

REPORT TO THE:	
RESOURCES COMMITTEE	
DATE: 14th July 2008	REFERENCE:

SUBJECT: CIPFA Conference 17th – 19th June 2008
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SUMMARY:
To receive a report from Cllr Jim Davies on the CIPFA conference 2008

OBJECTIVES		IMPLICATIONS	
More than an Emergency Service	Yes	Operational Risk Management	Yes
Trusted & Respected by our customers		Community Risk Reduction	Yes
Saving Lives, Protecting Communities		Learning & Development	Yes
Managing within Budget	Yes	Service Control	Yes
Allocate Resources to Priorities		Civil Contingencies & Resilience	Yes
Efficiency savings	Yes	Finance & Procurement	Yes
Alternative funding & resources	Yes	H.R.	Yes
Managing People	Yes	ICT	Yes
Risk Reduction Planning		CCMS	Yes
Partnership Working	Yes	Transport	Yes
Effective & Empowered People	Yes	Health & Safety	Yes
		Premises	Yes
		Sustainability & Environment	
		Welsh Language	
		Legal	
		Governance	Yes
		Equality & Diversity	
		Representative Body Consultation	

COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS ON THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES/IMPLICATIONS:
The CIPFA conference is the foremost Public Sector Finance Management conference and as such affects all services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
That the CIPFA conference is maintained on the standing list of conferences.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT:
Conference agenda

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As always, the CIPFA conference was a most professionally staged event. The theme this year was, very appropriately, delivering successful public services and very often the sessions were aimed at how to do this with fewer resources. With a number of the working sessions revolving around topics such as Lean Systems Thinking, shared services and how to make organisations successful/excellent, the agenda fitted very well with the real issues facing the Fire Service today.

There were plenty of other thought provoking management and political issues on the agenda. Eminent speakers included the RT Hon John Prescott MP, (session chaired by Jeremy Vine), Lord Sebastian Coe, and Ken Livingstone, the former Mayor of London. There were a host of TV personalities and MPs, Polly Toynbee, writer and journalist and Kate Silverton of the BBC were 2 of the famous names as well as John Healy MP, Minister of State, Dept for Communities and Local Government and others. Cllr Derek Vaughan, Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council entertained the audience as part of the debate on excellence in public services and gave a Welsh flavour.

Together with the large trade exhibitions and the fringe sessions, the choice was excellent and there was something for everyone. We were able to home in on those sessions that we thought the most useful. As always 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 the quality is first class. I would therefore recommend to members that the CIPFA conference is maintained on the standing list of conferences.