

## **EE51. Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative – Progress Report**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the work of the Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC) and the Scottish Government's Empowering Schools' agenda.

The report provided details on the outcome of Education Scotland's peer review process and the key actions for the RIC, which included the need to strengthen and develop its governance arrangements.

The Lead Officer had participated in a peer review process with colleagues from Education Scotland and from the West Partnership RIC at the end of September 2018. As an outcome of this process, key actions for each of the RICs were agreed. The two key actions for the FVWL RIC were:-

- to develop a Governance model that effectively reflected the principle of leading from the middle, collaboration and bottom up. The leadership and work stream groups would be responsible for developing the "offer" to schools and practitioners, with the reference and engagement groups developing the "ask". Engagement groups would comprise pupils, parents, practitioners and wider stakeholders
- that the Lead Officer would report on the progress to the Chief Executives and elected members via the relevant education committees of each council.

To strengthen the governance arrangements a Regional Board would be established comprising a senior elected member (Council Leader or Education Portfolio Holder/Education Spokesperson) from each local authority and the four Chief Executives. The Regional Board would monitor the progress and pace of the work of the RIC. The Governance Plan was provided at Appendix 1 to the report.

Progress made in progressing some key activities and actions was provided in a report "Achievements to Date" which was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

The RIC received a grant offer of £899,270 from the Scottish Government for the period 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019. The Grant would primarily be used to fund the secondment of staff to lead key areas of development work in various roles.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive noted:-**

- (1) the contents of the report;
- (2) **Appendix 1 which detailed the Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Governance Plan;**

- (3) Appendix 2 which provided further details of progress entitled “Achievements to Date”;**
- (4) Appendix 3: Education Scotland report of December 2018 – “Thematic Inspection of Readiness for Empowerment”; and**
- (5) that further progress reports would be presented to the Education Executive twice per year.**