

PARLIAMENTARY TRAVEL

Executive summary

1. The Corporate Body at its meeting on 31 October agreed to a procedure for selecting Members for a delegation to visit Montenegro under the auspices of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD). This paper provides details of two nominees and seeks the approval of the SPCB that these nominees form the Scottish Parliament delegation for the visit in December 2012.
2. Should the nominees be agreed, the Corporate Body is invited to note the costs associated with the forthcoming parliamentary travel overseas to Montenegro and, in accordance with paragraph 2.7.2 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament¹, in relation to receipt by Members of travel, hospitality etc, to approve the details of the travel and other costs associated with it.

Issues and Options

3. At the meeting on 31 October, the SPCB agreed to a request from WFD that a Scottish Parliament delegation be sent to Montenegro to provide support in parliamentary strengthening through the provision of workshops on the financial and audit scrutiny functions of the Scottish Parliament. The SPCB agreed that the selection of nominees should be devolved to the conveners of the Finance and Public Audit Committees. Once nominees have been selected, it was agreed that the SPCB should discuss the selection.
4. The proposed nominees are Jean Urquhart MSP and Mary Scanlon MSP.
5. The workshop in Montenegro will take place on 15 December 2012 with the delegation travelling to Montenegro on 14 December and returning on 16 December. Two officials would accompany the delegation. They are Fergus Cochrane, Senior Assistant Clerk of the Finance Committee and Stephen Herbert, UKIRO.

Resource Implications

6. WFD will meet the costs of travel to Montenegro and accommodation there. There are therefore no cost implications for the SPCB in terms of travel outwith the UK.

Publication Scheme

¹ As required by Section 2.7 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament in force from 3 May 2007.

7. This paper will be published as part of the SPCB's Publication Scheme.

Decision

8. The Corporate Body is invited:

- To agree that Jean Urquhart MSP and Mary Scanlon MSP form the Scottish Parliament delegation for the workshops in Montenegro.
- in accordance with paragraph 2.7.2 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament, in relation to receipt by Members of travel, hospitality etc, to approve the details of the travel outwith the UK as set out in the paper.

**UK and International Relations Office
November 2012**