

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Personnel and Management Services Committee - 16 June 2003

REPORT ON: European Union of Supported Employment

REPORT BY: Director of Personnel and Management Services

REPORT NO: 423-2003

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report notifies the Committee of the election of Mr Mike Evans, Manager of the Council's Employment Disability Unit (EDU), to Vice President of the European Union of Supported Employment (EUSE), and seeks 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 elected to the position of Vice President of EUSE;
- approve the participation of Mr Evans in the activities of EUSE.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The role of the Vice President will involve 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 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The activities of EUSE will have a direct impact on the equality of employment opportunities for disabled people at international, national and local levels.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 One of the key roles of EUSE is to influence national policy on equal opportunities and social inclusion issues for disabled people.
- 5.2 It is expected that, directly and indirectly, EUSE and the position of Vice President will have an impact on securing equal opportunities for disabled people who are most disadvantaged within the open labour market.

6 BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 The Scottish Union of Supported Employment is one of 16 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 EDU organised this event, which was a great success.
- 6.4 EUSE has a formal constitution which elects 10 members to its board. At the recent 6th EUSE Conference held in Helsinki, Finland, Mr Evans, was unanimously elected as Vice President for a term of 2 years.
- 6.5 The future action plan and activities of EUSE includes the organisation of the 7th 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.
- 6.6 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 EDU have enhanced their reputations as delivering high quality services to service providers and people with disabilities.
- 6.7 The appointment of Mr Evans to the position of Vice President of EUSE will provide a development tool for all staff at the EDU and will reinforce the good name of Dundee City Council at the European level.
- 6.8 The EDU 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 EDU. The EDU is widely recognised as a leader in the field of employment and disability and each year supports around 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.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Support Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 No background papers, as defined by 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.

J.C. Petrie
Director of Personnel and Management Services

4 June 2003