

SOUTH EAST AND SOUTHERN REGION

Chair: Nigel Fairburn (Kent County Council)

Following the merger of the Southern and South East Regions we have made good progress in reinvigorating the Region and engaging with (including a survey), listening to & responding to members' views.

An event was held in September 2010 on the theme of transformation, change, efficiency and partnership working hosted by Monster. Dean Shoosmith shared his reflections and thoughts for the future of local government, the public sector and the economy in general. At our next event in December 2010 the Incomes Data Services hosted a meeting and presented on current issues around pay and rewards including economic forecasts and pay developments in the public sector. At both these events the presentations provided a springboard for facilitated roundtable debates on related issues within members' organisations. This format and style of meetings is proving to be popular with members due to (i) the quality and depth of information received from the speakers (that would often only be available at events where there would normally be a charge) (ii) the stimulating debates that followed and (iii) information and issues shared by members and the opportunities to discuss possible ways forward in a safe environment (Chatham House Rules apply). While workloads are currently particularly high within organisations due to the pace of change, the opportunity for members to step outside their organisations is valued. Partnering with private & third sector organisations is working well both in terms of the quality of speakers and their generosity in providing a venue (and lunch!). Clearly organisations continue to recognise the benefits of working with the PPMA.

The Institute of Employment Studies have agreed to speak at our next event and present findings from some of their recent research including shared services, shared professionals and redesigning HR Functions. Arrangements are being made for this to be held during the spring.

There continues to be challenges in ensuring that the region is sustainable and active. We would like to increase attendance at meetings and on a practical note aim to get on a more secure footing for venues (rather than having to source each time) as well as having a published timetable of future events.