

GLASGOW CITY REGION EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Item 1
4th March 2025

Minutes of meeting held on 26th November 2024 by video conference.

Present: Councillor Andrew Anderson (Chair), East Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Lynda Williamson, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Christina Cannon, Glasgow City Council; Councillor Jim Clocherty, Inverclyde Council; Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, South Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Clare Steel, West Dunbartonshire Council; and Alan Taylor, Head Teacher co-opted representative.

Apology: Councillor Michael McBride, North Lanarkshire Council;

Attending: Maureen Hughes (Clerk); Greg Bremner, East Dunbartonshire Council; Mark Ratter, East Renfrewshire Council; Douglas Hutchison and Lorna Goldie, Glasgow City Council; Ruth Binks, Inverclyde Council; Janie O'Neill, Renfrewshire Council; Jacqueline Wallace, South Lanarkshire Council; Claire Cusick, West Dunbartonshire Council; and Sharon Hayward, Samantha Jane Hewitt and Liz McTiernan, West Partnership.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

1 The minutes of the previous meeting of 17th September 2024 were submitted and approved.

West Partnership – Finance update 2024/25 – Position noted.

2 There was submitted and noted a report by Lorna Goldie, Head of Resources, Education Services, Glasgow City Council, providing an update on the West Partnership's financial position for financial year 2024/25, advising

- (1) that the grant award letter had been received on 16th May 2024 detailing an award of £755,250 for the financial year 2024/25, which was a reduction of approximately 50% compared to previous years allocations;
- (2) that the financial sub-group would meet to discuss the budget and final claims for the grant and that the claim dates were September 2024 and March 2025;
- (3) of the budget approvals for 2024/25 against each workstream and of the outturn for each workstream for 2023/24 for comparative purposes, as detailed in the report; and
- (4) of the 2024/25 budget, expenditure to date and forecast spend, as detailed in the report.

Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment Spotlight - Presentation noted.

3 The committee heard and noted a presentation by Liz McTiernan, Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment (CLTA) Workstream Lead Officer, West Partnership, providing a CLTA workstream update, advising of the

- (1) analysis of the curriculum, engagement with national provocations, sharing and learning in collaborative regional groups and of evaluation using the curriculum how;
- (2) teaching and learning, including the IO family, teaching the 'sprint' enquiry and the spotlight on effective practice;
- (3) assessment and moderation work undertaken; and
- (4) specialists network, including where we are now, the successes and challenges and the way forward post March 2025.

West Online School – Update noted etc.

4 There was submitted a report by Samantha Jane Hewitt, West Online School Principal Teacher, providing an update on the work of West Online School (West OS) within this first term of tapered funding and reduced staffing, advising

- (1) that from March 2024, 1 Principal Teacher had continued to create and deliver lesson content with industry experts to schools across the West Partnership and beyond;
- (2) that new topics and themes had been introduced in line with national and local priorities and that West OS hosted a padlet for each theme/lesson and directed teachers towards prior reading, knowledge and resources needed before and after the lesson;
- (3) of an update regarding BGE Live lessons, which continued to gain traction with practitioners signing up for a range of topics and themes, as detailed in the report, and that BGE Live interest continued to increase with over 250 signups for some of the themes;
- (4) that feedback from both practitioners and young people continued to drive improvement and practice changes and that the volume of BGE Live lessons delivered had also increased and expanded the offer of lessons available through each week and term;
- (5) of the next steps, which highlighted that looking to 2025, Common Sense Education, Keeping Scotland Beautiful and Skills Development Scotland would also be collaborating with West OS to deliver new content for young people and that a new West OS Reference Group had been established and had discussed the work of West OS and ideas for lesson content, themes and

learning and teaching approaches and had also clarified short and longer term aims for WEST OS, as detailed in the report; and

- (6) that currently, the Principal Teacher oversaw the strategic planning, marketing, scoping, evaluation, resource creation and generation and delivery of the BGE Live lessons to over 100 classes of young people each week and that without this funded role, BGE Live would be unable to continue after March 2025.

After consideration, the committee noted

- (a) the progress of the West OS to date;
- (b) the significant reach of the West OS across the partnership; and
- (c) that each local authority paid £1,000 towards the total £46,000 licence fee for Clickview which would be in place until October 2025, however this would need to be looked at again nearer the end of the contract;
- (d) Mark Ratter and Sharon Hayward were currently looking at this matter which required universal buy in from all authorities and that they would be discussing this with Education Scotland; and
- (e) comments made on the role of West OS going forward to March 2025 and beyond.

‘Learning Beyond Boundaries’ project – Update noted.

5 There was submitted a report by Sharon Hayward, Senior Partnership Officer, West Partnership (WP) providing an update on the collaborative work between ADES/Staff College and the WP on the future place of artificial intelligence in Scottish education entitled ‘Learning Beyond Boundaries’, advising

- (1) that the WP had already undertaken a literature review and provided practitioner professional learning on this subject and had been involved in the strategic progress of this new work from the outset;
- (2) that local authorities had been invited to contribute to the funding of this work and that it had been agreed that all 8 local authorities across the WP would be involved as the work aligned with Improvement Plan priorities, with this involvement fully funded through the WP Grant 2023/24;
- (3) of the project aims and 4 project phases, as detailed in the report;
- (4) that all 4 project phases had been delivered on time and that the West Partnership Core Team staff had played a pivotal role in creating and facilitating the engagement activities with children and young people;

- (5) that the ADES AI microsite was currently under development by Staff College to house the resources (scenarios, video and toolkits) about the project, guidance to teachers on using the resources, feedback loops, case studies, pupil stories and think pieces for policy makers; and
- (6) of the recently published final report detailing the findings of the engagement activities and recommendations to schools, local authorities and the Scottish Government, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report.

After consideration, the committee noted

- (a) the report; and
- (b) that AI was the way forward in education and needed to be funded properly and that infrastructure, devices and connectivity all needed to be addressed.

Transition to Collaborative Framework 2025 - Verbal update noted.

6 The committee heard and noted a verbal update by Sharon Hayward, Senior Partnership Officer, West Partnership (WP), regarding the Transition to Collaborative Framework 2025, advising

- (1) that Mark and Sharon had visited all but 2 local authorities regarding the Collaborative Framework to look at points of risk or failure;
- (2) HR departments had been contacted regarding secondment/appointment procedures and that it was proposed to have 1 x Collaborative Officer and 2 x 0.1 FTE posts;
- (3) Mark would be contacting Directors to advise them of the changes etc and to establish who would be responsible in each local authority for each subject;
- (4) that specialist networks had been identified as the areas of most risk and that a collaborative workshop for all specialist networks would take place to address any issues regarding sustainability; and
- (5) Alison had met with all local authority leads since the last meeting and that a much more sustainable model, improving the classroom in schools was now in place and that materials would be reviewed on a 2 year cycle.

Date of next meeting noted.

7 The committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 4th March 2024 at 1100 hours by video conference.