

meetings by members of the Joint Committee or any sub-committee thereof and by poor law officers of any of the councils and any other persons who attend meetings at the request of the Joint Committee or any sub-committee for the purpose of assisting them in their deliberations:

Provided that the payment to any person shall not exceed the sum of seven shillings and six pence in respect of each day on which he attends a meeting in addition to the amount of the third class return rate fare for the journey between the nearest railway station available to him at his residence and the place of meeting.

(2) The Joint Committee may confer with other Joint Committees for all or any of the purposes of this order and may pay their reasonable share of the expenses of such conferences and of the attendance of their representatives thereat.

Contracts and Expenditure.

11. All contracts and agreements relating to the purposes of this order involving an expenditure exceeding £50 shall be made under the authority of a resolution of the Joint Committee, and shall be signed and sealed on their behalf by the chairman or other member of the Joint Committee, and countersigned by the clerk of the Joint Committee, and no other expenditure shall be incurred unless authorized by resolution of the Joint Committee.

Expenses of Joint Committee.

12. A fund shall be established to be called the joint fund, to which all moneys received by the Joint Committee shall be carried and out of which all expenses incurred by the Joint Committee in the execution of this Order shall be defrayed.

13.—(1) The Joint Committee may defray the cost of the construction of new casual wards, the extension or improvement of existing wards, or the conversion of other buildings into casual wards, or the alteration of existing casual wards, by annual payments out of the joint fund to meet charges for interest and repayment of loan or contributions to sinking fund on outstanding debt:

Provided that—

(a) the cost of any alterations to buildings not exceeding £50 shall not be borne by the Joint Committee;

(b) plans and estimates shall be submitted to the Joint Committee for their approval before the execution of the work;

(c) payments made by the Joint Committee shall not exceed a rate of £80 per bed in the case of conversion of other buildings into casual wards, or of new wards, or £50 per bed in the case of alterations of existing wards;

(d) the cost of the purchase of land (or site value) shall not be defrayed by the Joint Committee;

(e) the cost of initial equipment only shall be included as part of the cost of new casual wards.

(2) Councils which have incurred expenditure for which a loan was raised in the provision of casual wards shall, as from the date of this order, receive from the Joint Committee an annual payment which will be sufficient to discharge the outstanding debt together with the interest thereon:

Provided that for the purposes of this paragraph any capital expenditure in excess of £50 which has been incurred by any council since the 1st day of April, 1930, in the provision of new casual wards, the improvement of existing casual wards, or the conversion of any building or buildings into casual wards, shall be treated as if it had been provided for by monies borrowed by way of a loan repayable in 20 years from the date when the expenditure was incurred.

14.—(1) The Joint Committee shall in respect of each accounting period pay to each of the councils a sum (calculated as hereinafter provided) in respect of each casual relieved by the Council during that accounting period.

(2) The sum payable to a council under paragraph (1) of this article shall be determined by the Joint Committee in respect of each accounting period by reference to the average cost throughout the previous accounting period of maintaining a casual for one night in the casual wards of the combined areas, the cost of maintenance for this purpose being taken as including the cost of repairs and management of the casual wards together with all establishment charges but excluding loan charges.

Apportionment of Expenses and Contribution Orders.

15.—(1) For the purpose of defraying the expenses incurred by the Joint Committee under this Order each of the councils shall make contributions to the joint fund in the proportion which the aggregate rateable value of all the hereditaments in their area as shown in the valuation lists on the 1st day of April immediately preceding the date of the order made on the council by the Joint Committee for contributions in respect of those expenses bears to the aggregate rateable value of all the hereditaments in the combined areas as shown in the valuation lists on the said date.

(2) For the purpose of obtaining contribution from the councils, the Joint Committee shall as soon as may be after the 31st day of March and the 30th day of September in each year make an order on each council for the payment to the Joint Committee by the council of such amount as may be required for the contributions of the council to the expenses of the Joint Committee either in one sum or by instalments on the dates mentioned in the order, and the council shall make payments to the Joint Committee in accordance with the requirements of the order.

(3) Any sum due under any order of the Joint Committee shall be a debt due from the council to whom the order is addressed and may be recovered accordingly:

Provided that the Joint Committee shall not institute proceedings for the recovery of the debt until the expiration of a period of three months after the date of the order.

Application of Statutes and Orders.

16.—(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