John Butler
Session 2	Chairman: CIPFA President, John Butler
09.30	The Imperative for Change Speaker to be announced
Session 3	Chairman: CIPFA President, John Butler
10.15	New Visions for Local Governance Paul Coen , LGA; Steve Thomas , Welsh LGA; Rory Mair , COSLA How do local authorities need to change if they are to fulfil a bigger, more ambitious role? What challenges does localism pose for both central and local government?
11.00	Coffee in the Exhibition Halls
Session 4	Hosted by: David Walker, Editor, Public Magazine
11.30	The CIPFA/PricewaterhouseCoopers Public Reporting & Accountability Awards Ceremony followed by the Annual Accountability Lecture Professor Robert Hazell CBE , Director of the Constitution Unit, UCL
11.15-12.45	Concurrent Workshops 1 & 2
12.30	Lunch in the Exhibition Halls
Session 5	Chairman: Sarah Wood, CIPFA Council member and former Director of Policy at the Local Government Association
14.00	Responding to New Challenges Tarique Ghaffur , Assistant Commissioner, Head of Central Operations, Metropolitan Police What are the policing and security challenges we can anticipate for the future? Are we developing the right strategies and capability to combat them?
Session 6	Chairman: Sarah Wood
14.30	Surviving the Comprehensive Spending Review Robert Chote , Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies; Prof Tony Travers , Director, Greater London Group, LSE How tough will the CSR really be? Has the Gershon agenda created a

	more efficient machine which can run on less fuel? Where is the pinch most likely to be felt and will the Government be able to cope with the pain?
14.00-15.30	Concurrent Workshops 3, 4 & 5
15.15	Tea in the Exhibition Halls
Session 7	
15.45	Understanding Demographic Change Prof David Coleman , Professor of Demography, Oxford University Rapid growth in population as well as a changing age profile are major challenges for many public service organisations. What are the principal drivers of demographic change? What are the implications for the future funding and delivery of public services?
Session 8	
16.15	Together We Can Stephen Bubb , Chief Executive, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) Can the Third Sector really help deliver cost effective public services and relieve pressure on the public sector? What can voluntary organisations teach the public sector in terms of processes, methods and techniques? Is this partnership a template for the future, or just an attempt to provide public services on the cheap?
17.00	CIPFA 2007 Reception in the Exhibition Halls – all delegates & exhibitors invited - sponsored by Steria
THURSDAY 14 JUNE	
Session 9	Chairman: Peter Rogers, Chief Executive, Westminster City Council
9.15	Engaging the Workforce Brendan Barber , General Secretary, TUC How successfully have we managed modernisation? Are the workforce engaged and making a full contribution to the process? What are the key issues which inevitably inspire tensions? How can they and relationships more generally be managed to minimise strife and maximise success?
09.15-10.45	Concurrent Workshops 6 & 7
Session 10	Chairman: Peter Rogers
10.00	Modern Regulation Michael O'Higgins , Chairman, Audit Commission Stephen Thornton , Chief Executive, The Health Foundation The past decade has seen a significant expansion in the business of overseeing, regulating and inspecting the public services. Can the regulators effect positive, lasting change in organisations and the services they deliver?
10.45	Coffee in the Exhibition Halls
Session 11	Chairman: Jeremy Vine, Editor, The Times Public Agenda
11.15	Making the Most of Technology Douglas Johnson-Poensgen , Strategic Development Director, BT

	<p>Government</p> <p>Rapid developments in technology are here and now. They offer the potential to reinvent organisations and open up radical new ideas around service delivery. Are we making the most of these opportunities?</p>
Session 12	Chairman: Jeremy Vine
11.45	<p>An NHS for the 21st Century Prof Paul Corrigan, Senior Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister</p> <p>Modernising and reforming the NHS has been amongst the Government's greatest challenges. Where are we on the journey? Has the combination of investment and reform delivered a system which is now equipped to meet 21st century needs and aspirations?</p>
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch in the Exhibition Halls
Session 13	Chairman: Peter Hetherington, Political Commentator, The Guardian
14.00	<p>Options for Change Nick Pearce, Director, IPPR Anthony Browne, Director, Policy Exchange</p> <p>Reviewing the changing political and policy landscape. How much room for manoeuvre do the Government have? What are the new policy options which they are most likely to choose?</p>
Session 14	Chairman: Peter Hetherington
14.45	<p>Stepping up the Pace of Civil Service Reform Ian Watmore, Permanent Secretary and Head of Delivery and Transformation Group</p> <p>Do Capability Reviews pull the right levers to inspire strong improvement programmes in Government Departments? What is the experience to date revealing and how are Departments responding?</p>
Session 15	Chairman: CIPFA President, John Butler
15.15	<p>Closing Plenary: Staying Ahead of the Global Competition Rt. Hon. Ken Clarke QC, MP, former Chancellor of the Exchequer</p> <p>What impact will globalisation and the emergence of major new economic powers have upon the development and progress of the UK? Are we likely to be able to sustain a world class economy to fund world class public services?</p>
16.00 – 16.10	The President – Closing Remarks
19.30	Gala Ball , Royal Bath Hotel (Ticket only)