

ANGUS COUNCIL**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

08/09/1998

SUBJECT: COSLA MEMBERS NETWORK, BRUSSELS**REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Abstract: This report recommends that the European Services Manager attend Committee of the Regions Plenary Sessions on 16 and 17 September 1998, liaise with European Commission Officers and attend a COSLA Members Network Liaison Day in Brussels on 18 September 1998.

1 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree to the European Services Manager attending the Committee of the Regions Plenary and the Cosla Members Network Liaison day in Brussels over the period 16, 17 and 18 September 1998.
- 1.2 It is also recommended that the Committee agree to amend the Scheme of Delegation to Officers (2. General Delegation to Heads of Department) to allow the Chief Executive to authorise the attendance of staff with a European remit at meetings, seminars, etc within the European Union.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The 25th Plenary Session of the Committee of the Region is being held on 16 and 17 September 1998 which includes amongst other topics a statement by Commissioner Wulf – Mathies on the Structural Funds. This is followed by a COSLA European Members Network Seminar on 18 September 1998.

3 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is proposed that the European Services Manager attend as an observer of the plenary session on 16 September 1998 to hear at first hand the latest thoughts on the Structural Funds and to observe the Committee of the Regions in action. Day two is an all-day CoR Plenary and the European Services Manager would take the opportunity to meet with Commission officials from DG.VI and DG.XVI to discuss the progress that Angus has made in accessing structural funds and establish a dialogue regarding the Angus case for new Objective 2 status past the year 1999. On 18 September the European Services Manager would attend the Cosla European Members Network Brussels Seminar. A Draft timetable for this seminar is annexed to this report.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The estimated cost of travel and accommodation for the European Services Manager is £650 plus expenses. This cost can be met from the Economic Development Revenue Budget for the current year.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Directors of Finance and Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 It is important that contacts within the commission are established and maintained and that the case being prepared for new Objective 2 status for Angus is well informed and highlighted to Commission Officers

NOTE

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.

DV/BT

A B Watson
Chief Executive