Keep Scotland Beautiful: Upstream Battle on the Clyde – Position noted.

6 There was submitted a report by the Workstream Lead Officer providing an update on the 'Upstream Battle on the Clyde' programme across the West Partnership (WP) and of its development for 2023/24, advising

(1) that the WP had worked with Keep Scotland Beautiful to extend the 'Upstream Battle on the Clyde' project, with funding of £40,000 having allowed the WP to appoint a Development Officer to lead 4 key projects between March 2022 to March 2023 (Phase 3);

(2) that Upstream Battle presented a relevant and accessible context for developing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) skills, learning about sustainability, and deepening understanding of the climate emergency and circular economy;

(3) of the 4 key projects within Phase 3 of the programme (namely, 'Marine Litter art competition', Career-long Professional Learning course', STEM the Flow' and 'Young Reporters for the Environment') that had so far resulted in engaging with 63 schools, across all education sectors and in all 8 local authorities of the WP, with this number expected to increase with additional programme strands being delivered in the spring term;

(4) of a summary evaluation regarding each of the 4 projects, as detailed in the report; and

(5) that moving into session 2023/24, it was important to review the added value of the Keep Scotland Beautiful offer, and evaluations, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, had suggested that the Development Officer continued to be part-funded from Keep Scotland Beautiful to lead the programme, specifically to establish a sustainable model for STEM the Flow programme, which had had the most impact on WP young people.

After consideration, and having heard Carol McArdle, Workstream Lead Officer, the committee noted

(a) the progress of the Upstream Battle on the Clyde programme; and

(b) the development of the work for the 2023/24 Improvement Plan.