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**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE  
ON 30 OCTOBER 2019**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION SCOTLAND AND MORAY COUNCIL  
IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP PLAN : EDUCATION SELF-  
EVALUATION PILOT PROJECT**

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

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee about a pilot project to collaboratively self-evaluate educational provision in Moray in partnership with Education Scotland.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (D) (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to all the functions of the Council as an Education Authority.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-**

- i) scrutinises and notes the content of this report; and**
- ii) notes that there will be a standards and quality report to this Committee on 18 December 2019.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 As part of the Scottish Government's desire to empower schools and to offer support from Education Scotland, and Education Scotland Northern Team has been constituted and recruited to work collaboratively with Northern Alliance, local authorities and their schools. This is done primarily by engaging with headteachers and staff. The Northern Team and local authority central teams also work in partnership with the Northern Alliance and its local authorities to offer support through partnership projects and joint working.
- 3.2 To this end a pilot project has been undertaken by Education Scotland and the Council with the following aims:

- to carry out a self-evaluation exercise across a sample of thirteen Moray schools – nine primary and four secondary in order to produce a Moray Education Standards and Quality Report. This will evidence progress made in implementing the Council’s Schools and Curriculum Development strategic plan
  - to take cognisance of the consultation on restructure across Moray Council and any changes resulting in Education governance moving forwards
  - to use the information gathered to inform the education system and partner agencies in Moray of strengths and areas of good practice, and identify areas for improvement to inform future strategic planning for Education in Moray and for schools to incorporate these priorities into their improvement plan
  - to report to this Committee on 18 December 2019 with high level findings for the improvement of educational provision for Moray’s children and young people.
- 3.3 The project team involves the Senior Regional Adviser from the Education Scotland Northern Team, as well as five education officers, two secondary headteachers, three primary headteachers, one primary deputy headteacher and one primary principal teacher from Moray. The team was selected to bring a level of expertise and experience from across Moray and beyond. This experience will help inform the process and coupled with the team visiting four secondary and nine primary schools will lead to an evaluative overview of education in Moray in terms of schools and their educational provision. The project has been shaped by the team in a collaborative manner so that the school staff are empowered to be involved in the decision-making process and help to influence the future strategic direction of education and its partnership services in Moray.
- 3.4 The Head of Education (Chief Education Officer) and the Education Scotland Northern Team Head of Scrutiny will provide quality assurance input to the draft Report leading to the final copy.
- 3.5 The outline project plan is attached at **Appendix 1** for information.

#### **4 SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

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

The report was informed by the priorities within the Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan and in particular to Ambitious and Confident Children and Young People and A Growing and Diverse Economy.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

The Standards in Scotland’s Schools Act 2000 established a statutory duty on local education authorities to ensure the quality of provision in its schools and establishments. This set the agenda for continuous improvement in Scottish education. The Scottish Government publication “Empowering Schools: education reform progress” gives the position in

February 2019 on the development of The Headteacher's Charter and can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/empowering-schools-education-reform-progress-update/pages/1/>

The Empowerment Agenda has been previously alluded to in a report to this committee on 28 August 2019 under item 5, para 5.1, and can be viewed at:

<https://moray.cmis.uk.com/moray/CouncilandGovernance/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/8/Committee/4/Default.aspx>

**(c) Financial implications**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

**(d) Risk Implications**

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

**(f) Property**

There are no property implications arising directly from this report. None.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

An Equality/Socio Economic Impact Assessment is not required as this report is to inform Committee on performance.

**(h) Consultations**

Chief Executive, Education and Social Care SMT, Senior Officers in Education and Social Care, Paul Connor, Principal Accountant, the Equal Opportunities Officer, the Human Resources Manager and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report as regards their respective responsibilities.

**5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1 That Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this report.**

Author of Report: Willem Smit, Quality Improvement Officer

Background papers:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/empowering-schools-education-reform-progress-update/pages/1/>