West Online School – Update noted etc.

5 There was submitted a report by Samantha Jane Hewitt, West Online School Principal Teacher regarding how West Online School (West OS) would ensure the highest quality of learning and teaching provision in session 2024/25, advising

(1) that the paper summarised the work of West OS as it had continued to diversify its output, content, themes covered and expand its reach in classrooms;

(2) that from April 2022, 2 development officers had augmented West OS from being purely an online bank of recorded lessons to a resource that had a wider reach and impact during the school day/year, and West OS now had an open access podcast series for young people and practitioners which had now become intrinsic to the daily work of West OS, as detailed in the report;

(3) that since February 2023, West OS development officers had delivered over 70 live and interactive lessons to primary and secondary young people, and Broad General Education (BGE) LIVE was supported by an array of industry experts from various institutions and organisations, such as: Scientists from Merck, Local councillors, Cyber security experts, Police Scotland, AI experts, Mental Health specialists, National Art Galleries, Equalities Officers, TIE and Daydream Believers;

(4) of the success of the BGE LIVE lessons, as detailed in the report;

(5) that new and highly successful lesson themes for West OS had revolved around real life issues and Learning for Sustainability, including exploring Race equality-Antiracism, LGBT Inclusive education, STEM and Solarpunk Island and that due to the nature of those themes and resources needed, a teacher webinar had been offered to practitioners, with delivery partners, in order to support and guide when approaching the lessons and to engage in professional discussion;

(6) of the success of a number of new West Partnership learning series, including My Diverse Scotland, Inclusive Education and Solarpunk Island, all as detailed in the report;

(7) that whilst the online bank of recorded lessons, or video vault, was still utilised by some learners and practitioners across the partnership, it was clearly evident that it had waned in popularity and was used more as an exam revision tool and following discussions with practitioners and young people it had been suggested that the resource bank had reached its limit and that the LIVE lesson element of West OS was making a much greater impact on learning and teaching;

(8) that West OS would build upon the building of key partnerships in order to ensure lessons were engaging, relevant and had expert input and that for session 2024/25, West OS would continue to draw attention to the abundance

of resources, masterclasses and podcasts, however no new content would be added to ClickView other than BGE LIVE recordings and resources;

(9) that a new reference group would be established to discuss and develop content for BGE LIVE, working closely with the West OS Principal Teacher and continue to drive forward the hard work and impact of West OS and would also seek to bring about a longevity to West OS work and progression; and

(10) that a new evaluation strategy would also help to ensure that continuous improvement was achieved so that the highest quality learning and teaching provision continued by keeping learners at the centre of all new work and themes covered.

After consideration, the committee noted the

(a) progress of West Online School to date;

(b) reach of West Online School across the partnership; and

(c) developments to West Online School going forward within the year of tapered funding.