





**Report of: Community Scrutiny Committee**

**To: Executive Board**












**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

**Item No**

**Title of Report : European Social Fund**

**Summary and Recommendations**


  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  


**purpose of report:** To report to the Executive Board the recommendations of the Community Scrutiny Committee as part of their discussions on the European Social Fund

**Key decision:** No

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr David Rundle

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report Approved by:**  Andy Collett – Financial & asset Management Services  
Jeremy Thomas – Legal & Democratic services

**Policy Framework:**

**Recommendation(s):** The Executive Board is asked to respond to the Community Scrutiny Committee's recommendations:

1. That the Executive Board find a way to accept Cllr David Williams offer to advise and assist officers with European Funding Bids. (noting that Councillor Williams was willing help on an unpaid basis and that he had a great deal of experience in this field which could greatly improve Oxford City Council's chances of success.)

**1. Background**

- 1.1. The Community Scrutiny Committee requested an update on the new European Social Fund (ESF) round and the Council's potential involvement

in bids at their meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November (a copy of the report is attached as Appendix 1)

- 1.2. The new ESF round was launched in September and its two priority areas are around: extending employment opportunities and developing a skilled and adaptable workforce. Oxford has been identified as a priority area for extending employment opportunities to workless adults.
- 1.3. The report noted that the Council does not have experience of leading bids of this nature and therefore this could compromise the success of the bid.
- 1.4. The Chief Executive and Strategic Directors made a decision to work with other partner organisations rather than to lead on any particular bids.
- 1.5. Cllr David Williams stated at Community Scrutiny on 10<sup>th</sup> November that he had a great deal of experience in applying for European Social funding and was willing to assist officers free of charge to make the best possible bids.
- 1.6. The Committee endorsed this offer and stressed the importance of the City's full involvement in the bid process to ensure the needs of the city were adequately addressed.
- 1.7. Cllr Williams agreed to contact the Chief Executive with this offer of help and support. The Committee were disappointed to note that this offer had been declined.
- 1.8. It is understood that funding deadlines for the European Social Fund 2008 – 11 will end in early February. However Cllr Williams offer was to help the City Council look at the feasibility of other sources of European Funding too.

## **2. Minutes of Community Scrutiny – 10th January 2008**

### **76. MINUTES**

Resolved to: -

- (1) Confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2007.
- (2) Note that officers had declined Councillor David Williams' offer to advise and assist officers with European Funding Bids, and recommend Executive Board to find a way to accept that offer, noting that Councillor Williams was willing help on an unpaid basis and that he had a great deal of experience in this field which could greatly improve Oxford City Council's chances of success.

### **3. Comments from Portfolio Holder (Cllr David Rundle)**

None received

**Contact** : Julia Woodman, Scrutiny Officer

**Tel:** 252318 **E Mail** : [jwoodman@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:jwoodman@oxford.gov.uk)

**Background papers:** None