

8. CONSULTATION ON PROSALS FOR THE HMIE SCHOOL INSPECTION FRAMEWORK STARTING IN AUTUMN 2011

The existing school inspection framework had been introduced by HMle in 2008.

The Education Executive considered a report by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) (which had been circulated) outlining the terms of a consultation paper by HMle on their school inspection framework starting in Autumn 2011 and seeking approval of a draft response.

The report explained that in order to ensure that the inspection remained up-to-date and had the greatest benefit to learners, HMle had identified a number of areas within its school inspection framework that required change. The changes proposed by HMle were in line the Crerar Review (2007) which had reviewed the place of scrutiny in public services and Curriculum for Excellence. The areas which HMle had invited comments on were fully outlined in the report.

A draft response to the consultation had been included as an appendix to the report which proposed that there was a need to link Validated Self Evaluation more closely to the HMle inspection process through involved partnership working. West Lothian had always worked closely with HMle to ensure that schools were well prepared for school inspections. HMle had acknowledged that West Lothian had robust quality assurance systems and that schools were challenged to raise their expectations of what could be achieved through systematic approaches to self-evaluation.

The Head of Education (Quality Assurance) recommended that the Education Executive approve the terms of the proposed response to the HMle consultation as outlined in the appendix to the report.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.