Item 3
17th September 2024

Glasgow City Region Education Committee

Report by: Sharon Hayward, Senior Partnership Officer, The West Partnership

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

Presentation of Draft Improvement Plan 2024-25

Purpose of the Report

To provide the Committee with the opportunity to examine the West Partnership's Draft Improvement Plan and to seek the Committee's endorsement of the attached plan

Recommendations :

The Committee is asked to:

(i) Note and endorse the Draft Improvement Plan;
(ii) Note that each individual authority will report on the Improvement Plan to their appropriate Committee for approval, maintaining local democratic oversight; and
(iii) Agree that the approved Improvement Plan be presented to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, for noting.

1. Background

1.1. The West Partnership (WP) produce an annual plan, linked to a three year planning cycle which outlines the vision, purpose and key activities of the collaborative for the year ahead.

1.2 Committed to professional reflection and rigorous evaluation, a framework of evaluation activities provides a range of evidence to inform next steps in improvement planning.

1.3 Following the Cabinet Secretary announcement to cease funding for regional improvement collaboratives in March 2025, a new collaborative framework has been agreed across the WP. Transition activities will take place to ready the WP system to support ongoing collaboration by this point.

2. Development of the draft Improvement Plan

2.1. Over the past session, a comprehensive range of engagements with stakeholders took place, complementing the ongoing evaluation activity; giving a clearer set of qualitative and quantitative data to ensure the new Improvement Plan meets the needs of practitioners and officers across the West Partnership.

2.2. Taking account of all consultation to date, there is clear consensus that existing programmes and activity are broadly meeting the needs of officers and practitioners across the West Partnership. It is suggested most programmes continue, following review and amendments. These have been presented to the Board and Glasgow City Region Education Committee as part of the collaborative Framework development during last session. They recognise the significant reduction in the WP core team and the 50% funding cut this financial year.

3 Peer Review Process

3.1 In recent years, Education Scotland have facilitated a peer review process, leading to a report on progress which is presented to the Cabinet Secretary. This has not taken place this session.

3.2 The six Senior Partnership Officers (or equivalent) of the RICs met for a day in June to undergo a peer review discussion. Challenge and feedback was offered to all SPOs. The WP collaborative framework for 2025 was noted as the most complex and extensive across the RICs.

4 Transition to Collaborative Framework 2025

4.1 Having agreed the plans to implement the agreed collaborative framework in April, the Board and GCREC will receive verbal updates at each meeting to report on the progress of readying the system to transfer ownership of ongoing collaborative activity and programmes in 2025.

5 Next steps

5.1 The Committee's Terms of Reference, as agreed in September 2022, require the Committee to examine and endorse the draft Improvement Plan. In addition, in seeking to ensure local democratic accountability, members will be required to report back to their own authorities through appropriate individual local governance arrangements for approval.

5.2. In seeking to ensure that the West Partnership can continue to contribute to the wider work of the Glasgow City Regional Economic Strategy, the West Partnership is required to report to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet. A report will be prepared, including the endorsed Regional Improvement Plan, and presented to the Cabinet by the Regional Lead Officer.

6. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:
(i) Note and endorse the Draft Improvement Plan;
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(iii) Agree that the approved Improvement Plan be presented to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, for noting.