Mid-session review of working practices

The purpose of this paper is to provide an opportunity for the Branch Executive Committee to reflect and consider whether working practices might be improved and that the Scotland Branch’s international engagement is on track over the remainder of the session 4.

Given that the Scottish Parliament is almost half-way through Session 4, it might be worthwhile to look at areas of Branch business which work well and those which might be improved. This approach, at this point in the current session, seems sensible rather than waiting until the end of session to provide a hand-over paper for the successor committee.

For example, UKIRO will begin reviewing the Scottish Parliament’s International Relations Strategy over the summer recess. The current strategy includes engagement with Malawi and Canada which are priority areas for the Scotland Branch. Members of the Branch Executive may wish to consider whether amendments to the Strategy should be considered from a Commonwealth perspective to meet the needs of Branch members.

Members of the Branch Executive Committee may wish to consider if the selection process for attending CPA conferences, seminars and outward visits is open, fair and fit for purpose.

Members of the Branch Executive Committee may also wish to consider if the Branch Rules should be reviewed.

Members may also wish to consider whether or not the rotating chair system is working well for Branch meetings.

Other topics the Branch Executive Committee may wish to visit might include:

- Timings of meetings
- Nature of paperwork
- Committee Membership
- CPA Scotland Branch internship programme
- Future of the Parliamentary Pairing Initiative
- Inward visits
- BIMR
- Commonwealth Day
- Commonwealth Consular Corps
Agenda Item 6
24 April 2013

- Special Envoy
- Attendance at CPA events/Commonwealth Annual Parliamentary Seminar

Conclusion

Members are asked to discuss and consider any potential changes to improve working practices in order that the Secretariat might better support Members of the Branch Executive Committee and strengthen the Branch in general.

Margaret Neal
Secretary, CPA Scotland Branch
The Scottish Parliament
Email: margaret.neal@scottish.parliament.uk