

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
18 NOVEMBER 2002**

**REPORT ON: FUNDING TO SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT SCIENCE
EDUCATION**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 805-2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report brings to the attention of the Education Committee an allocation of £76,140 to support the Science Strategy for Scotland. The funding is ring fenced for science projects and targeted on resources and activities to support these projects. This report proposes a distribution of these funds to schools in Dundee City Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Education Committee is recommended to:

- i) note the provision of £76,140 ring fenced for the development of science.
- and
- ii) approve the distribution of funds as set out in Appendix I.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Dundee City Council has been given a Special Grant of £76,140 from the Scottish Executive. This additional funding is ring fenced to support science projects. SEED require that this funding be spent or distributed to schools in the current financial year. This funding will be distributed to schools as set out in Appendix I.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 In supporting the development of science education in schools this funding will help young people in Dundee to access to the skills, knowledge and information needed to enable everyone to play a full part in society.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6.0 REPORT

6.1 The Science Strategy for Scotland emphasises the importance of science education in schools in developing a culture that is comfortable with scientific thinking and which encourages young people to pursue science related subjects. Dundee City Council would wish to endorse this view and to actively promote the development of science in our schools as a key element in providing young people in Dundee with the skills demanded by our developing high tech industries.

6.2 Dundee City Council has been at the forefront of education authorities in developing its own Science Strategy. Dundee's STEM Strategy (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) is an innovative partnership between Dundee City Council Education Department, local universities and colleges and Scottish Enterprise Tayside. The Strategy will deliver to pupils a wide range of experiences, visits and activities designed to raise awareness and stimulate interest in science. This funding will help support the Dundee STEM Strategy initiatives.

6.3 In primary schools the review of Environmental Studies identified the need to provide additional equipment to support science and technology. Additional funding under this programme in 2001 – 2002 was targeted at primary schools to address this need. In secondary schools there is a need to upgrade and replace equipment to meet the demands of revised curricula in S1/2 and for National Qualifications. This additional funding by the Scottish Executive will therefore complement the work currently going on in our schools to develop science and will give schools the opportunity to upgrade and widen the range of equipment and resources to support this work.

6.3 It is proposed that the funding be deployed to support the Science Strategy, to support equipment upgrades in secondary schools and to support particular development projects in primary schools. Appendix I gives details of the allocation. The funding is ring fenced (in accordance with SEED advice) for expenditure on science activities and resources.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 This funding will give schools a valuable addition to their resources for science and will help take forward Dundee City Council current initiatives to develop science in schools.

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 The Director of Finance and the Director of Support Services and Head Teachers of city schools have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 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.

Anne Wilson
Director of Education

18 November 2002

Expenditure of Funding to Support Science Strategy for Scotland

1	Support for STEM Strategy	£7,000
2	Support for Secondary School Science Departments £3,000 per Physics Dept £1,200 per Chemistry and Biology Dept	£54,000
3	Purchase of equipment for Primary Schools	£5,000
4	Science Development Fund To support Science projects in Nursery and Primary Schools	£10,140
	Total	£76,140