

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Arts & Heritage Committee - 21 May 2001

**REPORT ON:** European Cultural Forum of Local Authorities

**REPORT BY:** Director of Arts and Heritage

**REPORT NO:** 276-2001

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To outline the formation of a European Cultural Forum of Local Authorities.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to Dundee City Council becoming a member of European Cultural Forum of Local Authorities.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Membership of the Forum is at the cost of 1,000 euros, renewable annually. At current exchange rates this equates to £620 which can be met from the Arts and Heritage Department's revenue budget 2001/2002.

### **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Membership of the Forum will have a positive impact in ensuring that opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.

### **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Membership of the Forum would be consistent with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy and will potentially enhance opportunities for all in relation to cultural activity

### **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

6.1 Dundee City Council has been approached to become a founding member of the European Cultural Forum of Local Authorities (European Forum of Intermediate Authorities for Culture and Proximity). The invitation reflects well on Dundee's growing cultural status, given that other founding members include Bilbao, Barcelona, Utrecht, Karlsruhe and Munich.

6.2 The Forum will operate as a network of local authorities that share an interest in the role of culture as a tool for social and economic regeneration. The benefits of membership are likely to include:-

- Information exchange and communication in relation to best practice in cultural policy across Europe
- Co-operative projects across member local authorities providing an opportunity for new cultural activities to be experienced in Dundee

- Access to additional European funding to deliver cultural programmes and activities developed by member authorities
- An emphasis on exploring cultural programmes and activities with social and economic regeneration impacts
- External European recognition of Dundee's growing status as a cultural player

6.3 These prospective benefits are, as yet, untested and it is, therefore, proposed that Dundee becomes a founding member of the Forum but reviews the actual benefits of membership in 2002/2003. The Director of Arts and Heritage would aim to ensure that the value of membership to Dundee exceeded the annual cost of the affiliation. Initial discussion suggests that potential access to European funding streams may well be advantageous to the city.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance and Director of Corporate Planning have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None.

Director of Arts and Heritage \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_