



Thames Valley CIPD

Branch Report 2007/08

3) Looking Forward 2008/09, continued

- D) Raise the profile of CIPD and promote the benefits of good people management in the Thames Valley area**
- Organise a Branch Conference with sponsorship by local companies
 - Review the potential and support for a Thames Valley CIPD Awards programme
 - Review the role of the Policy Advisor in light of CIPD initiative to engage with members directly on policy development
 - Forge links with at least one other professional organisation in the Thames Valley area
- E) Interface with CIPD Wimbledon**
- Continue to represent the Thames Valley Branch at the Council meetings and Branch Chair Days
 - Open invitation to CIPD Branch representatives to attend Branch and/or Group Committee meetings
- F) Branch Management**
- Ensure that succession planning and recruitment of new committee members is a continuous process throughout the year – search proactively for new members

4) Educational Establishments in the Thames Valley Area

College	College Liaison
Abingdon and Witney	Jean Roberts
Basingstoke College of Technology	Nigel Pierce
Bracknell and Wokingham	Pat Hartwell
Newbury College	Kate Forster
Oxford and Cherwell Valley College	Ed Bell
Oxford Brookes	Jean Roberts
National School of Government	Pat Hartwell
Thames Valley University	Kate Forster

5) Volunteer and join the committee

We are always looking for volunteers to support our various activities and, if you are interested in becoming involved, we have some great development opportunities. A warm welcome is guaranteed!

Please contact Lindsay Allen, Branch Administrator
Tel: 07809 728972 or email: lindsay.interimhr@talktalk.net



www.cipd.co.uk/branch/thames

If you have any queries regarding the Thames Valley CIPD Branch report for 2007/08 please contact

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1) Introduction

Welcome to my first Thames Valley CIPD Branch Report for 2007/8 as Branch Chair. The Thames Valley Branch is comprised of 4 Geographic Groups and Special Interest Groups who meet on a regular basis providing you with an annual Programme of Events, regular newsletters, a Branch website, input into CIPD nationally, membership and upgrading support.

Your Branch and Group CIPD Committees consists of a dedicated group of over 50 volunteers giving their time freely to support a range of branch activities. This report summarises our activities throughout the year and the priorities for 2008/09 for our members.

My thanks go to all the enthusiastic and committed volunteers who work so hard throughout the year to make the Thames Valley CIPD Branch and Groups so successful. On behalf the Branch Committee, our thanks go to all the organisations and individuals who host/speak at events, as well as you for attending our events and providing feedback on all our activities.

2) Looking Back 2007/08

The Thames Valley Branch adopted the following vision and strategy for 2007/08:

A) Focal point for communications across the Thames Valley area

- 5 issues of the Thames Valley People magazine were distributed in a hard copy format to all our members
- Reviewed the effectiveness of the Thames Valley People magazine against the cost, as over 50% of the Branch allocation of funds is spent on the content and distribution of the magazine
- The integrated Programme of Events calendar was also sent in hard copy format to all our members in August 2007
- The Thames Valley Branch web site is continually being enhanced and provides an up to date source of information to all our members

B) Enable Groups to operate effectively, through cost effective administrative infrastructure

- Decision taken by the Branch Committee at a Strategy meeting in September 2007, to consolidate the Group and Branch Treasurer roles into one role serving the Branch and the Groups so minimising the cost of auditing several accounts
- Centralised administration provides the Branch and Groups with a very efficient service offering a range of administrative support to our committees and members

C) Provide a range of Branch and Group activities to aid learning, provide CPD and upgrading opportunities.

- Our events programme covered 32 learning events for the year, some fee paying but with the majority offered free
- The programme provided a range of HR and L&D topics with the Employment Law events remaining very popular
- Membership has remained steady and stands at 4181 as at 31st March 2008
- The Branch has seen 181 members upgrade this year to Chartered Member and Chartered Fellow

D) Raise the profile of CIPD and promote the benefits of good people management in the Thames Valley area.

- The Branch has continued to focus its efforts on reinforcing links with local education centres. College Liaison Advisers [please see further details below] have been active in supporting education centre inductions and student award evenings.
- A Branch Induction Guide for has been developed for new Committee members
- 3 events were held in association with Henley Management College aimed at Chartered Fellows discussing broader business matters to meet their special needs
- Over 450 HR Directors and Managers in the Thames Valley area were contacted to explain the support offered by the local CIPD Branch

E) Interface with CIPD Wimbledon

- The Thames Valley Branch was represented at both CIPD Council meetings, the CIPD annual conference in Harrogate and the Annual Branch Chair's Day
- Meetings have taken place with CIPD Branch representatives in order to enhance relationships and to understand how to make effective use of the web facilities
- Supported 2 CIPD Enterprises initiatives with competitions to win tickets to the annual CIPD Conference in Harrogate and the HRD Conference at Excel.

3) Looking Forward 2008/09

The Thames Valley Branch will continue to use the vision and strategy for the benefit of its members.

A) Focal point for CIPD communications across the Thames Valley area

- Continue to produce 4 issues of Thames Valley People each year with a refreshed format from August 2008
- Consider the feasibility of moving to an electronic format for Thames Valley People
- Enhance the Branch website so becomes a primary point of information for all members
- Pilot use of electronic communications with all members under the guidance of the CIPD as soon as possible

B) Enable Groups to operate effectively, through cost effective administrative infrastructure

- Leverage the benefits of having a centralised Treasurer role
- Centrally coordinate event administration (where appropriate) and event feedback through the Branch Administrator to support national CIPD initiatives
- Strive to increase advertising revenue by 50% to help cover print/production costs
- Hold a further strategy day in September 2008 to progress Branch and Group activities to meet our member's needs.

C) Provide a range of Branch and Group activities to aid learning, provide CPD and upgrading opportunities.

- Continue to evaluate the events programme in terms of value for members, booking procedures and variety of learning opportunities
- Leverage learning from other Branches around the UK
- Offer an event focused on supporting members to upgrade
- Actively work to increase membership by 5%, particular senior practitioners