Education Scotland review of West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative Plan 2022/23 – Position noted.

5 There was submitted a report by the Senior Partnership Officer and Education Scotland, providing an update on the key messages in the Education Scotland Senior Regional Adviser Report to the Scottish Government on the West Partnership (WP) Improvement Plan 2022/23, advising that

(1) the WP Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC) continued to have a clear vision, to embed the values of equity, excellence and empowerment in everything they did whilst building a culture of collaborative working across their local authority areas;

(2) the WP continued to drive its communication strategy to maximise the promotion and reach of its offer and during 2021-22 over 3100 practitioners of the 19,000 within the WP had participated in a RIC professional learning session, with 85% reporting an increase in knowledge and 82% reporting increased confidence as a result of associated learning;

(3) the WP Online School (West OS) which was incorporated into the recorded lesson element of Scotland's National e-Learning Offer (NeLO), continued to benefit all authorities across Scotland and throughout session 2021-22 over 40,000 learners had accessed WestOS, with approximately 15,000 of those learners being specifically aligned to local authorities within the west region and all secondary schools had reported usage of WestOS and 66% of primary settings reported engagement with the resource;

(4) as a result of having defined critical indicators in place since 2016, the WP RIC continued to collectively track and monitor attainment of children and young people at local and regional level and these critical indicators were analysed as part of the WP evaluation and reporting processes and influenced improvement planning direction;

(5) in light of the extensive and detailed planning undertaken at the start of session 2021-22, the WP Improvement Plan for 2022-23 broadly illustrated a continuation of existing priorities, including a response and focus for recovery and renewal whilst acknowledging the challenges of supporting improvement as part of the on-going Covid recovery process, and the WP planned to continue to work collaboratively within and across the system to ensure that it responded with agility to the changed circumstances in which we now lived, providing support and developing flexible approaches to learning and teaching across the region;

(6) within the WP Plan for 2022-23 the RIC noted their continued commitment to set an ambitious and aspirational agenda to close the poverty related attainment gap (equity) and improve attainment and achievement for all (excellence), aiming to achieve this through creating the conditions for authentic empowerment, resulting in a shift in the ownership of change that enabled all staff to take collective action to deliver their ambitious vision; and

(7) the RIC would continue to work in partnership with the Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change and Education Scotland's West Regional Improvement Team in session 2022-23 to ensure approaches to collaborative learning continued to make the greatest difference to the practitioners and learners they served.

After consideration and having heard a presentation by Pamela Di Nardo, Senior Regional Adviser, Education Scotland, the committee noted the report.