

**M25 Consortium Members' Meeting**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009**

**Chair's Report**

**Looking backwards ..**

I am writing this report on the last day before Christmas sitting in a library which is winding down ready for the festivities. So naturally my mind is on food, drink and conviviality – and reflections on the year past. I'd like, firstly, to thank the Marketing and Communications Working Group for producing yet another professional and informative annual report, so soon after the year had ended. And we can look back to a year of both celebration (food, drink and conviviality at the House of Commons) and achievement (from the completion of AIM25, to the launch of the Director's Exchange programme with all of the ongoing staff development, resource discovery and external collaboration in between).

**... and forwards**

At the Business Meeting there will be reports on some of the key Consortium projects: AIM25, WAM25 and Services for Directors. Business meetings have traditionally been brief, which we may take as a sign of harmony and consensus among members. But they are more than simply an opportunity for the Officers and Steering Group to report back on business conducted over the past year. We are keen for members' input into the strategic development of the Consortium and your comments on our draft action plan. In particular this year we are inviting views on the activities of the Quality Group. Quality is such a broad term and the Group has potentially a very wide remit. The members have discussed several potential projects and at the last Steering Group there was enthusiasm for work around the changing role of front-line customer-facing staff. We would now like your input into how this idea – and others perhaps - can be developed to help you in your work.

We would also welcome ideas on the programmes and speakers for future general meetings. We plan in future to use larger venues to enable more second-tier and other professional staff to attend for the presentations. Early in the New Year the Steering Group plans the programme for the next meeting. So any feedback from members on topics of interest – particularly if accompanied by the names of speakers you can recommend – is always welcome.

**Supporting the Consortium**

This year saw the consolidation of the Support Team onto one site and into a single team managed by John Gilby. We are very grateful to LSE for finding the space to house the team. Suzy Ball, the cpd25 administrator, has now left and a permanent replacement post will be advertised in January. We will also be recruiting a Web Services Project Officer early in the New Year to develop the Directors' Room and help John support other M25 web and online services.

Finally, it is worth noting a change in responsibilities among Steering Group members. Ann Murphy (University of Greenwich) has taken over as Chair of the Collaboration &

Partnership Working Group, following Adam's appointment as Secretary. Julie Brittain, (British Library for Development Studies) has taken over responsibility for access issues, previously managed by Caroline Lloyd. Sandy Leitch (Kingston University) has the task of keeping a watching brief on disaster recovery and business continuity issues.

Nick Bevan  
Chair, M25 Consortium  
December 2008