Forward programme of activities

There are opportunities, over the next 5 years, for CPA Scotland Branch (CPASB) to build on the successes of former Executive Committees. Some of the activities noted below are regular activities in the CPA calendar and others are CPASB initiatives.

In this first meeting we invite the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) to note the activities below. The BEC will receive papers in future meetings to take these activities and issues forward. At this stage the BEC are invited to express any views on any priorities they have, in terms of discussion over the next few meetings.

Additional information on these activities can be found in the Handover Paper which is attached as Annex A to CPA Paper/S4/11-12/1/1.

- **International Strategy for Session 4:** The Committee is invited to note that an International Strategy for Session 4 is being developed. This draft International Strategy will be presented to the BEC for consideration and to generate discussion on how the activities of the CPA Scotland branch contribute to the overall aims of the International Strategy. This discussion should, in turn, assist the BEC to develop its own forward work programme for Session 4 and help inform an overall approach to many of the activities listed hereafter.

- **Future CPA internship programme:** To support this activity in future years from its budget (circa £4k) and to endorse the previous BEC recommendation that the internship be shortened to 4 weeks (but extended to 2 individuals), from the National Assembly of Malawi in the 2011/12 financial year.

- **Future of the Parliamentary Pairing Initiative:** to endorse the continuation and possible extension of the current pilot programme started on 14 April 2010.

- **Inward visits:** to recommend that a reciprocal visit to Scotland by delegations from New Zealand and Australia should be written into the forward plan as part of the Session 4 International Strategy and CPA Scotland Branch forward programme, to help build links made with that part of the CPA network.

- **British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR):** to agree that CPASB should continue to send delegates to attend the BIMR Annual Conference and to determine number of delegates on a case by case basis.
• **BIMR Conference 2012**: The former Committee agreed to act as host for this major event in June 2012. We last hosted in 2001. This provides an ideal opportunity to showcase the Scottish Parliament to a UK, European and international audience.

• **BIMR Constitution**: the current review of the governance of the CPA has caused CPASB to focus attention on some aspects of regional governance. Over the course of the year 2011/12, the BEC may wish to consider whether or not a suggested review of the BIMR constitution is required.

• **CPA Annual Conference**: to agree that CPASB should continue to send delegates to attend the CPA Annual Conference and to determine the number of delegates on a case by case basis according to available resources.

• **Commonwealth Day**: An annual event which takes place on the second Monday in March. This is one of the highlights of the CPASB calendar which provides an opportunity to showcase the Scottish Parliament and the Commonwealth to a diverse audience. Events vary in accordance with an annual theme set by the Commonwealth Secretariat and activity is agreed by BEC.

• **Commonwealth Consular Corps**: The former Committee had been active in promoting engagement with representatives from the 13 Commonwealth countries represented in Scotland. Members of the BEC may wish to consider if the existing arrangements for engagement should be continued.

• **Special Envoy**: The CPA Scotland Branch Special Envoy was appointed on 1 June 2010. She has, under the envoy banner, undertaken events at the 2010 Festival of Politics and more recently through an outward visit to Malawi, on which she reported back to Members at an EGM which took place on 16 March this year. No further activity is planned yet, pending the views of the new BEC and the Special Envoy herself (but we know she is keen to continue in the role). The Committee may wish to consider the continuation and any future focus of the role of the Special Envoy.

• **Attendance at CPA events**: CPA Scotland Branch has played an active role since 2001 participating in both UK based and overseas seminars, study groups, workshops and conferences. By and large feedback from Members who attended these events has been very positive. Members of the BEC may wish to consider that Members should continue to play an active role in events, issues and the governance arrangements of the CPA and that each opportunity continues to be assessed on its merits and potential outcomes, as and when opportunities arise.

• **Briefing Sessions**: In order to receive a well-rounded appraisal on certain topics perhaps the BEC would like to consider specific briefing sessions from representatives from organisations or groups with expert knowledge in particular areas such as Scottish Government officials and in some cases non-governmental organisations. A first suggested session could focus on the current situation within Malawi and our future role and activities in that context.
Handover Paper for Session 5: Rather than leaving this activity to the end of session, perhaps the best time to undertake this task is in mid-session when the BEC can act on its reflections.

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