

CEC BSL Interpreter & Stenographer Agency

Council:

1. Recognises, an acute shortage of BSL Interpreters and Stenographers to facilitate for Deaf people to fully participate in workplace and in everyday lives in Edinburgh and throughout Scotland.

2. Calls, for a report in two or three cycles on the potential for a working partnership between the City of Edinburgh Council as a service provider agency and Skills Development Scotland as promoter, and Heriot Watt University and Edinburgh College as trainers to better facilitate for Deaf people and the BSL National Plan.

3. Requests, that said report includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Outcomes of liaising with:

I. Skills Development Scotland as possible promoter and partner

II. Edinburgh College as possible provider of stenography course and partner

III. Heriot Watt as provider of an established 'BSL (Interpreting, Translating and Applied Language Studies), MA (Hons)' course and as possible partner.

(b) Consideration of the operation of BSL Interpreter & Stenographer agencies elsewhere and its relationship with the Third sector and other external bodies, especially those representatives of Deaf people;

(c) Consideration of 'spend to save' by facilitating a full cost service to the private sector and a special rates service for Third sector, Public sector, outside & arm's length organisations connected to the Council;

(d) Consideration of money raised going towards public services, and especially towards equipment for Deaf children in Schools as this provision is presently affecting other parts of the Education budget;

(e) the level of civic and budgetary support required by the Council;

(f) consideration of funding support from Skills Development Scotland, Heriot Watt, and Edinburgh College;

(g) seek and consider the views of Deaf people during the development process;

(h) recommends, setting up a working group to look at best practice in implementing this initiative in other councils and how the City of Edinburgh Council could improve its performance so it is not just compliant but a leader in this field.