



*Promoting excellence in
public services in the East Midlands*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010-2011

Another year has passed with ever increasing challenges for local government to face. The fallout from the Comprehensive Spending Review being the most significant and, along with the next review, something we will be addressing for many years to come. But as in previous messages for the East Midlands, let's be up for the challenge whilst making our case for genuinely sustainable and necessary services.

In the interests of efficiency, the Branch has never met too frequently – rather there is concentration on quality. In November we met at the Leicester Creative Business Depot where we looked at how regeneration can develop local economies and addressing the efficiency challenge. All feedback I received was very positive and confirmed that it was a particularly engaging session. A big thank you to English Heritage and MGC Consulting for supporting this event, and to Leicester City Council for their hosting, their chief executive contribution and their walkabout of Leicester's regenerated city centre – the latter helping to digest the excellent lunch. On resources, the Branch operates very cost effectively and continues to benefit from the good offices of colleagues across the region and others in arranging presenters, venues and catering. This year Alan Mellor, our Treasurer, advises that the bank balance is £3,753. We remain in a fit state and again there is no need to charge branch subscription if we do not wish to - our Branch AGM will consider this, no doubt.

Finally, it is with pleasure that I especially thank my Executive colleagues Lynn Aisbett (Vice Chairman), Robert Moreland (Secretary), Alan Mellor (Treasurer), Janet Beaumont (Branch Development Officer) and Fiona Rye (my P.A.) for their support over the year. I also thank those SOLACE colleagues who have supported the Branch in some form, and of course SOLACE main sponsors.

Can I wish all SOLACE colleagues an effective (I won't say "prosperous") 2011/12.

Simon Bovey
Chairman
SOLACE East Midlands



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