

**REPORT TO THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE****DATE:** 26 November 2007**SUBJECT:** CIPFA Conference 12-14<sup>th</sup> June 2007**SUMMARY:**

To receive a report from Cllr Jim Davies on the CIPFA conference 2007

OBJECTIVES		IMPLICATIONS	
Trusted & Respect		Operational Risk Management	
More than Emergencies	/	Community Risk Reduction	
Saving Lives, Protecting Communities		Training & Development	
Managing within Budget	/	Civil Contingencies	
Improving Efficiency	/	Finance & Procurement	/
Resources to Priorities	/	H.R.	
Alternative Resources	/	ICT	
Managing People	/	Corporate Services	
Integrated Management Planning	/	Transport	
Partnership Working	/	Health & Safety	
Effective & Empowered People		Premises	
Sustainability & the Environment		Welsh Language	
Governance	/	Legal	
<b>COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS:</b>			
£620 per person if 2 or more , plus accommodation for 2 nights per person and travelling			

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the CIPFA conference is added to the standing list of conferences.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT:**

CIPFA Conference Papers

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**Report to the Resources Committee, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007**  
**CIPFA Conference 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

The CIPFA conference was a most informative and enjoyable event. A packed conference programme meant it was impossible for the Director of Finance and myself to get to all the sessions of interest, with the main conference programme, workshop sessions, the career conference for newly qualified staff, the large trade exhibitions and the fringe session all running concurrently. However we had plenty of choice and were able to home in on those sessions that we thought the most useful.

There has been criticism in the recent past that the CIPFA conference had become 'England centric', discussing issues of little relevance to Wales. This certainly wasn't the case at this conference where it seemed that particular efforts had been made to ensure inclusion and that topics were well balanced.

The highlight of the 2 day programme was the opening session by the founder and former Chairman of the Capita Group, Rod Aldridge, who spoke about the 'Imperative for Change'. He gave a very interesting private sector perspective on this subject, which was controversial at times. Also entertaining was a presentation by all 3 Chief Executives of the Local Government Associations of England, Wales and Scotland, with different perspectives on how they saw Local Authorities need to change if they are to fulfil a more ambitious role, including facing the challenges of localism.

There was a technical session from Professor Tony Travers, Director at the LSE, and Robert Chote, Director of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, on 'Surviving the Comprehensive Spending Review' which confirmed the likely budget challenges ahead.

And there were a variety of other sessions covering the NHS, Voluntary Organisations – how the third sector can really help in delivering cost effective public services, - the implications and challenges of the changing demographics, a very relevant session from Brendan Baber, the General Sec of the TUC, regarding engaging the workforce in the modernisation process, and many other sessions including a workshop on the Role of the Director of Finance, and another on how politicians are supported in their governance roles. The conference concluded with 'Staying Ahead of the Global Competition' from the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt. Hon Ken Clarke Q.C, M.P.

There was a lively social programme at which we were able to network with colleagues both old and new and build and strengthen working relationships. This was an excellent opportunity to share ideas and experiences with fellow delegates.

The CIPFA conference is one of the largest events in the public services calendar and is a professionally staged and delivered event with distinguished speakers. As members will see, this was not only relevant for Public Services in Wales but was also relevant for the Fire Service in Wales. I would therefore recommend to members that the CIPFA conference is added to the standing list of conferences.