

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	11 <sup>th</sup> September 2012
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Community Media Digital Channel
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/12/170

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks to update on the status of the Community Digital Media Channel and the decision made by Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure to withdraw from this area of work currently.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- a. It is recommended that committee support the decision to withdraw from their leading role in developing a Community Media Digital Channel at this time and instead support the efforts of Station House Media Unit to progress future work in this development area.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no financial implications arising from this paper.

4. OTHER IMPLICATION

**Risk Management**

The current uncertainty of available grant funding for local, digital TV channels and the findings of the initial research, which supported further investigation into the establishment of a web based channel, rather than a digital TV channel, it would be wasteful of Council resources to further pursue this activity.

**Personnel**

Supporting the recommendation in this report will have no impact on staffing within Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure, other than freeing staff time to concentrate on other, higher priority projects.

## 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The UK Government has announced its intentions with regards the delivery of Local (broadcast) TV and has included Aberdeen as one of the potential areas to be included in the second phase of any roll out, which is not expected to start until 2015. The Government will make available broadcast space in the spectrum and a potential for some grant support funding for Local TV channels through the license fee.

Also, previous research undertaken into the possibilities for an Aberdeen Community Digital Media Channel highlighted the potential for the development of an online (web) channel delivering a range of professional and community media.

Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure therefore believe it would be an unproductive use of scarce staff resources to progress this project until the situation becomes clearer with regard to the availability of government support funding and/or an alternative proposal is developed in relation to a web based service.

Station House Media Unit has indicated a desire to commit resources to the development of this web based concept as an additional and complimentary service beyond SHMU FM. Where practical, staff from within E P & I will support Station House Media Unit to progress this concept, whilst continually assessing the requirement for any possible future Council support. Should such a requirement materialise a future paper may be submitted to Committee to determine whether Council support can be provided.

## 6. IMPACT

### **Equality and Human Rights implications**

A full equality and human rights impact was not required, as this project will have a positive impact for all the equality target groups

## 7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

## 8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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