

Application of Statutes and Orders.

15.—(1) The statutory provisions and the orders and regulations of the Minister and his predecessors for the time being applicable to a council by reason of their being a poor law authority shall, so far as they are consistent with the provisions of this Order, apply to the Joint Committee as if the Joint Committee were a council of a county or county borough exercising poor law functions, and as if the combined areas were the area of such a council.

(2) The accounts of the income and expenditure of the Joint Committee and of their sub-committees and officers shall be made up and audited in like manner and subject to the same provisions as the accounts of a county council, and the enactments relating to the audit of those accounts and to all matters incidental thereto or consequential thereon (including the penal provisions of those enactments) shall apply and have effect as if they were herein re-enacted and in terms made applicable:

Provided that prior to audit a copy of the abstract of accounts shall be sent by the Joint Committee to each of the councils.

(3) The said accounts and all minute books of the Joint Committee and their sub-committees shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection and transcription without payment by any member of any of the councils or by any officer of any of the councils authorised by that council for that purpose.

(4) A copy of the auditor's report and of the abstract of the accounts of the Joint Committee, when duly audited, shall be sent by the Joint Committee to each of the councils within one month after the completion of the audit of the accounts of the Joint Committee.

(5) Nothing contained in this Article shall be deemed to confer on the Joint Committee any power of raising money by loan for the purposes of this Order.

Reports.

16. The Joint Committee shall furnish to any council such reports, returns and information as that council may from time to time require.

Settlement of Disputes.

17. In the event of any dispute arising in connection with the provisions of this Order between any of the councils and the Joint Committee, or between any two or more councils, the dispute may, on the application of any one or more of the parties affected, be referred to the Minister, who may, at his option, either decide the dispute himself or appoint some other person to decide it, and in the latter event, the provisions of the Arbitration Act, 1889, and of any enactment amending that Act shall apply as though the person appointed by the Minister were a single arbitrator appointed by consent of the parties.

Financial Adjustments.

18. Upon the expiration or sooner revocation of this Order, or upon any alteration of this Order by the Minister, the Joint Committee and the councils may make agreements for the purpose of adjusting any property, income, debts, liabilities and expenses (so far as affected by the expiration, revocation or alteration of this Order) of, and any financial relations

between, the parties to the agreement, and section 151 of the Local Government Act, 1933, shall apply as if this Order were an order made under Part VI of that Act.

SCHEDULE.

Rules as to Meetings and Proceedings.

1.—(1) The Joint Committee shall in every year hold an annual meeting and at least three other meetings for the transaction of general business which as near as may be shall be held at regular intervals.

(2) The first meeting held after the 31st day of March in any year shall be the annual meeting.

2. Subject to the provisions of this order, the Joint Committee may make standing orders for the regulation of their proceedings and business and may vary or revoke any such orders.

3. No business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Joint Committee unless at least five members are present thereat.

4.—(1) The Joint Committee shall at their annual meeting appoint one of their number to be chairman, and the chairman shall, unless he resigns his office or ceases to be a member of the Joint Committee, continue in office until his successor is appointed.

(2) The Joint Committee may at their annual meeting appoint one of their number to be vice-chairman who shall, unless he resigns his office or ceases to be a member of the Joint Committee, continue in office until immediately after the election of the chairman at the next annual meeting.

5.—(1) At a meeting of the Joint Committee the chairman, if present, shall preside.

(2) If the chairman is absent from a meeting of the Joint Committee the vice-chairman, if present, shall preside.

(3) If both the chairman and vice-chairman of the Joint Committee are absent, such member of the Joint Committee as the members present shall choose shall preside.

6.—(1) Every question at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes of the members present and voting on that question.

(2) In the case of an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall have a second or a casting vote.

7.—(1) Minutes of the proceedings of the Joint Committee shall be drawn up and entered in a book kept for the purpose, and shall be signed at the same or next ensuing meeting of the Joint Committee by the person presiding thereat, and any minute purporting to be so signed shall be received in evidence without further proof.

(2) Until the contrary is proved, a meeting of the Joint Committee in respect of the proceedings whereof a minute has been so made and signed shall be deemed to have been duly convened and held, and all the members present at the meeting shall be deemed to have been duly qualified.

8. The proceedings of the Joint Committee shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among their number or by any defect in the election or qualification of any member thereof.