

To: Council

On: 28 September 2017

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Education Governance Collaboration to Deliver Excellence
and Equity in Education

1. Summary

- 1.1 In June 2017, the Scottish Government published their response to a consultation exercise on educational governance and launched a publication outlining their plans for reform.
- 1.2 The proposals outlined in the publication will potentially result in significant changes to the way in which education services are organised in Scotland. It is anticipated that these changes will have wide ranging consequences for the role of local authorities in the delivery of education to children and young people in their communities. The Scottish Government's commitment to these changes was reiterated in the First Minister's statement to Parliament on 4 September 2017 in relation to the programme for government over the next year.
- 1.3 The main principle of the review is to seek to devolve power from a national level to a regional level and from a local level to a school level. The stated purpose of this shift is to empower schools and teachers to drive improvement at a local level with others in the system sharing responsibility for collaborating to support this improvement. A detailed paper on the planned changes was presented to Council in June 2017.
- 1.4 Legislation will be required in order to enact many of these proposals. A new education bill will be placed before parliament in June 2018. This will place revised duties on local authorities, head teachers and newly formed regional improvement collaboratives.
- 1.5 Many areas of the proposals will require further clarification. It is anticipated that this will emerge over the coming months as the Scottish Government engages with local authorities and professional organisations through further consultation exercises.

Council responses to each of these consultation exercises will be reported to the appropriate policy board for consideration by elected members.

The first of these relates to a consultation on the funding of schools. Renfrewshire Council's response to this was agreed by the Education and Children's Services Policy Board in August 2017.

- 1.6 Renfrewshire Council is one of the partners in the Glasgow City Region, a group of eight local authorities working together to deliver a shared vision, namely to create "a strong, inclusive, competitive and outward-looking economy, sustaining growth and prosperity with every person and business reaching their full potential".
 - 1.7 One of the objectives for the City Region is to create a skills and employment system that meets the current and future needs of Glasgow City Region businesses and supports our residents to access jobs and progression opportunities.
 - 1.8 Glasgow City Regional Cabinet recently considered a proposal to create a 'Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative' and to appoint a 'Regional Lead Officer' to lead the work of this group. It is further proposed that new governance arrangements involving conveners of Education and Children's Services from the eight constituent local authorities are established to oversee the work of the collaborative. It is proposed that Renfrewshire Council's involvement in the Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative is subject to approvals being in place for the other local authorities in the City Region also agreeing to participate.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Council is asked to:
 - Note the Scottish Government's renewed commitment to support a regional improvement collaborative model
 - Note the content of this report and that responses to consultation documents related to it will be brought to elected members for consideration and approval.
 - Approve, in principle, Renfrewshire Council's membership of a Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative
 - Approve the formation of a Glasgow City Region Education Joint Committee of conveners of education (or equivalent) with the authority to oversee the work of the Regional Improvement Collaborative
 - Approve the appointment of the Convener of the Education and Children's Services Policy Board to this Committee
 - Note that it is the intention of any regional collaborative to appoint a 'Regional Lead Officer'
 - Note that further reports will be brought before Council updating on the progress of the establishment of the committee
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3. Background

- 3.1. Between September 2016 and January 2017, the Scottish Government undertook a major consultation exercise on a review of education governance. A full analysis of all consultation responses can be found in the document "Education Governance:

Empowering Teachers, Parents and Communities to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education, Analysis of Consultation responses”.

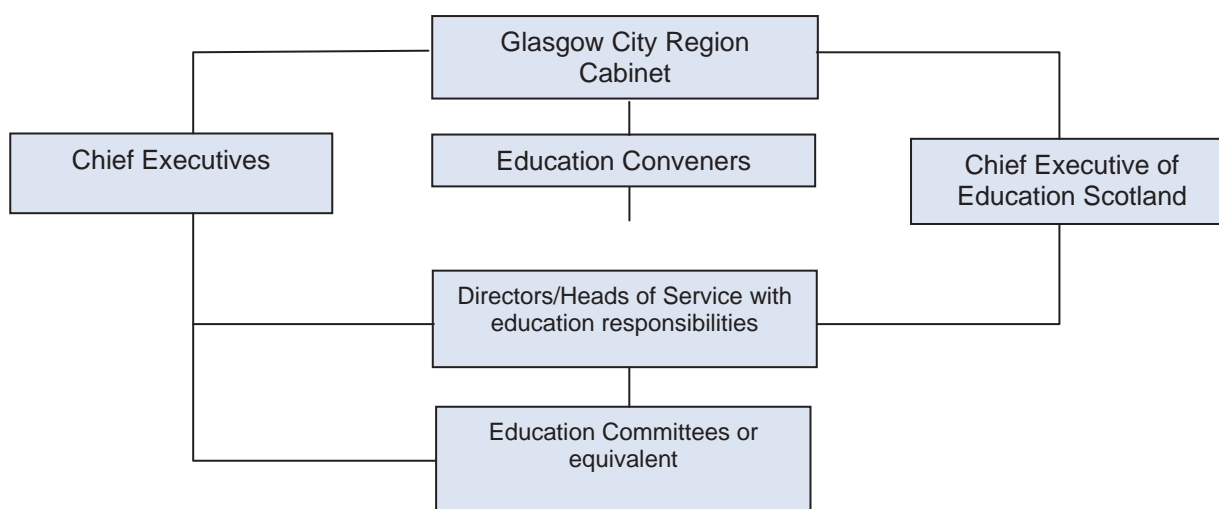
- 3.2. On 15 June, 2017, the Depute First Minister made a statement to the Scottish Parliament to support the publication of the document “Education Governance: Next Steps Empowering Our Teachers, Parents and Communities To Deliver Excellence and Equity For Our Children”. That publication outlines the plans for the reform of educational governance in Scotland. The commitment to regional improvement collaboratives was reiterated in the Scottish Parliament when the First Minister outlined the programme for government for the coming year.
- 3.3. The document highlights many strengths in Scottish education but also states that there is still much to do in order to improve outcomes for our children and young people further.
- 3.4. The proposals outlined in the publication will deliver significant changes to the way in which education services are organised in Scotland. It is anticipated that these changes will have wide ranging consequences for the role of local authorities in the delivery of education to children and young people in their communities.
- 3.5. The main principle of the review is to seek to devolve power from a national level to a regional level and from a local level to a school level. The purpose of this shift is to empower schools and teachers to drive improvement at a local level with others in the system sharing responsibility for collaborating to support improvement. A detailed paper on the proposals was presented to Council in June 2017.
- 3.6. The ‘Next Steps’ document proposes the formation of Regional Improvement Collaboratives which will have responsibility for school performance and improvement. It is proposed that these collaboratives report to Education Scotland while local authorities will provide support services to schools and are led by a regional director appointed by the government and reporting to the Chief Executive at Education Scotland. These Regional Collaboratives would have a responsibility for improvement and performance and take on the role of reporting progress through regional plans under the National Improvement Framework. In order to establish them, there would be new teams of staff focusing on collaboration and school improvement Teams. would be made up of existing Education Scotland officers and staff from local authorities. Further clarity is required as to how these teams will be established and managed.

4. Proposals for Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative

- 4.1. As part of its response to the governance review, the Scottish Government stated that up to seven Regional Improvement Collaboratives would be established across Scotland, each led by a Regional Director appointed by the Scottish Government and reporting to Education Scotland. The Scottish Government has set out a proposed role for these collaboratives, which will be to:
 - Provide educational improvement support for head teachers, teachers and practitioners using teams drawn from existing staff in Education Scotland, local authorities and others
 - Provide a clear focus across all partners by delivering an annual regional plan (and associated work programme) aligned with the National Improvement Framework

- Facilitate region-wide collaborative working which includes the sharing of best practice, collaborative networks and partnership approaches
- 4.2. Senior officers with responsibility for education in the eight local authorities which comprise the Glasgow City Region have held discussions on how a regional improvement collaborative might work. The City Region has a Cabinet on which all member authorities are represented.
- 4.3. The eight authorities within the City Region are East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire, and West Dunbartonshire. Five of these authorities, including Renfrewshire, are Challenge Authorities within the Scottish Attainment Challenge. The establishment of the collaborative arrangements is dependent on the other council members of the City Deal agreeing to participate.
- 4.4. The area covered by the City Region is home to:
 - 33.6% of Scotland's population
 - 34.5% of Scotland's school population
 - 35.1% of Scotland's secondary school population
 - 55.9% of Scotland's ASL school population
 - 63.2% of Scotland's most deprived communities (SIMD most deprived decile)
- 4.5. Partners in the City Region have developed a proposal for a Regional Improvement Collaborative which would support the partners to share practice and drive forward continuing improvement in education across the region. This would formalise existing arrangements by which the group of local authorities support one another to drive quality and improvement.
- 4.6. Under the proposed model, the Education Convener (or equivalent) from each member council will sit on a Joint Committee which would be a sub-group of this Cabinet. This group will set priorities for the year ahead, approve improvement plans and action plans, and receive reports of the progress and impact of plans. The senior manager with responsibility for education in each local authority will also attend meetings.
- 4.7. The Glasgow City Region Education Joint Committee will be supplemented by an officer group, provisionally referred to as the Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative. It will be made up of Directors/Heads of Service with responsibility for education in each member authority. This will be the key officer group agreeing priority areas for collaboration, commissioning workstreams and receiving reports from workstream leads.
- 4.8. Rather than a Regional Director as suggested by the Scottish Government, it is proposed that the Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative will be led by a Regional Lead Officer, who will be appointed from the group by the Chief Executives in the member authorities. It is intended that this be a fixed term leadership role rather than a substantive post.
- 4.9. Details of the role of RLO will have to be developed as the Scottish Government's plans take shape. Chief Executives will be asked to agree support for the RLO which fit with existing arrangements within the employing local authority.

- 4.10. The Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative will report to the Glasgow City Region Education Joint Committee. The Chair of this Committee and the Regional Lead Officer (RLO) will represent this Committee when reporting to the City Region Cabinet. The RLO will report on progress to the Chief Executive of Education Scotland. Each Director/Head of Service will continue to report to each council's Education Committee (or equivalent) and Chief Executive, as appropriate to their local governance arrangements. An illustration of the proposal arrangements are described in the diagram below.



Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications at present relating to the creation of a regional improvement collaborative.

2. HR and Organisational Development Implications

There may be implications in this regard and this will be identified as the scope and function of the model is developed.

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

None

4. Legal Implications

None

5. Property/Assets Implications

None

6. Information Technology Implications

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in

relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. Health and Safety Implications

None.

9. Procurement Implications

None

10. Risk Implications

Further clarity will be required once a draft education bill is published in order to identify and quantify appropriate risks for the council.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

12. Cosla Policy Position

The COSLA position is as per the paper to the August meeting of the Children and Young People Policy Board in August 2017. COSLA supports the principle of regional improvement collaboratives operating within a GIRFEC context and the issue of education governance will be considered at the Leaders' meeting in September 2017.

List of Background Papers

- (a) Education Governance: Next Steps. Empowering our Teachers, Parents and Communities to Deliver Excellence and Equity for our Children
- (b) Education Governance: Empowering Teachers, Parents and Communities to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education, Analysis of Consultation responses
- (c) Education Governance: Fair Funding to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education. A consultation

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Children's Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Gordon McKinlay.

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