

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT ON: Policy and Resources Committee - 24 August 2009**

**REPORT ON: European Union of Supported Employment**

**REPORT BY: Head of Personnel**

**REPORT NO: 401-2009**

### **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report notifies the Committee of the re-election of Mr Mike Evans, Manager of the Council's Employment Unit, to President of the European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE), and seeks renewed authority for Mr Evans to participate in EUSE activities.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to:-

- note that Mr Mike Evans has been re-elected to the position of President of EUSE;
- approve the participation of Mr Evans in the activities of EUSE.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The role of the President involves attendance at meetings, delivering workshops and providing assistance and guidance to member national associations of EUSE. The costs will be borne either by EUSE or member national associations.

### **4 BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 The Employment Unit was originally formed by Tayside Regional Council to address the unmet employment needs of people in the community with disabilities or health problems. At local government re-organisation, the 3 Tayside local authorities agreed to collaborate in the continuation of the Employment Unit. The Employment Unit is widely recognised as a leader in the field of employment and disability and each year supports more than 100 disabled people into new jobs. The Unit has won many national awards for the high quality of its services, including a European Commission Scottish Equality Award and a COSLA Quality Award.
- 4.2 EUSE is a non governmental organisation whose aim is to promote the supported employment model through the exchange of information and good practice. EUSE also provides a platform for its members to network with other organisations and national associations.
- 4.3 Supported employment enables people with disabilities to have real jobs in the community with appropriate guidance and support. Most people benefiting from supported employment have been disengaged from the labour market for many years, with some disabled people having never worked at all.

- 4.4 The Scottish Union of Supported Employment is one of 19 member countries of EUSE. In 2001, the 5th EUSE Conference was held in Edinburgh and was attended by 620 delegates from 37 countries. The Manager of the Employment Unit organised this event, which was a great success.
- 4.5 EUSE has a formal constitution which elects 19 members to its board. At the recent 9th EUSE Conference held in Prague, Mr Evans was unanimously re-elected as President for a term of 2 years. He has held the position of President since 2007, participation in which role was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting of 13 August 2007.
- 4.6 The future action plan and activities of EUSE includes the organisation of the 10th EUSE Conference, developing quality standards in supported employment, improving information exchange between countries, identifying and securing funding for the organisation, influencing national and European policy and encouraging new European member states to develop supported employment activities. Additionally, the Employment Unit is the co-ordinator of a multi-national partnership, which is developing Position Papers, How to Guides and Training Materials for Supported Employment service providers throughout Europe. Moreover, the definition, values and process of supported employment, as developed by EUSE, have influenced the European Commission to develop the supported employment model throughout member states.
- 4.7 Mr Evans was chairman of the Scottish Union of Supported Employment from 1997 until 2002, during which time the organisation expanded its membership to 96 organisations and delivered 4 national conferences, the first of which was held in 1999 in Dundee. Through the organisation and delivery of the EUSE Conference in Edinburgh, both the Scottish Union of Supported Employment and the Employment Unit have enhanced their reputations as delivering high quality services to service providers and people with disabilities.
- 4.8 The re-election of Mr Evans to the position of President of EUSE will provide a development tool for all staff at the Employment Unit and will reinforce the good name of Dundee City Council at a European level.

## 5 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

## 6 **CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Depute Chief Executive (Finance) have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## 7 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

I M M Martin  
Head of Personnel

13 August 2009