

**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2001**  
**REPORT ON: MANAGEMENT OF SECRETARIAT OF THE EAST OF SCOTLAND EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM**  
**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**REPORT NO.: 94-2001**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To provide Committee with information regarding the hosting of the East of Scotland European Consortium (ESEC) Secretariat by Dundee City Council.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of this Report.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The marginal implications of hosting the Secretariat relate only to overheads such as office space, heating, lighting and some stationery. These costs will be met out of existing budgets.

**4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Consortium exists, in part, to influence European policy and assist in the promotion of effective and efficient use of European Funds. These funds are targeted towards the poorest areas for economic development purposes. As such, the work of the group contributes towards key theme No 6 in the Council's "Planning for Sustainability" Strategy. "The opportunity to undertake satisfying work in a diverse economy".

**5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 All 12 member councils have a stated equal opportunities policy and the Secretariat, while located in Dundee, will conform to Dundee City Council's policy of 15<sup>th</sup> April 1996.

**6 BACKGROUND**

6.1 ESEC is a non-statutory joint committee representing the European interests of twelve local authorities. These are:

Aberdeenshire	Falkirk
Angus	Fife
Clackmannanshire	Midlothian
Dundee City	Perth & Kinross
City of Edinburgh	Stirling
East Lothian	West Lothian

6.2 The Consortium has four key specific objectives:-

- To influence the development of emerging European Policy as it affects Eastern Scotland;
- To further co-operation between local authorities in Eastern Scotland and to provide a framework for the promotion of appropriate geographic and sectoral groupings;
- To maximise European Financial assistance;

- To develop links with similar groupings within Scotland, the UK and other European member states.

6.3 The ESEC executive body is the Policy Board comprising one elected representative from each council and is supported by an officer group and serviced by a secretariat which rotates amongst the member councils.

7 **REPORT**

7.1 In September 2000, the ESEC Policy Board elected the Convener of Dundee City Council's Economic Development Committee as Chair of the Consortium.

7.2 The Secretariat was managed by East Lothian Council during 1999-2000. On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2001, the Policy Board recommended that this now be managed by Dundee City Council for a period of 2 years.

7.3 Due to the nature of the work, as outlined in paragraph 6.2, it is felt that the management of the Secretariat, in addition to holding the Chair of the Consortium, will raise the City Council's profile within the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Executive and in Brussels.

7.4 The Secretariat will be managed by the Department's Principal Policy Officer. Support will be provided by two fixed-term additional members of staff - one full-time Policy Officer and one part-time Administration Assistant. These additional posts are recruited and paid for by ESEC and have no financial or manpower implications for the Council. The posts will be covered by the Council's terms and conditions.

8 **CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 The Chief Executive, Directors of Support Services, Finance and Personnel & Management Services have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

9 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 No background papers, as defined in Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

**DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.....Date.....**