

12(a) EAST OF SCOTLAND INVESTMENT FUND (AN40-2016)

Reference is made to Article VIII of the City Development Committee held on 8th March, 2010 (Report 133-2010 refers) which proposed joining the East of Scotland Investment Fund. This proposal was approved and Dundee City Council has been a member of ESIF since 2010. Dundee City Council is represented on the Board of ESIF.

In 2014 with encouragement from the Scottish Government, negotiations started on forming a Scotland wide loan scheme which is to be called Business Loans Scotland Ltd

Business Loans Scotland Ltd (BLS) will be a consortium of Scotland's 32 local authorities, incorporated as a company limited by guarantee providing loan finance up to £100,000 to new and growing, small and medium-sized businesses across Scotland.

This new Fund builds on the existing local authority loan funds, the West of Scotland Loan Fund (WSLF) and the East of Scotland Investment Fund (ESIF), the assets of which are to be transferred into the new company, thereby offering membership to all Scottish local authorities.

Approval is sought to transfer the Dundee City Council business and assets from ESIF to the new BLS Ltd when all appropriate legal agreements are in place and authorise the Convener of City Development to sign all appropriate legal agreements on behalf of the Council.