

## **West Dunbartonshire Council**

### **Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services**

**Education and Lifelong Learning Committee: 14 September 2011**

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**Subject: Glow in West Dunbartonshire**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** This report is to advise members about the increasing importance of Glow to Curriculum for Excellence, its progress in West Dunbartonshire and asks members to endorse plans to improve its use across the Council.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** Glow is the world's first national intranet for education and is transforming the way the curriculum is delivered and supported in Scotland. It breaks down geographical and social barriers in learning and provides a range of tools fit for 21st century learners and learning.

All 32 Scottish local authorities now use Glow as do the 7 Teacher Education Institutes, SQA and Education Scotland (formerly Learning and Teaching Scotland and HMIE).

- 2.2** Learners across Scotland now benefit from all that Glow offers. It has an impressive range of online digital resources for all areas of Curriculum for Excellence in a safe environment. These enhance learning experiences and enable opportunities which would not have been available otherwise.

Learners can speak to astronauts, authors, scientists and leading figures face to face through Glow Meet.

Teachers' resources can be shared, CPD opportunities created through professional learning communities and the range of courses available to learners increased.

- 2.3** Our young people are growing up in a digital era and learning in more diverse ways than ever and Glow is a medium for them to access learning resources never available in such formats before.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** There are some excellent examples of Glow being used creatively in West Dunbartonshire. These are showcased on the national Glow site. (Note appendix 1) One such example is the Dalreoch Shipbuilding Project which shows how schools and museums can work together to learn about everything from local history right up to modern innovation in Science and Technology. Another ground-breaking example was the Director's use of Glow Meet to speak to all staff across Educational Services on in-service Day 1 on 16 August 2011.

- 3.2** Despite these pockets of excellent practice Glow is not yet sufficiently embedded across our establishments. Some teachers report frustration in accessing Glow as a result of poor bandwidth and infrastructure.

Other teachers have voiced concern that they would like more training to increase their skills and confidence.

Both of these significant issues are being addressed by Educational Services.

- 3.3** In partnership with Corporate IT, we are working to find solutions to the bandwidth and wireless issues.

- 3.4** As Glow is integral to a 21st century curriculum, resources will be allocated to roll out a programme of support for staff and a strategy prepared to ensure further progress.

Colleagues from the national Glow Team and project managers from Research Machines (RM) are working with our 5 secondary schools to assist in re-launching and refreshing West Dunbartonshire Council's approach to Glow.

#### **4. People Implications**

- 4.1** The phased training programme will ensure that staff who support, develop and deliver Curriculum for Excellence will have opportunities to develop competence and confidence in the use of Glow to support effective learning, teaching and assessment.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** The cost of delivering a phased training programme will be contained within the existing revenue budget for Educational Services.

The cost of improving the infrastructure will be included in spend to save bids currently being prepared by Educational Services.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

- 6.1** This report is concerned with issues relating to delivering a 21st century curriculum to 21st century learners. Failure to develop learning with technology will disadvantage our young people.

#### **7. Equalities, Health & Humans Rights Impact Assessment**

- 7.1** No issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this report.

## **8. Strategic Assessment**

- 8.1** The Council has identified four main strategic priorities for 2011/2012, namely Social & Economic Regeneration, Financial Strategy, Asset Management Strategy and Fit for Purpose Services.
- 8.2** The content and recommendations contained within this report are in keeping with the Council's main strategic priorities. Developing the use of technologies in education will lead to efficient use of resources and a fit for purpose service.

## **9. Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 9.1** The Committee is recommended to:
- (a) note the increasing importance of Glow as part of Curriculum for Excellence;
  - (b) endorse plans to refresh and improve the use of Glow in West Dunbartonshire; and
  - (c) receive further reports on progress.

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### **Appendices:**

#### **Background Paper:**

**Wards Affected:** All wards