Education Scotland – Restructure and Support Delivery Model 2024 - Presentation noted etc.

2 There was submitted a report by the Senior Regional Advisor, Education Scotland regarding the emerging changes within that national agency, advising

(1) that in April 2019 Education Scotland had established a Regional Directorate within its organisational structure with 6 Regional Improvement Teams (RITs) to complement the structure of Scotland's 6 Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs) and that to date these multi-disciplinary RITs had worked alongside local authorities and RICs to support improvement priorities outlined within regional and local plans and that through the regional structure, local improvement support had been coordinated and delivered through the associated RIC groupings of local authorities, which varied in size, scale and support requirement;

(2) that as an executive agency of Scottish Government, a recent review and update of Education Scotland's delivery priorities had been undertaken and whilst Education Scotland's principle aim was driving improvements in education, in partnership with local partners, how the agency would strategically and operationally deliver support, alongside local authorities, was to adapt;

(3) that with the tapering of funding to RICs and Education Scotland's staffing reduction from 6 to 4 Senior Regional Advisors, it had been necessary to reconsider how Education Scotland 'groups' local authorities to ensure an effective delivery model which was also designed to improve the alignment of Education Scotland's Corporate Plan to the current needs of the system and Scottish Government's priorities;

(4) that moving forward, Education Scotland planned to augment its improvement activity associated with the Scottish Attainment Challenge and in November 2023, David Gregory had been appointed by Education Scotland as the interim Strategic Director of the Scottish Attainment Challenge and in January 2024 a review and 'regrouping' of local authorities had been undertaken, resulting in Education Scotland shifting its aligned support from 6 regional groupings of local authorities to 4;

(5) that 4 Senior Regional Advisors would remain in place to provide strategic support to the local authorities within those 4 groupings, alongside associated Attainment Advisors, with each group equally consisting of 8 local authorities and the model and rationale for change had been shared with ADES Executive in advance of its implementation;

(6) of a variety of factors that had been considered to support the changes of local authority groupings, as detailed in the report;

(7) of the current alignment and the new operational delivery model moving forward, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;

(8) that where Education Scotland had already committed support to West Partnership RIC activity during the academic session 2023-24, this would continue until the agreed date of completion; and

(9) of the proposed implementation of Education Scotland's transition to the new operational model and groupings, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, and having heard a presentation by David Gregory, Strategic Director, Education Scotland, during which he provided an update in respect of the 4 newly appointed Senior Regional Advisors across the new support delivery model of the 4 Local Authority Groupings, the committee

(a) noted

(i) the proposed change;

(ii) how existing RIC work would be supported by Education Scotland as a result of restructure and recent announcements regarding the future of RIC funding; and

(b) thanked David for his presentation.