



## BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday 16 July 2025

**Time:** 12:30-13:15

**Location:** 4B (Conference Room - Ty Hywel)

## AGENDA

### 1. WELCOME / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies of:

- Alun Davies MS
- Rhianon Passmore MS

It was noted that there had been some changes to the Branch Secretariat and that further support would be provided (for the CWP network in particular) from September.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING - Paper CPA 6S-25-02 (DOC 1)

**The Minutes were approved as a correct record.**

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

#### **None**

#### 4. **Feedback and follow-up of recent Meetings, Visits, Events and Conferences.**

- *Llywydd visit to National Assembly for Québec  
22-23 May (DOC 2)*

The Chair discussed the important relationship which had developed between the Senedd and the National Assembly for Quebec in recent years. This was reflected in the numerous and significant engagement between our legislatures, including this recent visit by the Llywydd to Quebec which had included the signing of a formal MoU. A report of the Llywydd's visit had been shared with Members.

- *BIMR Conference  
Cardiff, Wales  
17-19 June*

A recent highlight had been our hosting of the BIMR Regional Conference in June.

The Conference had been well attended, by 10 of the Region's Branches and we had been delighted to welcome international Observers from the Western Cape, Quebec and Sark as well as from the CPA Secretariat, including the SG, Stephen Twigg.

A formal report was being produced in cooperation with the BIMR Secretariat but, in the meantime, the Senedd was very happy to have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from so many participants – including official letters of thanks from Stephen Twigg and the BIMR Regional Secretary, Sarah Dickson.

The Chair and Members present noted how much they had enjoyed the conference and that it had been an excellent occasion to showcase Wales and the Senedd. Members noted their gratitude to the Branch Secretariat and wider Senedd Commission team for delivering such a successful conference.

- *Visit by Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Council  
2 July.*

The Senedd had been pleased to welcome Ben Franklin, President of the New South Wales Legislative Council. Ben Franklin's programme had included meetings with the Llywydd as well as with the Deputy Presiding Officer and Chair, as well as several sessions with the Engagement and Education/Youth Parliament teams.

## 5. **FORWARD PLANNING**

### **Forthcoming Meetings, Visits, Events and Conferences**

#### **2025**

- *[61<sup>st</sup> Canadian Regional Conference](#)  
Quebec City  
20-23 July*

The Chair wished the Deputy Presiding Officer well at the imminent CPA Canadian Regional Conference, hosted by the National Assembly for Quebec.

Our participation would provide the first known occasion for Wales to be represented at a CPA Canada Regional Conference. David Rees MS noted that he was looking forward to the conference, which would include a significant audience of over a 100 parliamentarians representing all but one of Canada's 13 Provinces and Territories as well as the networking opportunities that this would provide.

A report would be produced and shared with Members, in due course.

- *BIMR EOM  
St Helena  
21 August – 8 September*

The Branch had been informed of this latest BIMR EOM opportunity. The relatively short turn around for the submission of applications

was noted as well as the significant time commitment Members that would be required to participate in this Mission.

- *BIMR LGBT+ Network Meetings & Events.*  
*8 September – virtual*  
*October/November – Westminster event (tbc).*

Following the success of the launch of the BIMR LGBT+ Network at our Senedd BIMR Conference, there was now momentum to build on this work with a number of meetings and events. The Branch would be pleased to support the participation of any Members of the Senedd who wished to participate in these.

It was noted that the BIMR now had a dedicated official who would support and take forward the work of our BIMR LGBT network.

- *68<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference / CWP elections*  
*Barbados*  
*6-13 October*

The Chair congratulated Natasha Asghar MS who had been selected to be the Senedd's Voting Delegate at this year's CPC in Barbados, as well as to act as our Executive Committee representative for the BIMR transition from Scotland to Wales at the end of the conference. It was reiterated that the Senedd's substantive ExCo representative for 2026-'28 would be decided following the next Senedd elections.

A notice had been sent out to the wider Branch inviting applications to be considered for the additional "Observer" place which the Branch was expecting to be offered.

- *BIMR EOM*  
*Falkland Islands*  
*28 October-12 November*

Alun Davies MS had been selected as Head of Mission to observe the Falkland Islands election in November.

*Afternote:* This EOM was subsequently delayed until December.

- [\*The Role of Parliament in Shaping the Future of Responsible AI\*](#)  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
28-30 November

Following the success of last year's AI Conference in Singapore (attended by Lee Waters MS), the CPA had confirmed this year's conference, which was being delivered in partnership with the IPU and UNDP, in Malaysia.

There was expected to be high demand for places at the conference but the Senedd was confident of securing one place. A notice would be sent to Members in the coming weeks.

## **2026**

The Chair gave an overview of the expected Conferences which the Senedd CPA Branch would be invited to attend in 2026.

- BIMR CWP Conference  
Belfast, NI  
February
- 55<sup>th</sup> BIMR Conference  
Gibraltar  
Dates TBC
- 69<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
Dates TBC

## **6. NEW ITEMS / ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

## **7. FUTURE MEETING DATE:**

November (TBC)

**END OF BUSINESS**