

6 HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1987 - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (AN241-2005)

Committee are asked to authorise an increase in the approved expense limit applicable to Environmental Improvement Grants to a maximum of £1,000 per flat.

Within the Private Sector Housing Grant a successful bid of £100,000 was made to carry out environmental improvements, targeting tenemental property in regeneration areas to help stimulate revival in the tenement and alter perceptions. Improvements will provide imaginative but cheap and easily maintained back court areas which will provide some trees, paving, seating, clothes drying and wheelie bin screening. A condition of grant approval will be a requirement to participate in a formal factoring/management scheme to ensure adequate maintenance of the common close and stair and environmental area.

The last maximum approved expense limit was set by the Secretary of State in 1988 when an approved expense limit of £690 was set. The repeal of sections 252 to 255 of the Act effectively gives Local Authorities the powers to support environmental improvements and to set the level of assistance. With the passage of time it is felt that the previous level of £690 is no longer a practical sum and a revised maximum approved expense of £1,000 is recommended, reflecting the costs associated with a pilot project nearing completion.