

## **REIMBURSEMENT OF MEMBERS' EXPENSES SCHEME – APPLICATION FOR A SECOND REGIONAL OFFICE**

### **Executive summary**

1. This paper invites the SPCB to consider an application submitted by the SNP regional MSPs for the West Scotland region to establish a second regional office.

### **Issues and Options**

2. Provision is made at Section 4 Paragraph 4.2.6 of the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme that enables the SPCB to determine, on receipt of an application, that where more than one member is returned from the same political party in specified regions, an additional local parliamentary office may be established within the region. The Scheme was amended by resolution of the Parliament on 7 December 2011 to add the West Scotland region to those specified regions.

3. Stuart McMillan and Stewart Maxwell, who currently both operate from a regional office in Paisley, have submitted an application to establish two offices in the West Scotland Region. Annex A refers. Should their application be successful, they propose that:-

- a) the existing regional office in Paisley be closed;
- b) an office be established in Greenock which would be accessible to constituents in Inverclyde, the western part of Renfrewshire and north Ayrshire with good transport links to neighbouring areas including Arran and Cumbrae;
- c) an additional office would be established in either Barrhead, being accessible to constituents in East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire, or in Dumbarton, accessing constituents in West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire and the Argyll and Bute part of the West Scotland Region.

4. The Members consider that by establishing offices in the locations stated, which are 25 to 30 miles apart, it will give them greater access to constituents across the region and vice versa.

### **Resource Implications**

5. Based on the current Office Cost Provision the additional costs associated with establishing two offices would be £13,920 per annum. There are sufficient funds in the overall expenses budget to meet these additional costs.

### **Governance issues**

6. Provision is made within the Members' Expenses Scheme for the SPCB to determine whether an additional local parliamentary office may be established in the West Scotland region.

### **Publication Scheme**

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

### **Next steps**

8. Advise the Members of the SPCB's decision.

### **Decision**

9. The SPCB is invited to consider this application.

**Allowances Office**  
**April 2014**



SM/

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AD RECEIVE

02 APR 2014

CHECKED

1<sup>st</sup> April 2014

Dear *Jackie*,

### Re: Application to Establish Two Regional Offices

I am writing to outline details of an application to establish two offices in West Scotland Region.

At present the Regional office is based in Paisley. We would seek to establish the two offices in Greenock and either Dumbarton or Barrhead, dependent on availability.

The offices would therefore be approximately 25 to 30 miles apart. Having the offices in these locations would make us more accessible to constituents across the region.

A Greenock Regional office would be easily accessible to constituents in Inverclyde, the Western part of Renfrewshire and North Ayrshire. Greenock is accessible by good transport links to neighbouring areas, including Arran and Cumbrae.

With an office in either Barrhead or Dumbarton being easily accessible to constituents in East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire, or West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire and the Argyll & Bute part of the West Scotland Region.

Having offices situated in these locations, 25 to 30 miles apart, will give both Stewart Maxwell MSP and myself greater access to constituents across the region, and more importantly it will give constituents from across the region greater access to the elected members.

I hope this information is acceptable and I am happy to provide further information or answer questions, if required.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart McMillan MSP

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