

REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES SCHEME – EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES

Executive summary

1. The SPCB is invited to consider an application for exceptional expenses under paragraph 7.2 of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme to meet security costs.

Issues and Options

2. Under the expenses scheme, provision is made for a Member to apply for the reimbursement of any exceptional expenses incurred by the member in connection with the performance of parliamentary duties. An application has been received from Margaret Burgess for exceptional expenses to meet the costs of establishing the security measures suggested by Strathclyde Police in relation to her constituency office.

3. A Crime Prevention Officer from Strathclyde Police carried out an inspection of Ms Burgess's office and made a number of recommendations. Annex A refers. On considering these recommendations Ms Burgess feels that it would be essential to have the following items provided:-

- A counter;
- Door contact;
- CCTV; and
- 2 external window shutters.

4. Ms Burgess has obtained quotes for the provision of the items listed a summary of which is attached as Annex B. The costs involved are approximately £3,000. Ms Burgess has advised that any excess in her Office Cost Provision would not exceed £500 and as such is making an application for £3,000 to meet the costs.

5. It has also been confirmed that Ms Burgess's landlord would not be prepared to meet the security costs up front and reflect the costs in the rent charged over the period of the lease.

6. Applications for exceptional expenses are normally made to cover the costs of unforeseen circumstances. In this case the application is for costs to cover adaptations to secure an established office.

7. The SPCB is invited to consider whether this application is for exceptional circumstances or invite the Members to consider phasing the listed works over two financial years.

Resource Implications

8. Should the SPCB decide the circumstances are exceptional and the costs should be met it is confirmed that there are funds available within the overall expenses budget.

Governance issues

9. There are no governance issues.

Publication Scheme

10. This paper can be published in accordance with the SPCB's publication scheme.

Next steps

11. To inform the Member of the decision.

Decision

12. The SPCB is invited to consider the application for exceptional expenses to secure the constituency office.

Allowances Policy
October 2011