

REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVES – COSLA DEAL

ISSUE: Following a meeting on Thursday 21 September with DFM, Cllr Stephen McCabe COSLA Spokesperson for Children and Young People, has agreed to recommend that COSLA Leaders accept the findings of a joint SG/LG Steering Group report on the establishment of Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs). **COSLA Leaders are due to consider that report on Friday 29 September** and have been asked to agree that LG colleagues work with the Scottish Government in taking this forward.

Top Lines

- Scottish Government and Local Government work to take forward Regional Improvement Collaboratives is an excellent example of partnership working.
- **Initial conclusions from joint work between the Scottish Government and local government will be reported shortly.**
- Regional Improvement Collaboratives **will strengthen the support that our schools and education professionals receive to close the attainment gap.**
- Regional Improvement Collaboratives will **bring together and enhance local authority, Education Scotland and other expertise and support.**
- We will **work in partnership** to ensure that Regional Collaboratives deliver real benefits for schools, for teachers and for pupils across Scotland.

Regional Improvement Collaboratives will reduce inconsistencies and strengthen the support that is provided to our schools

- Pooling education support resources in Regional Improvement Collaboratives will:
 - **reduce inconsistencies** in the improvement support that schools across Scotland currently access;
 - **bring a stronger focus to driving continuous and systematic improvements, including in closing the attainment gap;** and will
 - **strengthen and support collaborative working,** innovation and the sharing of best practice between schools and across our education system.
- We are working with local government and with Education Scotland to ensure that Regional Improvement Collaboratives have strong, expert leadership.

We will learn from current collaborative working and we will empower schools and communities to shape their regional education support offer

- We will work with partners in **ensuring that Regional Improvement Collaboratives are responsive to local education support needs.**
- We established a **joint Scottish Government/Local Government Steering Group** to drive forward the new Regional Improvement Collaboratives.
- Initial conclusions from joint work will be revealed shortly, following consideration by Scottish Ministers and by Local Government.

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Regional Improvement Collaboratives are a key element in empowering our schools

- The central purpose of our education governance reforms is to create a school and teacher-led system which is centred around the needs of the child.
- **Decisions that shape the education of young people will be made by those working with our young people, their parents and communities.**
- Regional Collaboratives will have **a central focus on enhancing support, expertise and advice to schools across the region.**

Local authorities will continue to have a crucial and democratically accountable role to play in the delivery of education

- This includes employing headteachers, providing education support services to schools, and delivering a range of services for children and young people.