

Society of District Council Treasurers

Executive Committee meeting held on 16 January 2009
at Local Government House



Notes of the Meeting

Present

Graham Soulsby, Angela Brown, Martin Henwood, Sally Marshall, Jane Kitchen, Jim McDonald, Grahame Lucas, Chris Brewer, Peter Stuart, Neil Taylor.

Also Present:

Ray Bolton

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Bill Price, Ian Jamieson, Alan Peach, Peter Antill, Jason Vaughan, Mary Hawkins, John Turnbull, Shirlene Adam, and Paul Hymers.

2. Presidency

Presentation of the chain of office to new President, Angela Brown.
The Executive recorded their thanks to outgoing President, Mary Hawkins.

3. Notes of Previous Meetings

- ◆ Changes re: 07/11 and page 6 re: Peter Antill's comment needs to be re-written
- ◆ Page 4 (December Meeting) – 1% of what? = Material audit error (To come back on a future meeting agenda).

4. CIPFA Conference

Tuesday – Executive Meeting only.
Wednesday – “Modelling for recovery” type case studies and what Districts are doing to help local economies through proactive actions. Session also to include a round up of the key financial issues facing District Councils.

Executive members to let Graham S know who will be attending the conference.

5. Update on Key Issues/Projects:

a) Development Academy

- ◆ Dates have been set for the next two programmes, the starting dates are
11th March – aspiring s151 officers
17th March – existing s151 officers
- ◆ Executive members agreed to actively promote the programme and get volunteers
- ◆ SDCT to continue to work closely with Cipfa and promote the benefits of it.
- ◆ SDCT to maintain close liaison with Cipfa re: the programme?
- ◆ Use of ‘SDCT’ badge on emails
- ◆ Name of the Programme to be reviewed

- b) Shared Service
 - ♦ Lack of response to the CIPFA consultation was disappointing
 - ♦ Invite CIPFA to a future Executive Meeting re: outcome of the consultation.
 - ♦ Should the SDCT formulate a consistent 'view' of this initiative?
- c) Nominations for Vice & Second Vice President
Graham Lucas was appointed Vice President.
Second Vice President to be confirmed.
- d) To confirm Treasurer arrangements
Jim McDonald agreed to take on the role.
Sponsorship arrangements with Tradition – currently on 3 year arrangements (enter year 3 in April – to be discussed and make sure bill the money). Discussion to be set up with Ray. Tradition interested in keeping up the sponsorship but to review the relationship.

6. Budgets and Council Tax 2009/10

Following the LGA press release about the average increase in Council Tax being 3.5%, a general discussion took place around what was happening at individual authority / regional level. LGA – 3.5%

Members encouraged to review the LAAP bulletin on 'reserves and balances' re: risk based approaches

7. CIPFA Council Elections

Any volunteers to Graham S.

8. Other issues raised by Executive Committee Members

- a) Charging for Local Searches – reaction to Statutory Instrument
Setting of charges and consistency of approach and auditor approach.
- b) Efficiency information on Council Tax bills
Check baselines figures.
- c) Timings of payments to preceptors of Collection Fund surpluses
Default payment problem/stat instrument.

9. Advisers' Reports

	Topic	Adviser	Deputy	Report
1	LGA Core Advisers Group	Mary Hawkins, Graham Soulsby		
2	CLG SOFI Group	Mary Hawkins	Graham Soulsby	
3	CIPFA Liaison	Mary Hawkins		
4	Audit Commission Liaison	Mary Hawkins	Neil Taylor	
5	Revenue Support Grant	Graham Soulsby	John Turnbull	
6	Asset Management	Martin Henwood	Neil Taylor	
7	Housing	Sally Marshall		
8	Capital	Chris Brewer		
9	Treasury Management	Peter Antill	Alan Peach	
10	Council Tax and Business Rates	Jason Vaughan	Jim McDonald	

11	Housing and Council Tax Benefits	Philip Simpkins	Jim McDonald	
12	Financial Management and Local Authority Accounting	Angela Brown		
13	Pensions	Shirlene Adam	Peter Antill	
14	Waste	Jane Kitchen	Peter Stuart	
15	Concessionary Fares	Grahame Lucas	Paul Cresswell	
16	Efficiency and Procurement	Bill Price		
17	Risk Management	Ian Jamieson	Mark Lovell	
18	VAT	Martin Henwood	Mark Lovell	Report
19	Local Area Agreements	Neil Taylor		
20	Other Income	John Turnbull	Graham Soulsby	
21	LABGI	Paul Hymers	Peter Antill	
22	Housing and Planning Delivery Grant	Paul Hymers	John Turnbull	
23	Working Group on Local Government Financial Statistics	Vacant		
24	Local Government Restructuring	Jason Vaughan, Alan Peach		
	Shared Services	Mark Lovell and Alan Peach		

10. Any Other Business

Annual Dinner – invites to be sent out later today. A prompt response was requested.

11. Next Meeting

The next Executive Committee is to take place on Friday 6 March at the LGA Offices.

Graham Soulsby
Honorary Secretary