

55993 Infrastructure and Resourcing Costs for Elected Councillors

I am requesting information regarding the direct infrastructure, equipment, and service costs incurred by the council in supporting elected councillors.

This request does not seek information on councillors' salaries, allowances, or claimable expenses. It focuses solely on the costs directly administered or absorbed by the council in providing office, digital, and logistical support.

Please provide the following information for the most recent full financial year:

Office Space and Facilities

- a. The estimated cost to the council of providing office or desk space for councillors (including chambers, committee rooms, and councillor offices)

The associated costs for office and desk space are held within greater budgets and are not separately held.

- b. Associated costs for heating, lighting, cleaning, and maintenance

As above, the associated costs for heating, cleaning and maintenance are held within greater budgets and are not separately recorded.

- c. Costs of providing public and internal video capture, broadcasting, or archiving of council and committee meetings.

The total cost for 2024/25 was £48,028.

Digital and Equipment Costs

The cost of providing councillors with:

- o Laptops, tablets, or other computing devices
- o Mobile phones or communication devices
- o IT support or software licences specifically allocated to councillors
- o Web connectivity (e.g. home broadband support, VPNs, secure portals)
- o Stationery, printing, and postage costs directly attributable to councillor use

The following information covers all councillors as a whole, not individually. *The annual service charge, included in the outsourced ICT contract, is based on the number of devices issued.

Laptops, tablets, or other computing devices:

- One-off laptop costs £46k (refreshed as required circa every 4-5 years)
- One-off i-Pad costs £35k (refreshed as required circa every 3-4 years)
- *Outsourced ICT contract - Annual service charge £13,500

Mobile phones or communication devices:

- One-off costs £39k (refreshed as required, circa every 4-5 years)
- Annual call / data plan £8k

IT support or software licences specifically allocated to councillors:

- Annual Licence cost £11,250
- There is no IT support specifically allocated to councillors. Charges are based on the number of devices and captured at bullet point above*

Web connectivity (e.g. home broadband support, VPNs, secure portals):

- There is no web connectivity specifically allocated to councillors. Always On VPN (AOVPN) and City of Edinburgh Council site connectivity is delivered Council-wide as part of our outsourced ICT contract with CGI. Support for the ICT service is included within the annual service charge above*. This does not include home broadband which is an individual's responsibility.

Travel and Accommodation (Non-claimable)

- Any travel or accommodation costs administered and paid directly by the council on behalf of councillors (i.e. not submitted as individual claims)
- A split between UK travel and accommodation and overseas travel and accommodation

Chief Executive's Office (UK only, no overseas events):

- Councillor Meagher's travel and accommodation within the UK for the UKREiiF conference in May 2025.

Transport – Train £79.80 incl. VAT

Accommodation - £90.00 incl. VAT

Place Directorate (UK only, no overseas events):

- Councillor Dalglish's travel and accommodation costs to attend the World Heritage event in London at the end of April 2025.

Transport – Train £240.80 incl. VAT

Accommodation - £214.10 incl. VAT

Corporate Services Directorate (Overseas only, no UK events):

- Councillor Doggart's travel and accommodation to Contalmasion, France to attend the Ceremony at Contalmasion on 1 July 2025.

Coach, ferry and accommodation - £905.00 incl. VAT (Separate costs are not recorded)

- Councillor Rust's travel and accommodation to Contalmasion, France to attend the Ceremony at Contalmasion on 1 July 2025.

Coach, ferry and accommodation - £905.00 incl. VAT (Separate costs are not recorded)

- Lord Provost's travel to Munich for the 70th anniversary of the twinning between Edinburgh and Munich and the Opening of the Olympic Park in June 2024.

Transport – Economy Flights £819.59 incl. VAT

Accommodation - £0.00 Provided via Scottish Government.