Assessment and moderation – Update noted etc.

4 There was submitted a report by Shona McArthur, Development Officer, West Partnership regarding the progress and impact of the assessment and moderation work undertaken during session 2023/24 and outlining the next steps for that work recognising the regional commitment to ongoing work, advising

(1) that since 2022, there had been a notable increase in engagement in assessment and moderation activity, with a significant increase in Secondary and Additional Support Needs (ASN) sectors and the West Partnership (WP) website had undergone substantial developments with assessment guides and exemplars, a self-evaluation toolkit, and new resources for practitioners;

(2) that the annual WP Moderation Event was an opportunity for practitioners from primary and secondary sectors to moderate planned assessment submitted by colleagues from the 8 local authorities to ensure they met the national standard and that this year's event had been held in-person, was open to probationer teachers for the first time, and practitioners also had the option to moderate in specific literacy or numeracy organisers to collate planning for those organisers across all levels and show progression of planning;

(3) that the ASN sector had held its first regional moderation event in March 2023, and in 2023/24 had a year-long programme to increase confidence in assessment planning, and enhance collaborative practice;

(4) that the WP Secondary BGE Moderation Programme was for principal teachers to come together to moderate within their own curricular area with a focus on HGIOS, with each local authority also having its own Assessment and Moderation programmes of work supported by the WP;

(5) of a detailed evaluation summary regarding the WP Moderation event, the ASN assessment and moderation programme and the Secondary BGE Moderation Programme, as detailed in the report;

(6) that bespoke and personalised programmes of work had been agreed with each local authority Lead to ensure the WP was adding value and responding to local need, with inputs being regularly evaluated to assess impact and added value, as detailed in the report; and

(7) that, given the tapered funding provided by Scottish Government, the development officer role would cease in June 2024 and work was ongoing with the specialist network to identify how to continue with the most impactful aspects of this work, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the committee

(a) noted the update on assessment and moderation work for 2023/24; and

(b) agreed the next steps for continuing this work, as detailed in the report.