

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2002**

**REPORT ON: SCOTXED PROJECT**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

**REPORT NO: 456-2002**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report advises Committee on the department's participation in the ScotXed project and seeks approval of the proposed utilisation of additional grant funding allocated by the Scottish Executive Education Department.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee note the content of this report and approve the utilisation of the available grant funding as set out in the financial implications section of this report.

**3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The Scottish Executive Education Department has made £29,557 additional grant funding available to the Council towards the cost of enhancing management information systems and services and developing data exchanges in line with the ScotXed Project objectives and targets.

It is proposed this additional fund is allocated as follows:

£7,300	Acquisition of additional Phoenix (schools admin data base) module to enable electronic transfer of data.
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£22,257	Provision of additional clerical hours to enable input of data to Phoenix systems.
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£29,557

**4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Increased electronic transmission of data will reduce the requirement for multiple paper copies of documents and forms thereby using resources more efficiently, minimising waste and contributing to protecting the environment.

**5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Improved availability of data will assist with equality of access to educational opportunity for pupils.

## 6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 ScotXed is a short form of **Scottish Exchange of Educational Data**. It is a partnership initiative led by the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED) and is all about promoting the electronic exchange of information among the parties in education in Scotland. All Scottish education authorities are taking part in the project.

6.2 It is envisaged that by improving the information flow between schools, local authorities, the Scottish Executive and the Scottish Qualifications Authority the initiative will make a difference to the education system by:

- reducing administrative burdens
- increasing the speed, ease and accuracy of information exchange
- supporting the tracking of young people's progress and attainment
- encouraging best practice and improving access to benchmarking information

6.3 The first target for the project is the electronic transfer of school census information in September 2002. Much of this information is already held in electronic form on the schools' computerised management information system (Phoenix) and has in the past been transmitted mainly in paper form. However, SEED has recognised that there will be some start up costs in terms of computer software to enable the electronic transmission of this information and to meet expenditure attached to the checking and updating of data held in schools. Additional grant funding has therefore been allocated by SEED to all authorities and Dundee City Council's allocation is £29,557.

6.4 It is proposed that this funding should be utilised to acquire an additional Phoenix module to facilitate the electronic transmission of data and to making additional clerical hours available to check and update information held on the schools Phoenix system.

6.5 The information collected in the school census on pupils includes personal data such as: name, date of birth, home postcode, ethnic background, whether the pupils has a Record of Needs or an Individualised Educational Programme, the main difficulty of learning of pupils with such special educational needs and whether the pupil is registered for free meals. It should be noted that the information collected is used for statistical purposes only. No information about individual pupils will be published and no use made of the pupil named beyond ensuring the completeness and accuracy of data and to assist in linking pupil records across different data sets such as SQA results.

## 7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Director of Finance, Director of Support Services and School Head Teachers have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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.

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Director of Education

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Date

AHW/DD  
May 2002