



REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 23 FEBRUARY 2022

SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE RAISING ATTAINMENT: CURRICULUM BREADTH AND DIGITAL IMP WORKSTREAM

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the allocation of funding from reserves to appoint a specialist ICT Education consultancy to assist Officers to progress the Raising Attainment: Curriculum Breadth and Digital Workstream within the Council's Improvement and Modernisation Programme.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (A) 2 of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to considering Capital and Revenue Budgets and long term financial plans.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Council agrees to the allocation of up to £50,000 from earmarked reserves for Council priorities, for the appointment of a specialist ICT Education consultancy, following the approval by the Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee on 26 January 2022 of the recommendations in the report at Appendix A**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 26 January 2022, the Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee agreed that up to £50,000 from earmarked reserves for Council priorities, could be released for the appointment of a specialist ICT Education consultancy to assist Officers with the development of the Raising Attainment: Curriculum Breadth and Digital workstream to enable the council to make an informed decision on any investment in this area (para 9 of the draft minute refers).
- 3.2 For background information, a copy of the original report submitted to the Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee on 26 January 2022.
- 3.3 If the decision by the Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee is endorsed by this meeting of the Council, then progress can made to clarify

the scope, outcomes and levels of investment within the indicative funding bracket of up to £3.2m for the Raising Attainment: Curriculum Breadth and Digital workstream. This information was previously requested at the meeting of the Council on 12 May 2021 (para 13 of the minute refers).

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The Improvement and Modernisation Programme is the development of the commitment in the Corporate Plan to a programme of modernisation and improvement to contribute to a financially stable Council.

The report also relates to “Building a better future for our children and young people in Moray” as part of the LOIP and the to the priority “provide a sustainable education service aiming for excellence” as part of the Corporate Plan

(b) Policy and Legal

None.

(c) Financial implications

This reports recommends that up to £50,000, from earmarked reserves for Council priorities, for this workstream. Although this amount is the upper limit that is permitted to be awarded through the Council’s Procurement Quick Quote regulations, where possible efforts will be taken to reduce this expenditure.

(d) Risk Implications

At this stage, the following high level risks are highlighted that may impact on the delivery of this project

The Council has yet to formally determine whether to invest in this workstream and hence the extent of any investment. There is a risk that the level of investment that emerges as being required will be in excess of the scale envisaged by the council and that the investment may be not proceed or may require significant modification to fall within an acceptable affordability margin.

Local authorities are waiting for guidance in terms of the provision of 1:1 devices, which could include financial assistance or the direct provision of devices. There is a risk that uncertainty delays local progress or that the eventual national solution is not consistent with the preferred approach in Moray. It is considered that the engagement of the external expertise proposed will assist in managing this risk by ensuring an outcome led strategic approach which should be sufficiently adaptable to work with the device provision that emerges nationally.

(e) Staffing Implications

Should the workstream progress following this stage, the major staffing implication is securing time from teachers and pupils involved in a demanding workload. This will require to be a key consideration in terms

of membership of project management and reference groups as well as involvement in the tests of change and any pilots.

(f) Property

There are inter-dependencies between this project and the modernisation of the Council's Learning Estate. Officers will ensure good communication between these initiatives and the Learning Estates Manager will also sit on the Digital Inclusion Project Management Group.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

For the purposes of this report an Equality and a Socio Impact Assessment are not required. The completion of the Digital Inclusion Strategy and Implementation Plans will however need to be assessed.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

There are no immediate climate change implications directly arising from this report. The future commissioning and de-commissioning of digital devices will however have an impact on the carbon footprint and this will need to be assessed in due course.

(i) Consultations

Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development), Head of Finance, Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 If this recommendation for funding a specialist ICT Education Consultancy is approved, it is the intention that a further report outlining the possible scope for the investment workstream in relation to the Council's Raising Attainment: Curriculum Breadth and Digital Workstream will be submitted for consideration the Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee and thereafter the Council.

Author of Report: Robin Paterson, Project Manager (Education)
Background Papers: [IMP Raising Attainment Curriculum Breadth and Digital Process Update, ECLS 26 January 2022 \(item 06\)](#)
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