

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE: 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2008**

**SUBJECT: RESEARCH ON POLISH MIGRANTS**

**BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1 The Communities Committee is asked to support a research project on Polish migrants.

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section H(12) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to formulating, supervising the implementation of and review as necessary the policies and practices of the Council in relation to its arrangements for promoting, fostering and maintaining equal opportunities.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 The Communities Committee is asked to support a research project on Polish migrants.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Edinburgh University are proposing to research the behaviour, experiences, future plans and expectations of contemporary Polish migrants in Scotland.

3.2 It is proposed that migration to rural and urban areas is researched by dividing the sample between Moray and Edinburgh local authorities. Within each area a broad range of migration will be selected, representing different periods of residence in Scotland, from relative newcomers to the more established. In order to provide a reliable assessment of real change in the behaviour and expectations of Polish migrants over time, a further sub-sample from each initial group will be re-interviewed after a period of one year.

3.3 The research aims to make use of the expertise offered by bodies already experienced in dealing with A8 migration, such as local authorities, citizens advice bureaux, trade unions, and a series of initial interviews with representatives of these groups will contribute to the design of the research.

3.4 Edinburgh University have approached the Moray Council to ask for a statement of support which would highlight the worthwhile and important nature of the project on Polish migrants. In addition the university would like the Moray Council to select an appropriate person as a non-academic referee for the project proposal.

3.5 In return the university will inform the Council of the progress and findings, including the possibility of arranging a specific dissemination event for the Council to discuss final results.

- 3.6 The Economic and Social Research Council will be asked to fund the research project by the university.

**4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

**(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan**

The Council has made a commitment to develop a culture, which encourages both equal opportunities and the observance of equal opportunities. It will also seek to improve access to services by all sectors of the community.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

The findings of the research could be useful to inform future policies.

**(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

There are no financial considerations arising out of this report.

**(d) Consultations**

There have been no specific consultations on this report.

**5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Communities Committee is asked to support a research project on Polish migrants.

Author of Report: Fiona Simpson, Equal Opportunities Officer

Background Papers:

Ref: