

GLASGOW CITY REGION EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Minutes of meeting held on 17th November 2020 by video conference.

- Present:** Councillor Jim Paterson (Chair), Renfrewshire Council; Councillor Jim Goodall, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Chris Cunningham, Glasgow City Council; Councillor Martin Brennan, Inverclyde Council; Councillor Frank McNally, North Lanarkshire Council; and Councillor Katy Loudon, South Lanarkshire Council.
- Apologies:** Jacqueline MacDonald and Greg Bremner, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillor Jim Clocherty, Inverclyde Council; and Councillor Karen Conaghan, Councillor Ian Dickson and Laura Mason, West Dunbartonshire Council.
- Attending:** Tony O'Neill (Clerk); Alistair Brown and Mark Ratter, East Renfrewshire Council; Gerry Lyons, Maureen McKenna and David McClelland, Glasgow City Council; Ruth Binks, Inverclyde Council; Derek Brown, North Lanarkshire Council; Steven Quinn, Renfrewshire Council; Tony McDaid, South Lanarkshire Council; Alan Taylor, Head Teacher co-opted representative; and Patricia Watson, Education Scotland.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

- 1** There was submitted and approved the minutes of 8th September 2020.

West Partnership – Highlight report noted.

2 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer summarising the key activities from the West Partnership highlight report, which was detailed in appendix 1 of the paper and covered the reporting period from August to October 2020, advising that

- (1) very good progress had been made in the implementation of the communications plan, with consistent and continual activity having a demonstrable impact on raising awareness and engagement by stakeholders across the partner organisations, whilst very good use was also being made of social media;
- (2) the annual evaluation report had been published earlier this season, which had led to a review of the critical indicators for appropriateness, with a small number of these having been revised, which would improve the quality of evidence moving forward;
- (3) all workstreams were making very good progress in taking forward revised plans and positive feedback had been received from practitioners who had engaged in Partnership activity;

- (4) the report included a number of strong examples of collaboration working in the Partnership, including the most recent, major collaborative project, West Online School; and
- (5) as a result of COVID-19, there had clearly been a range of challenges and risks, as well as a degree of programme slippage, as detailed in the report, and Partnership officers were sensitive to the current, raised levels of challenge in schools and authorities, working effectively in order to reduce any apparent additional demands resulting from Partnership activities.

After consideration and having heard Steven Quinn, Renfrewshire Council, the Committee noted the report.

West Online School – Ongoing development noted.

3 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer providing information on the ongoing development of the West Online School (West OS), advising that

- (1) West OS was an online school created by teachers, providing recorded learning experience for children and young people which had been developed as part of recovery planning for schools reopening from lockdown earlier this year and was designed to build on good practice within the Partnership, aiming to maximise the potential of E-learning;
- (2) as a result of ongoing recovery from COVID-19, there was an awareness of potential further disruption to schools and the need to ensure young people could still make progress in their learning in the event of any further disruption;
- (3) West OS provided recorded lessons and had begun in June 2020 with all 8 local authorities working together and supported by the West Partnership core team, as detailed in the report;
- (4) recording of lessons had started during the summer holidays with initial priority aimed at National Qualification courses, however there had since been strong progress in Literacy and Numeracy at the primary stage, and up to this point, 230 teachers had been involved in recording lessons;
- (5) West OS was now live, with full online courses available in a number of subjects, as detailed in the report; and
- (6) West OS was now part of a national E-learning offer working in partnership with E-Sgoil, Education Scotland and other RICs in extending and developing the resources available, and the longer term potential for the West OS would be explored and developed further once the urgent need had been addressed.

After consideration and having heard Gerry Lyons, Glasgow City Council, the

committee noted the report.

West Partnership – Finance update 2020/21 – Position noted.

4 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer, providing an update on the West Partnership's bid for Scottish Government awarded grant funding for the period August 2020 to March 2021, advising

- (1) that on 14th November 2019, the Scottish Government had awarded grant funding of £1,111,495 to support the West Partnership's programme of work for the academic session from 1st August 2019 to 31st July 2020, which had reflected the bid submitted by the Partnership totalling £1,135,240 and the 2019/20 outturn had reported a full budget spend following the distribution of the 2019/20 balance of £76,938 across local authorities to support Education Services' response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (2) of the bid detail across each workstream, all as detailed in the report; and
- (3) that the outcome of the bid was still awaited, and in the interim, workstreams were mobilised in the delivery of the plan and that whilst there was an element of risk that the award might fall below the level of the bid, there remained sufficient flexibility in the resource commitment to ensure that this could be scaled back to the level of funding approved.

After consideration and having heard Tony McDaid, Regional Lead Officer, the committee noted the financial update for 2020/21.

Education Scotland review of Regional Improvement Collaborative Plan – Position noted.

5 There was submitted a report by Education Scotland providing an update on the progress of the West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative Plan (RIC) since September 2019, advising

- (1) that the RIC had included a number of agreed next steps and since September 2019 the Partnership had achieved all of these aspects and more, including:-
 - (a) the continuous growth in practitioner awareness of, and engagement with, professional learning improvement activities;
 - (b) stronger data sharing, data analysis and evaluation work; and
 - (c) a strong partnership with Education Scotland;
- (2) of a number of significant changes for 2020/21, including:-
 - (a) streamlined operational workstreams and improved coherence; and

- (b) overarching strategic workstreams, such as data, improvement and research, together with evaluating and reporting;
- (3) that since March 2020, the Partnership had responded extremely well to the unforeseen and challenging COVID-19 context, through
 - (a) continued strategic collaboration, support and shared learning;
 - (b) developing digital skills and moving to digital approaches; and
 - (c) the development of the West On-line School; and
- (4) of the next steps in streamlining the plan for 2020-23, including:-
 - (a) building on the previous strong assessment and moderation programme to support, for example, teachers in N5 assessment and moderation;
 - (b) working with school leaders and leaders in other sectors to increase their understanding of the impact of COVID-19 and the implications for school improvement planning, partnerships and the curriculum; and
 - (c) continued implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy in order to ensure that planning and delivery continued to add value to the work of each local authority.

After consideration and having heard Patricia Watson, Education Scotland, the committee noted the report.

West Partnership – Changes within the Senior Officers’ Group noted etc.

6 There was submitted a report by the Regional Lead Officer providing information of recent changes within the West Partnership’s Senior Officers’ Group, advising that

- (1) after serving as Regional Lead Officer for the West Partnership since its inception in 2017, Mhairi Shaw had retired in October 2020 and had been replaced as Director of Education in East Renfrewshire Council by Mark Ratter, formerly that Council’s Head of Education Services;
- (2) after gaining the necessary approval from both Education Scotland and the Scottish Government, Tony McDaid, Executive Director of Education Services in South Lanarkshire, had been appointed as the new Regional Lead Officer for the West Partnership in November 2020; and
- (3) in July 2020, Elizabeth Morrison had been seconded to the Scottish Government as part of its response to COVID-19, and having indicated an intention to retire early in 2021, Ms Morrison would remain seconded to the Scottish Government and was not now expected to return to her post within

the West Partnership, with Alistair Brown continuing to serve as Senior Partnership Officer on an interim basis.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) congratulated both Mark and Tony on their respective appointments.

Date of next meeting noted.

7 The committee noted that next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 2nd March 2021 at 1030 hours.