

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	<b>Education, Culture and Sport</b>
DATE	<b>31<sup>st</sup> January 2013</b>
DIRECTOR	<b>Gayle Gorman</b>
TITLE OF REPORT	<b>EC&amp;S Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Development Policy</b>
REPORT NUMBER:	<b>ECS/13/007</b>

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek the approval of the Education, Culture & Sport Committee to implement the new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Development Policy for all staff within the Education, Culture & Sport Service.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

Members of the Committee are requested to approve the new policy and instruct officers to carry out the necessary work to ensure its successful implementation.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any costs arising from the implementation of providing appropriate continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities for staff, will be met using existing funds within the directorate's CPD budgets. Costs for some of the specific projects identified will be met by funding from partner organisations, some of which have been agreed for the next three years.

### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

This policy cannot be sustainable without a Science Development Officer in place to co-ordinate and evaluate the initiatives.

### **5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

A need has been identified to increase the uptake of science in primary schools and to improve the confidence of teachers in delivery of STEM subjects.

There has been a downturn in numbers of pupils studying STEM subjects at secondary level which has resulted in a decline in post-school destinations within STEM subjects careers.

There is a projected need for 23,000 employees over the next five years, in the Scottish oil & gas industry. Aberdeen, as the oil capital of Europe, will be at the forefront of this need.

## **6. IMPACT**

Increased, and improved, teaching and learning of science in all city schools so improving the achievement of pupils in the STEM subjects and increasing the movement into STEM careers, particularly the oil & gas industry.

## **7. MONITORING**

The implementation of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Development Policy will be regularly monitored to ensure the desired outcomes for the policy are achieved.

Monitoring will be carried out using existing procedures, such as Covalent; educational attainment performance of pupils and other evaluative tools with all stakeholders.

All CPD events and activities will be evaluated, with a focus on the impact that these activities have on employees' professional practice.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The draft Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Development Policy policy is attached to this report.

## **9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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