

## THE EXECUTIVE

24 MAY 2005

### REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

<b>ATTENDANCE AT THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY (CIPFA) CONFERENCE 2005</b>	<b>FOR DECISION</b>	
<p><i>This report seeks approval for attendance at the CIPFA 2005 Conference in accordance with the Council's Conferences, Visits and Hospitality Rules as the total cost of attending the conference will exceed the £1,000 threshold.</i></p> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>The Executive is asked to agree representation from the Council by 2 persons to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) annual conference which is to be held over a 3 day period.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>The Executive is asked to approve attendance of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance at the CIPFA annual conference 2005, in Manchester from 14-17 June 2005, at a cost of £595 per delegate plus accommodation and travel to be met from the existing departmental training budget.</p> <p><b>Reason</b></p> <p>Attendance at the CIPFA conference is an opportunity to learn about current issues affecting public sector organisations with a particular emphasis on strategic financial aspects</p>		
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#### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) is the professional body for accountants in the public sector. CIPFA holds an annual conference and exhibition in different locations every year. This year it is being held in Manchester from 14-17 June 2005.
- 1.2 The annual conference and exhibition is regarded as a valuable conference promoting the Institute's purpose to maximise the contributions that the CIPFA accountants at the senior level can make to the public sector.
- 1.3 Attendance at the CIPFA conference is an opportunity to learn about current issues affecting public sector organisations with a particular emphasis on strategic financial

aspects. Speakers are drawn from opinion formers and leaders in their fields. It is a good opportunity to speak to suppliers, consultants, gain exposure to new products and concepts via the exhibition area. It is also an ideal opportunity to network with senior finance staff from across the country. The majority of Directors of Finance attend this conference.

## **2. Detail**

2.1 This years' conference is entitled "Raising the Bar ... Building Innovative and Enterprising Public Services". It will cover topics that include:

- Can we deliver significant improvement in public sector efficiency?
- Setting the standard for Public Service Governance.
- Scanning economic and political horizons.
- Regenerating cities – contrasting strategies.
- Serving the public interest.

The conference is one of the public services' largest events attracting 1,000 delegates from a broad span of the public, private and voluntary sectors, including a growing number of international guests.

## **3. Cost**

3.1 In previous years the Director of Finance has attended alone but this year the Chief Executive, who is a CIPFA member and currently a co-opted member of the CIPFA Council, wishes to attend, so taking the cost over £1,000.

3.2 The cost per delegate is £595 (£560 each for two or more), plus hotel and travel costs, which is estimated for two to be:-

Conference	1120
Accommodation	760
Travel	<u>200</u>
	£2,080

3.3 These costs will be funded from the existing departmental training budgets.

**Background Papers**  
Conference Brochure