

APPLICATION FOR AN ADDITIONAL REGIONAL OFFICE

Executive Summary

1. This paper invites the SPCB to consider an application made under Section 4 paragraph 4.2.6 of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme. This provision enables the SPCB to determine, on receipt of an application, that where more than one member is returned from the same political party in Highlands and Islands, North East Scotland, South of Scotland, West Scotland or Mid-Scotland and Fife Regions, they may establish a second regional office.

Issues and Options

2. Brian Whittle MSP and Rachel Hamilton MSP have submitted an application to establish two offices in South Scotland Region. It is proposed to establish the offices in Kilmarnock and in East Lothian. A specific location for the office in East Lothian has not yet been identified. It is suggested that the location of the offices in Kilmarnock and East Lothian would provide constituents with better access to the MSPs than a single office.

3. In terms of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme, the South Scotland region is included in the list of those regions where, if more than one member is returned from a registered political party's regional list, an application can be made to the SPCB to establish an additional local office.

Resource Implications

4. Should the SPCB approve this application the additional funds that would require to be made available in 2016-17 total £12,947 and it is confirmed that there are funds available within the overall expenses budget to meet such costs.

Publication Scheme

5. This paper will be published in line with the SPCB's Publication Scheme.

Recommendation

6. The SPCB is invited to consider this application.