Proposals for 2 papers on regional collaboration by Glasgow University – Position noted.

5 There was submitted and noted a report by Professors Chris Chapman and Graham Donaldson, Glasgow University, regarding proposals to create 2 papers relating to regional collaborative working, advising

(1) that as the West Partnership (WP) moved on to its next phase of development, in a climate of ever decreasing resources and raised expectations in terms of local authority support for school improvement, 2 papers had been commissioned for 2024/25;

(2) that the purpose of these papers was two-fold, firstly to document the successes of the WP since its inception and secondly to consider possible ways forward that built on the previous work of the regional collaboration, which was planned to continue;

(3) of the first paper, which would be published in December 2024 and involved a synthesis of various forms of evidence to highlight the successes and impact of WP activity and would be used as a basis for a discussion with Directors and to inform the development of the second paper;

(4) of the second paper, which would be published in spring 2025 (March to June) depending on policy cycles, timing of International Council of Education Advisers meetings etc and would focus on future directions and how best to build on the relationships and activity that had underpinned the work of the WP, including outlining possible options for future work and setting out possible strategic options for the future development of the WP and regional collaboration more widely; and

(5) that the second paper would form the basis of an invited seminar to explore the “Realising the potential for regional collaboration in Scotland”, which would be convened before the summer recess in 2025 with the audience for the paper and seminar being local and national officials and politicians.