

7(A) EU Familiarisation Visit (AN164-2012)

Dundee City Council is a member of the East of Scotland European Consortium (ESEC) a non-statutory body which represents the interests of Eastern Scotland local authorities in respect of European issues. Councillor Will Dawson represents Dundee City Council on the ESEC Policy Board which meets twice per year. A Senior Policy Officer from the department's Policy and Funding team attends the ESEC Officer Group. ESEC's objectives are:

- to establish knowledge about EU policy and funding
- to influence EU policy and ensure that the interests of Eastern Scotland are represented
- to engage with relevant bodies to influence the EU policy agenda

For a number of years, Dundee has benefited from significant levels of European funding enabling investment in infrastructure development and supporting the provision of services for citizens.

ESEC is running a familiarisation visit to Brussels on 6th and 7th November, 2012. This will provide an opportunity to:

- develop knowledge of EU institutions and processes
- Meet with MEPs at the European Parliament
- learn about future policy priorities and EU programmes spanning the period 2014-2020
- develop knowledge of smart city and low carbon initiatives in other EU cities.

Committee approval is sought for Councillor Dawson to attend. Hotel accommodation and meal expenses will be met by ESEC. The Council is required to meet the cost of return flights to Brussels.