

4 SECONDMENT OF STAFF MEMBER TO COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND (AN163-2003)

It is reported that the Planning and Transportation Department have agreed to a request from Communities Scotland for the secondment of one of the department's staff members, Mr Keith Fernie, to Communities Scotland for a period of 15 months from around April 2003.

Mr Fernie is presently a Planning Officer on full-time secondment to the Geddes Centre, School of Town and Regional Planning, University of Dundee working under the guidance of Professor Greg Lloyd. In this role he is responsible for a large proportion of the work in delivering the SIP monitoring and evaluation requirements of the Dundee Partnership.

The new post he will take up at Communities Scotland is Monitoring and Evaluation Co-ordinator. This post will, among other things, involve him in the establishment of appropriate arrangements for the monitoring and evaluation of SIPs (Social Inclusion Partnerships) across Scotland.

This reflects well on the Council and provides an opportunity for closer ties with Communities Scotland. It has a number of other benefits, such as giving the Council a close insight into this important area at national level and providing opportunities for the establishment of networks that potentially will be very valuable to the Council in the future. There will be no cost implications for the Council.

In addition, there will be no loss of services to the Council as the agreement to the secondment is subject to successful recruitment of a full-time suitably skilled member of staff to work at the Geddes Centre on a temporary contract to carry out all tasks normally carried out by Mr Fernie.

The Committee is asked to approve this arrangement.