Item 5
17th September 2024

Glasgow City Region Education Committee

Report by: Professors Chris Chapman and Graham Donaldson, Glasgow University

Contact: Sharon Hayward, Senior Partnership Officer, The West Partnership

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY: PROPOSALS FOR PAPERS 2024-25 ON REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Purpose of the Report

To advise members of the committee of the proposals to create two papers relating to regional collaborative working.

Recommendations :

The committee is asked to:

- Note the proposals for the two papers.

1. **Background**

1.1 As the West Partnership moves 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, Professors Chris Chapman and Graham Donaldson have been commissioned to prepare two papers for the West Partnership during 2024-25.

1.2 The purpose of these papers is two-fold. First to document the successes of the West Partnership since its inception and second to consider possible ways forward that build on the previous work of the regional collaboration, which is planned to continue.

2. **Paper 1: Documenting success and considering opportunities, issues, tensions and dilemmas**

2.1 This paper will involve a synthesis of various forms of evidence (Robert Owen Centre evaluations, internal reports, and external Scottish Government evaluation) to highlight the successes and impact of West Partnership activity.

2.2 This paper will be published in December 2024 and will be used as a basis for a roundtable with Directors and to inform the development of the second paper.

2.3 The paper will be structured around the Partnership's phases of development, documenting key developments, opportunities, tensions and dilemmas associated with building regional collaboration to support improvement processes at classroom, school and system levels.

3. **Paper 2: Realising the potential for regional collaboration in Scotland**

3.1 A second paper will be published in the Spring (March-June) depending on policy cycles, timing of International Council of Education Advisers meetings etc

3.2 This paper will focus on future directions and how best to build on the relationships and activity that has underpinned the work of the West Partnership. The paper will outline possible options for future work, setting out possible strategic options for the future development of the West Partnership and regional collaboration more widely.

3.3 The paper will form the basis of an invited seminar to explore the **"Realising the potential for regional collaboration in Scotland"**. This would be convened before summer recess 2025. The Audience for this paper & seminar would be local and national officials and politicians.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the proposal for the two papers