

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION, CULTURE & SPORT COMMITTEE

13th November 2008

Agenda Item	
Report No	

**CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A STAND ALONE GAELIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR GREATER FORT WILLIAM**

Report by Director of Education, Culture & Sport Service

SUMMARY

This report outlines to members the result of the statutory consultation undertaken by the Education, Culture & Sport Service regarding the proposal to develop a stand alone Gaelic primary school for Greater Fort William.

**1.0 STRENGTHENING THE HIGHLANDS
THE PROGRAMME OF THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL 2009-2011**

1.1 This proposal contributes to the delivery of programme outcome:

1.9 We will continue to develop Gaelic medium education in pre-school and primary school as well as expanding Gaelic medium education in the secondary sector.

We will also represent the interests of the Highlands by working with partners, including the UK and Scottish Governments, to promote services for children and families:

1. We will work with the Scottish Government and Higher Education institutions to address the issue of supply of Gaelic medium teachers and seek funding for 2 new Gaelic Medium Primary Schools

1.2 The proposal also contributes towards Highland Council Gaelic Plan.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Highland Council Education, Culture & Sport Committee of 22nd May 2008 agreed that a statutory consultation be undertaken on the proposal to develop a stand alone Gaelic primary school for Greater Fort William, and in order that locally based consultation should commence, consultative papers be drawn up for the consideration of the Education, Culture & Sport Committee.

2.2 The Education, Culture & Sport Committee of 7th August 2008 approved the terms of the consultative paper and the duration of the consultation period.

3.0 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 3.1 The Council's agreed procedure with regard to statutory consultation on changes to education provision were followed. The consultative paper (**Appendix 1**) along with a letter inviting the submission of written comments to the Area Education, Culture & Sport Manager - Ross, Skye & Lochaber by Friday 10th October, was made available to:
- a) Fort William RC Primary School Staff and parents
 - b) Gaelic Toddler groups
 - c) Fort William RC Parent Council
 - d) Relevant Community Councils
 - e) The local member of parliament and the Scottish parliament
 - f) Chair & Vice-chair of ECS Committee
 - g) Chair & Vice-chair of Gaelic Committee
 - h) Local councillors

The consultative paper was also made available to the head teacher and staff of Fort William RC Primary School.

- 3.2 By way of advertisements the availability of the consultative paper was also brought to the attention of other individuals and community groups.
- 3.3 A copy of the statutory consultative paper is appended to this report (**Appendix 1**). This paper has been prepared in terms of the Education Authority's agreed procedure.
- 3.4 A public meeting was held in Fort William RC Primary School on 25th September 2008. 50 members of the public were in attendance. Minutes of the meeting are appended to this report (**Appendix 2**). Those present were further invited to submit written comments to the Education, Culture & Sport Manager by Friday 10th October 2008. The meeting was very positive, supporting Option B (To develop a stand alone Gaelic primary school). A significant number of those who contributed wished to see the stand alone Gaelic school developed on a green-field site. A few suggested however that the school could share playing fields with an English Medium school. Overall, the view was that this was a fantastic opportunity to further develop Gaelic education within Highland.
- 3.5 Submissions were received from parents and carers of pupils in the Greater Fort William area and members of the wider community. The submissions received are detailed as **Appendix 3** to this report (**Booklet A**).

4.0 OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION

- 4.1 There were 65 written representations from parents and pre-school parents [submissions 1-65]. Of the parental representation 5 parents were for Option A (The Status Quo) and 60 parents were for Option B (To develop a stand alone Gaelic primary school).

- 4.2 From the representations received almost all were of the view that Option B should be adopted. However, there were 5 postcard submissions supporting Option A (The Status Quo). There were no supporting details given. (**Appendix 3A**)
- 4.3 Option B was favoured by 57 parents and pre-school parents. Further comments from these parents are summarised in **Appendix 3B**.
- 4.5 27 written submissions were received from the wider community of Lochaber. Of this representation 2 were for Option A (The Status Quo) and 24 were for Option B (To develop a stand alone Gaelic primary school). These submissions mirrored many of the views expressed by the parents and pre-school parents. The Rt Rev Donald MacKinnon, whilst not opposing the proposal, intimated some concerns regarding the church input in the future [submissions 66-92].
- 4.6 2 written submissions were received from individuals outwith the community. Of these representations both were for Option B [submissions 93-94].
- 4.7 Submissions in support of Option B were also received from Councillor Henderson and Councillor Foxley [submissions 95-96].
- 4.8 A number of staff submitted views which will be considered by the Director of ECS.
- 4.9 Letters were also received from the following organisations[submissions 97-103]:
- ✚ Lochaber Gaelic Development Group
 - ✚ Comann nam Pàrant an Gearasdan
 - ✚ Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)
 - ✚ Comann nam Pàrant (Inbhir Nis)
 - ✚ Bòrd na Gàidhlig
 - ✚ Comunn na Gàidhlig
 - ✚ Sgoil Araich Briagh Lochabair

5.0 FURTHER ACTION SHOULD OPTION B BE APPROVED

- 5.1 Further consultation would be required regarding the site of a new or refurbished stand along Gaelic school. An option paper would be required to be prepared for consideration by Members.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 In light of the above consultation being overwhelmingly in favour of Option B, and Highland Council's commitment to develop stand along Gaelic schools, Members are asked to agree:
- (i) the principle of a stand along Gaelic school for Greater Fort William (Option B)
 - (ii) that Officers of the Council prepare an Option Paper on preferred sites for consideration by Members
 - (iii) that Members and officers discuss with The Scottish Government and Bòrd na Gàidhlig capital funding for the project.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture & Sport Service

Date: 3 November 2008

Author/Ref: Laurence Young, Senior Education Officer

Background Papers: ECS Committee Paper 7/8/08

Enclosures: Appendix 1 – Consultative Paper
Appendix 2 – Minute of Public Meeting
Appendix 3 – Written submissions
Appendix 3A – Summarised comments from submissions - Option A
Appendix 3B – Summarised comments from submissions - Option B

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
EDUCATION CULTURE AND SPORTS COMMITTEE**

**PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A STAND ALONE GAELIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL FOR GREATER FORT WILLIAM**

**THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE
EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980**

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A STAND ALONE GAELIC PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR GREATER FORT WILLIAM

OPTION A

The Status Quo. Fort William Roman Catholic Primary School will continue to deliver education to pupils through the medium of English and the medium of Gaelic.

OPTION B

The development of a stand alone dedicated Gaelic School for Greater Fort William by

- (i) the adaptation of an existing building for a dedicated Gaelic school; or
- (ii) building a free standing new school on a new site; or
- (iii) building a free standing Gaelic school as part of a campus arrangement with a new primary school for Fort William as part of the review of education provision within the town

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 confirms Gaelic as an official language of Scotland, commanding equal respect with English. The Act established the new public body Bord na Gaidhlig to implement the provisions of the Act, including the production of the first National Plan for Gaelic. The Scottish Government through its approval of the National Plan for Gaelic (2007 - 2012) has set a target to increase the numbers of pupils in Gaelic primary education to 4,000 at the Primary 1 stage by the year 2021.

Highland Council is the first public authority in Scotland to have its Gaelic Language Plan formally approved by Bord na Gaidhlig. The Council's Plan reflects the aspirations of the National Plan.

Gaelic education has now become an accepted way by which many young people are educated in Scotland. In 2007 there were 2,561 pupils receiving Gaelic medium education. Gaelic medium primary education within Highland over the last 15 to 20 years has significantly expanded and proven to be very successful. The 2007 school census showed that, within Highland, 718 primary pupils were educated through the medium of Gaelic in primary classes.

Over the last 20 years, there has been a significant development of Gaelic related job opportunities for young people who are Gaelic bilingual, including access to University, in publishing, in translation, in education, in the caring professions, in tourism, broadcasting and in music and the arts. The economic worth of the language has developed considerably.

Gaelic Medium Education

Within Highland, apart from Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis and the dedicated Gaelic school with one English medium class at Sleat in Skye, Gaelic medium education is delivered to pupils in classes in primary schools which also provide English medium education. In the Gaelic medium classroom, Gaelic is the sole means of spoken communication at all stages and for all aspects of the curriculum. This is known as the ‘immersion method’ and is an effective means of teaching languages, for a number of reasons:

- the extent of pupils’ exposure to Gaelic,
- their use of it for ‘real’ purposes, and
- the all-Gaelic rule which creates a powerful motivation to acquire the language.

In the English medium classroom, most teaching takes place through the medium of English. Gaelic is usually taught as a second language, as part of the Gaelic for Learners in the Primary School programme [GLPS]. Although practice varies, most schools aim to bring English medium pupils to the 5/14 ‘Elementary’ level in Gaelic.

Within Gaelic medium schools, Gaelic and English should have broadly equal visual prominence, e.g. on signage, letterheads, prospectuses, reports and web pages. Whole school events such as assemblies and social events should be bilingual, both in content and also with regard to the languages used. All school staff, including ancillary staff, should speak Gaelic to Gaelic medium pupils wherever possible.

In practice, many Gaelic Medium Schools have difficulty in ensuring that whole school events are truly bilingual and that all school staff speak Gaelic to Gaelic Medium pupils because not all their staff and pupils are Gaelic speakers.

Research has shown (Enright & McCloskey, 1989) (Snow, Met & Geneses, 1989) that language is acquired most effectively when it is learned for communication in meaningful and significant social situations.

The Gaelic School

In a dedicated Gaelic School, Gaelic is the means by which all staff and pupils interact: the culture of the school is Gaelic and all staff and pupils communicate through the Gaelic language at all times and in all situations. In effect, the ‘immersion method’ which prevails in the Gaelic medium classroom is extended to the whole school and to the whole of the pupils’ school day. This whole Gaelic environment helps to ensure young people develop their Gaelic language outside the classroom as well as in it. It gives young people the opportunity to play and learn in an environment that is totally focussed on Gaelic. Research indicates that total immersion programmes are the most effective approach available to second language teaching in school settings (Genesee, 1994)

Gaelic Education

In both Gaelic Medium and 'Gaelic' schools, pupils are taught English reading and writing alongside Gaelic, from P3 onwards and are expected to reach the same level of competence, in all skills, in both languages by the end of primary school.

Pupils educated through Gaelic Medium are bilingual by the time they complete their primary education. Research commissioned by the Scottish Office, (Johnstone 1999) concluded that *'pupils in Gaelic-medium primary education ... were not disadvantaged in comparison with children educated through English. In many, though not all, instances they outperformed English medium pupils and in addition gave the advantage of becoming proficient in two languages'*.

2.0 CURRENT SITUATION

Over the last decade there has been interest, at national and Highland level, in establishing dedicated Gaelic schools. In 1999 all-Gaelic primary provision was developed at Bunsgoil Ghaidhlig Ghlaschu (Glasgow) with significant success. In 2007 Highland Council established a Gaelic school in Inverness and a dedicated school with an English medium class at Sleat Primary School on the Isle of Skye. The council has agreed in the Gaelic language plan 2007-2011 to progress the development of all Gaelic schools by reacting positively when opportunities arise to do so. This is a commitment within the Council's Programme for Administration. The Administration is also of the view that stand-alone Gaelic schools should form a focus for developing Gaelic in the community and raising the profile of Gaelic generally.

In Highland, during session 2007-2008, of a total of 718 pupils learning Gaelic, 566 primary pupils were educated in Gaelic classes within Gaelic medium schools (2007 school census). 103 pupils were learning through the medium of Gaelic at Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis stand-alone Gaelic primary school and 47 pupils were learning through the medium of Gaelic in Bun-sgoil Sleat.

Almost half of the above 566 primary pupils live in communities in Eilean a' Cheò ward, the Caol and Mallaig ward and the Fort William and Ardnamurchan ward. These areas are rich in Gaelic language and culture. Within Lochaber, Gaelic medium education is delivered in three primary schools situated in Acharacle (21 primary pupils and 6 nursery pupils), Fort William (70 primary pupils and 16 nursery pupils) and Mallaig (34 primary pupils and 10 nursery pupils). (Figures as at 3 July 2008)

Over several years there has been community interest expressed in providing a stand-alone Gaelic primary school for the Greater Fort William area. Comann nam Pàrant an Gearasdan issued a questionnaire to all parents with children receiving Gaelic education to ascertain the demand for a stand alone Gaelic School in Lochaber. To date they have received 65 positive responses including parents in Fort William and the outlying areas.

Fort William Roman Catholic Primary School

Non-denominational Gaelic medium education is currently provided in Fort William Roman Catholic Primary School for the Greater Fort William area.

Fort William RC Primary School serves the town of Fort William and surrounding area for Roman Catholic English medium education. The Gaelic medium provision serves the town of Fort William and outlying villages and townships up to a radius of 10 miles or thereabouts. The school also provides English and Gaelic pre-school education for both three and four-year olds.

From August 2008 there will be 8 mainstream classes in the school made up of 4 classes in the English medium department and 4 classes in the Gaelic medium department.

Table 1 displays the school roll from 2003-2004 to 2008-2009:

TABLE 1: Fort William RC Primary School Roll 2003-2004 to 2008-2009

Year		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total	Combined TOTAL	%
2003-2004	GM	12	15	7	9	12	13	1	69	160	43%
2003-2004	EM	13	10	8	9	20	18	13	91		57%
2004-2005	GM	9	12	14	7	9	13	12	76	171	44%
2004-2005	EM	13	9	11	11	10	21	20	95		56%
2005-2006	GM	10	8	11	13	7	9	13	71	155	46%
2005-2006	EM	9	14	9	10	10	10	22	84		54%
2006-2007	GM	9	10	8	11	13	7	9	67	145	46%
2006-2007	EM	9	11	15	8	14	9	12	78		54%
2007-2008	GM	14	8	10	8	11	13	6	70	144	49%
2007-2008	EM	5	9	11	16	8	15	10	74		51%
2008-2009	GM	9	14	8	9	8	11	13	72	148	49%
2008-2009	EM	8	5	9	12	18	9	15	76		51%

It is clear from Table 1 that the Gaelic medium roll as a percentage of the school roll has been gradually increasing from 2003-2004 to 2007-2008 and it is predicted to be 49% of the total school roll for session 2008-2009 (72 pupils). Whilst the percentage of Gaelic medium pupils in the school has increased, the actual number of pupils has remained fairly static in the low 70s.

Table 1a
Fort William RC Primary Pre-School Roll and Projections 2003-2011

Year		3yr	4yr	TOTAL	Combined TOTAL	%
2003-2004	GM	12	6	18	37	49%
2003-2004	EM	19	0	19		51%
2004-2005	GM	14	7	21	35	60%
2004-2005	EM	14	0	14		40%
2005-2006	GM	10	14	24	40	60%
2005-2006	EM	10	6	16		40%
2006-2007	GM	12	7	19	43	44%
2006-2007	EM	8	16	24		56%
2007-2008	GM	8	8	16	42	38%
2007-2008	EM	13	13	26		62%
2008-2009	GM	4	7	11	30	37%
2008-2009	EM	7	12	19		63%
2009-2010	GM	8	4	12	27	44%
2009-2010	EM	8	7	15		56%
2010-2011	GM	8	8	16	32	50%
2010-2011	EM	8	8	16		50%

Table 1a displays the pre-school rolls for Gaelic medium and English medium pupils from 2003-2004 to projected figures for 2010-2011. Although there has been a decrease in the percentage of young people taking up Gaelic medium nursery provision in relation to those taking up English medium provision up to 2008-2009, it is predicted that from session 2008-2009 onwards there will be an increase in the percentage Gaelic medium pre-school pupils. With Gaelic medium pre-school provision in 2010-2011 predicted to be 16 pupils, 50% of the total roll.

Table 2
Gaelic medium catchment at 2007-2008 (Figures as at 3 July 2008)

	Gaelic medium
Claggan & Inverlochty	9
Upper Achintore	12
Plantation	5
Caol, Lochyside	13
Banavie, Corpach	6
An Aird	4
Fort William	11
Torlundy	0
Spean & Roy Bridge	3
Glen Nevis	3
Achaphubuil & Glenfinnan	4
	70

Table 2 displays the areas of Greater Fort William and beyond from which the current Gaelic medium school population reside. In session 2007-2008, 44 of the 70 children enrolled in the school come from the town of Fort William with 19 pupils residing in the Caol, Lochyside, Banavie and Corpach area. Currently there are 7 children attending from Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge, Achaphubuil and Glenfinnan areas.

3.0 FACTORS AFFECTING FUTURE PROVISION

The roll of Fort William RC Primary School is projected over the next five years in terms of known births and taking into account the effect of potential additional housing. Calculating accurately projections for Gaelic medium rolls is difficult. A decision can be taken to enrol a child in Gaelic medium education by families who live in the catchment of other schools within the Greater Fort William area.

The following projections are based on the information contained in the School Roll Forecasts available on the Highland Council intranet and from the anticipated roll figures from August 2008 supplied by the school. The projections detailed below were calculated by taking the overall number of young people who have attended the Gaelic medium provision in Fort William RC as a fraction of the total number of young people eligible for school in the Greater Fort William area. This ratio was then applied to the number of births within Greater Fort William for the years 2006 and 2007.

Table 3
FORT WILLIAM RC PROJECTED PRE-SCHOOL AND PRIMARY ROLL 2009 – 2013

Year		3 year old	4 year old	Pre-school Total	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total	Combined Total
2009-2010	GM	8	4	12	4	9	14	8	9	8	11	63	75
2009-2010	EM	8	7	15	12	8	5	9	11	16	9	70	85
2010-2011	GM	8	8	16	4	4	9	14	8	9	8	56	72
2010-2011	EM	8	8	16	7	12	8	5	9	11	16	68	84
2011-2012	GM	8	8	16	8	4	4	9	14	8	9	56	72
2011-2012	EM	8	8	16	8	7	12	8	5	9	11	60	76
2012-2013	GM	8	8	16	8	8	4	4	9	14	8	55	71
2012-2013	EM	8	8	16	8	8	7	12	8	5	9	57	73

The total roll for the combined school, nursery and primary, is predicted to drop from 186 pupils for session 2007-2008 to 144 pupils by 2013. This is line with the general drop in birth rate within the area. However, it should be noted that the percentage of young people predicted to choose Gaelic medium education remains stable around 49% of the school roll.

It is predicted that pre-school 3 and 4 year old numbers will stabilise around 16 pupils from 2011 to 2012/2013.

4.0 POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTIONS

Having regard to the Council's programme for administration to progress the development of all Gaelic medium education primary schools as and when opportunities arise and the wish expressed by Comann nam Pàrant an Gearasdan through parental questionnaires, for such provision the authority has identified the undernoted options:

Option A

The Status Quo. Fort William Roman Catholic Primary School will continue to deliver education to pupils through the medium of English and the medium of Gaelic.

Option B

The development of a stand alone dedicated Gaelic School for Greater Fort William by

- (i) the adaptation of an existing building for a dedicated Gaelic school; or
- (ii) building a free standing new school on a new site; or
- (iii) building a free standing Gaelic school as part of a campus arrangement with a new primary school for Fort William, the nature and location of which would be identified as part of a wider Fort William Educational Review

5.0 CONSEQUENCES OF POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION

Option A Status Quo

Fort William Roman Catholic School will continue to deliver education to pupils through the medium of English and the medium of Gaelic.

Option B The development of a stand alone dedicated Gaelic School for Greater Fort William by

- (i) the adaptation of an existing building for a dedicated Gaelic school; or
- (ii) building a free standing new school on a new site; or
- (iii) building a free standing Gaelic school as part of a campus arrangement with a new primary school for Fort William the nature and location of which would be identified as part of a wider Fort William Educational Review

All Gaelic education provision within the Greater Fort William area will be concentrated in a new dedicated Gaelic primary school which will also be a focus for Gaelic in the community and in raising the profile of Gaelic generally. Further consequences of Option B are dependent on which of the above three alternative sites is chosen to develop the school. Each of which will have significant capital cost implications which have yet to be fully identified and would be require to be included in the Education, Culture & Sport Capital Programme.

(i) Adaptation of an existing building

It may be possible to convert a part of Camaghael Hostel, Fort William, as a stand-alone 21st century Gaelic School accommodating 72 - 96 pupils with nursery provision and giving the capacity to allow future growth, possibly sharing sports facilities with Lochaber High School. This option would require a feasibility study to be undertaken to ascertain the suitability of Camaghael Hostel for conversion to a primary school and to

quantify the costs involved and require to be included in the ECS Capital Programme. It should be noted that part of Camaghael Hostel will be used by Lochaber High School during the High School renovation period up to the end of 2012, however the specific requirements will become clearer in 2009 once the Phase II programme has been developed.

(ii) building a free standing new school on a new site.

Discussions have taken place with the Estate Strategy Manager regarding the feasibility of building a stand-alone Gaelic school on one of three sites in Fort William, two in Highland Council ownership and another in private ownership. Further work will be required to identify the suitability of these sites and the costs of development and these options would require feasibility studies to be undertaken to ascertain their suitability for the construction of a new school and to quantify the costs involved.

(iii) building a free standing Gaelic school as part of a campus arrangement with a new primary school for Fort William as part of the review of education provision within the town.

Currently the only suitable site identified is in private ownership and it is envisaged as part of a review of educational provision in the Greater Fort William area that the campus arrangement would comprise a dedicated Gaelic school and a new English medium primary school for the west end of Fort William. Both schools may share common facilities such as dining room, assembly/gym, administration where appropriate. Given the information regarding the learning of the Gaelic language through social activities and depending upon space available, two separate suitably sized playground may be considered.

All three of the above site options have a number of similar consequences:

Transport implications

In session 2007-08 of the Gaelic medium roll of 70 pupils, 28 were provided with free school transport. This may marginally increase depending on which site is chosen for the dedicated Gaelic school. It is not envisaged that there will be significant transport costs associated with this proposal.

From 2000 the authority has operated a policy whereby free transport has been provided for Gaelic medium pupils within a 10 mile radius of the Gaelic medium school. However, local factors affecting access to Gaelic Medium provision are also considered on a case by case basis.

Staffing implications

It would be necessary to appoint a Head Teacher and other promoted posts for the new school. The salary for these posts would require to be job sized.

Teaching staff. The current staff within the Gaelic medium provision at Fort William RC Primary School would be redeployed to the new school taking into account the roll

of the school at that time.

Ancillary staff. Ancillary staff supporting directly the delivery of Gaelic medium education would be redeployed to the dedicated school.

Community use of Buildings

There would be no change to the continuing use of Fort William RC Primary School Building by the community (within the Authority's Community use policies.) There would be additional community use provided for the community by the development of a dedicated Gaelic school which would create a focus and hub for Gaelic development in the community.

Delineated areas

There would be no change to the current delineated area for English medium pupils attending Fort William RC Primary School. Gaelic language pupils attending the dedicated Gaelic school would continue to be drawn from the Greater Fort William area and those residing within a 10-mile radius of the town or thereby.

6.0 CONCLUSION

This consultation paper is issued in terms of the Authority's agreed procedures to meet the relevant statutory requirements. Following the consultation period, a report and submissions received will be presented to the ECS Committee of the Highland Council.

Representations regarding this paper should be made in writing to:

John Ritchie, Area Education Culture and Sport Manager, Ross, Skye and Lochaber, Highland Council, Area Education Office, Camaghael Hostel, Camaghael, Fort William, by 10 October 2008.

REFERENCES:

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Genesee, F, (1994). Integrating language and Content: Lessons from Immersion. Education Practice Report: 11. National Centre for Research on Cultural Diversity and Second Language Learning

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Snow, M.A., Met, M., & Geneses, F. (1989). A conceptual framework for the integration of language and content in second/foreign language instruction. *TESOL Quarterly*, 23, 201-207

Swain, M and Lapkin, S. (1982). *Evaluating bilingual education: a Canadian case-study* Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.

Highland Council School Roll Forecasts (2007) updated July 2008

**COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD
COMATAIDH FOGHLAM, CULTAR AGUS SPÒRS**

**MOLADH GUS SGOIL GHÀIDHLIG FA-LETH A CHRUTHACHADH
DO SGÌRE A' GHEARASDAIN**

**'S E PÀIPEAR CONALTRAIDH A THA SEO A THA AIR A DHEALBH
A RÈIR DÒIGHEAN OBRACH ROINN AN FHOGHLAIM GUS
DLEASTANASAN ACHD AN FHOGHLAIM (ALBA) 1980 A
CHOILEANADH**

CONALTRADH AIR A' MHOIADH GUS SGOIL GHÀIDHLIG FA-LETH A CHRUTHACHADH DO SGÌRE A' GHEARASDAIN ROGHAINN A

Cùisean a chumail mar a tha iad. Bhiodh sin a' ciallachadh gun leanadh Sgoil Chaitligeach a' Ghearasdain air sgoilearan oideachadh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus tro mheadhan na Beurla.

ROGHAINN B

Sgoil Ghàidhlig fa-leth a chruthachadh do sgìre a' Ghearasdain le bhith

- (i) a' leasachadh togalach a tha ann a-cheana airson a bhith air a chleachdadh mar sgoil Ghàidhlig; no le bhith
- (ii) a' togail sgoil ùr air làrach ùr.
- (iii) le bhith a' togail sgoil Ghàidhlig ùr fa-leth mar phàirt de dh'aonta làrach-sgoile le bun-sgoil ùr airson a' Ghearasdain mar phàirt de sgrùdadh air seirbheisean foghlaim anns a' bhaile.

1.0 BARRACHD FIOSRACHAIDH

Tha Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005 a' dearbhadh gu bheil Gàidhlig na cànan oifigeil ann an Alba, le co-ionannachd ri Beurla. Stèidhich an Achd buidheann poblach ùr, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, gus na bha anns an Achd a chur an gnìomh, a' chiad Phlana Nàiseanta airson na Gàidhlig a chruthachadh nam measg sin. Tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba, le bhith a' gabhail ri Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig (2007 – 2012) air amas a stèidheachadh gus àireamh sgoilearan a' faighinn foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig ìre Prìomh 1 àrdachadh gu 4,000 ron bhliadhna 2021.

B' e am Plana Gàidhlig aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' chiad phlana Gàidhlig le ùghdarras poblach ann an Alba a chaidh gabhail ris le Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Tha amasan na Comhairle cuideachd a' riochdachadh amasan a' Phlana Nàiseanta.

Thathar a' gabhail ri foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a-nis mar dhòigh anns a bheil mòran òigridh a' faighinn oideachadh ann an Alba. Ann an 2007 bha 2,601 sgoilear a' faighinn foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Tha leudachadh mòr air tighinn air foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an sgìre na Gàidhealtachd thairis air a' 15 gu 20 bliadhna mu dheireadh agus tha e air a bhith soirbheachail. Sheall cunntas-sluaigh 2007 gun robh, ann an sgìre na Gàidhealtachd, 718 sgoilear aig ìre bun-sgoile a' faighinn foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Anns an 20 bliadhna mu dheireadh, tha adhartas mòr air a bhith anns na cothroman cosnaidh co-cheangailte ri Gàidhlig do dhaoine òga aig a bheil Gàidhlig. Nam measg sin tha cothroman ann an Oilthighean, ann am foillseachadh, ann an eadar-theangachadh, ann am foghlam, ann a bhith a' toirt cùram, ann an turasachd, craoladh agus ceòl agus na h-ealain. Tha luach eaconamach na cànan air àrdachadh gu mòr.

Foghlam Tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig

Taobh a-staigh sgìre na Gàidhealtachd, a bharrachd air Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis agus an Sgoil Ghàidhlig le clas tro mheadhan na Beurla ann an Slèite anns an Eilean Sgitheanach, tha foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air a thabhann do sgoilearan ann an sgoiltean far a bheil foghlam tro mheadhan na Beurla air a thabhann cuideachd. Anns a' chlas tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, 's e Gàidhlig an aon chànan a bhios air a bruidhinn aig gach ìre agus airson gach mìr dhen churraicealam. 'S e 'bogadh' a chanar ris an dòigh teagaisg seo agus 's e dòigh èifeachdach a th' ann air cànanan a theagasg, air iomadh adhbhar:

- na tha na sgoilearan a' faighinn de Ghàidhlig,
- gu bheil iad ga cleachdadh ann an suidheachaidhean 'dòigheil', agus
- an riaghailt 'Gàidhlig fad na h-ùine' a tha a' cruthachadh iarrtas làidir airson an cànan a thogail.

Anns na clasaichean tro mheadhan na Beurla, bidh a' chuid as motha dhen teagasg air a dhèanamh tro mheadhan na Beurla. Mar as trice, bidh Gàidhlig air a teagasg mar dhàrna cànan, mar phàirt den phrògram Gàidhlig do Luchd-ionnsachaidh anns a' bhun-sgoil [GLPS]. Ged a tha eadar-dhealachaidhean ann, tha a' mhòr-chuid dhe na sgoiltean ag amas air sgoilearan a tha a' faighinn foghlam tro mheadhan na Beurla a thoirt gu ìre 5/14 'Bunaiteach' ann an Gàidhlig.

Ann an sgoiltean far a bheil foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, bu chòir gum biodh co-ionannachd ann eadar Gàidhlig agus Beurla a thaobh rudan leithid shoidhnichean, cinn-litrichean, leabhran-iùil na sgoile, aithisgean agus làraichean-lìn. Bu chòir do thachartasan sgoile leithid cruinneachaidhean agus cuirmean a bhith dà-chànanach, a thaobh na thathar a' taisbeanadh agus a thaobh nan cànanan a bhios air an cleachdadh. Bu chòir dhan luchd-obrach uile, nam measg sin feadhainn nach eil nan luchd-teagaisg, Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn ri sgoilearan a tha a' faighinn foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig far a bheil sin comasach.

Ach an uair a thèid feuchainn air sin a chur an gnìomh, tha duilgheadas aig mòran sgoiltean le foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann a bhith a' dèanamh nan tachartasan sgoile dà chànanach agus ann a bhith a' toirt air an luchd-obrach uile Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn ri sgoilearan a tha a' faighinn foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig bhon nach eil Gàidhlig aig an luchd-obrach agus aig na sgoilearan air fad.

Tha rannsachadh (Enright & McCloskey, 1989) (Snow, Met & Geneses, 1989) air sealltainn gu bheil cànan air a togail nas èifeachdaiche an uair a tha i air a h-ionnsachadh airson conaltradh ann an suidheachaidhean sòisealta dòigheil agus cudromach.

An Sgoil Ghàidhlig

Ann an sgoil Ghàidhlig fa-leth, 's e Gàidhlig a bhios luchd-obrach agus sgoilearan a' cleachdadh gus bruidhinn ri chèile: tha cultar Gàidhlig aig an sgoil agus bidh an luchd-obrach agus na sgoilearan a' conaltradh ann an Gàidhlig fad an t-siubhail agus anns gach suidheachadh. Gu dearbh, tha am 'bogadh' anns a' chànan a tha na sgoilearan a' faighinn anns an t-seòmar air a leudachadh chun na sgoile gu lèir agus gu latha sgoile an sgoileir air fad. Tha an àrainneachd Ghàidhlig a' cuideachadh nan sgoilearan ann a bhith

a' leasachadh an sgilean Gàidhlig taobh a-muigh a' chlas cho math ri am broinn a' chlas. Tha e a' toirt cothrom do dh'òigridh cluich agus ionnsachadh ann an suidheachadh a tha gu tur stèidhichte air Gàidhlig. Tha rannsachadh eadar-nàiseanta a' sealltainn gur e prògraman bogaidh na dòighean as èifeachdaiche air dàrna cànan a theagasg ann an suidheachadh sgoile (Genesee, 1994)

Foghlam Gàidhlig

Ann am Foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus ann an Sgoiltean Gàidhlig, bidh sgoilearan air an teagasg gus Beurla a leughadh agus a sgrìobhadh a bharrachd air Gàidhlig, bho P3 agus thathar an dùil gum bi na h-aon chomasan aca, anns gach sgil, anns an dà chànan aig deireadh an ùine anns a' bhun-sgoil.

Bidh sgoilearan a tha air an oideachadh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig dà-chànanach mus cuir iad crìoch air am foghlam bun-sgoile. Cho-dhùin rannsachadh a bha air iarraidh le Oifis na h-Alba, (Johnstone 1999, d.4) nach robh '*sgoilearan ann am Foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ... a' call an taca ri sgoilearan a bha air an teagasg tro mheadhan na Beurla. Ann an iomadach suidheachadh, ged nach robh anns a h-uile suidheachadh, bha iad a' dèanamh na b' fheàrr na sgoilearan ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Beurla agus a bharrachd air sin, bha a' bhuannachd a bhith comasach ann an dà chànan*'.

2.0 AN SUIDHEACHADH AN-DRÀSTA

Anns an deichead mu dheireadh tha ùidh mhòr air a bhith ann, aig ìre nàiseanta agus anns a' Ghàidhealtachd, gus sgoiltean Gàidhlig fa-leth a chruthachadh. Ann an 1999 chaidh sgoil Ghàidhlig fa-leth a chruthachadh ann am Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu agus bha sin air leth soirbheachail. Ann an 2007 stèidhich Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd sgoil Ghàidhlig ann an Inbhir Nis agus sgoil Ghàidhlig le clas tro mheadhan na Beurla ann am Bun-sgoil Shlèite anns an Eilean Sgitheanach. Tha a' chomhairle air aontachadh ann am plana na Gàidhlig airson 2007-2011 gus leasachadh sgoiltean Gàidhlig fa-leth adhartachadh le bhith a' gabhail nan cothroman gus sin a dhèanamh nuair a nochdas iad. 'S e dealas a tha sin an taobh a-staigh Prògram Rianachd na Comhairle. Tha an Rianachd cuideachd dhen bheachd gum biodh sgoiltean Gàidhlig fa-leth nan stèidh airson a bhith a' leasachadh Gàidhlig anns a' choimhearsnachd agus ann a bhith ag àrdachadh aithne mun Ghàidhlig anns an fharsaingeachd.

Ann an sgìre na Gàidhealtachd, rè seisean 2007-2008, bho àireamh iomlan de 718 sgoilear a bha ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig, bha 566 sgoilear bun-sgoile air an oideachadh ann an clasaichean Gàidhlig ann an sgoiltean le foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig (2007 cunntas-sluaigh sgoile 2007). Bha 103 sgoilear ag ionnsachadh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann am Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, an sgoil Ghàidhlig fa-leth, agus bha 47 sgoilear ag ionnsachadh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann am Bun-sgoil Shlèite.

Tha cha mhòr an dàrna leth dhe na 566 sgoilear a' fuireach ann an coimhearsnachdan ann an roinn Eilean a' Cheò, roinn a' Chaoil agus Malaig agus roinn A' Ghearasdain agus Àird nam Murchan. Tha beartas cànan agus cultar na Gàidhlig anns na sgìrean seo. Ann an Loch Abar, tha foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air a lìbhrigeadh ann an trì bun-sgoiltean ann an Àth Tharracail (21 sgoilear bun-sgoile agus 6 san sgoil-àraich), anns A' Ghearasdan (70 sgoilear bun-sgoile agus 16 san sgoil-àraich) agus nn am Malaig (34 sgoilear bun-sgoile agus 10 san sgoil-àraich). (Àireamh mar a bha iad aig 3mh dhen

Iuchair 2008)

Tha iomadh bliadhna tha ùidh air nochdadh bhon choimhearsnachd ann a bhith a' stèidheachadh sgoil Ghàidhlig fa-leth airson sgìre A' Ghearasdain. Sgaoil Comann nam Pàrant a' Ghearasdain ceisteachan chun a' h-uile pàrant le clann a tha a' faighinn foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig gus dearbhadh dè an t-iarrtas a th' ann airson goil Ghàidhlig fa-leth ann an Loch Abar. Gu ruige seo tha iad air 65 tagradh taiceil fhaighinn bho phàrantan anns a' Ghearasdan agus sgìrean timcheall.

Bun-sgoil Chaitligeach A' Ghearasdain

Tha foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, gun seòrsachadh air a dhèanamh a thaobh creideamh, air a libhrigeadh ann am Bun-sgoil Chaitligeach a' Ghearasdain airson sgìre a' Ghearasdain.

Tha Bun-sgoil Chaitligeach a' Ghearasdain a' frithealadh baile a' Ghearasdain agus sgìrean timcheall airson foghlam Caitligeach tro mheadhan na Beurla. Tha foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig anns an sgoil air a libhrigeadh airson a' Ghearasdain agus bailtean eile cho fada ri mu 10 mìle air falbh. Tha foghlam ro-sgoile tro mheadhan na Beurla agus tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air a thabhann anns an sgoil cuideachd do chloinn a tha trì agus ceithir bliadhna a dh'aois.

Bhon Lunastal 2008 bidh 8 clasaichean anns an sgoil le 4 clasaichean a' teagasg tro mheadhan na Beurla agus 4 clasaichean a' teagasg tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Tha Clàr 1 a' sealltainn àireamh nan sgoilearan bho 2003-2004 gu 2008-2009:

CLÀR 1: Àireamh sgoilearan ann am Bunsgoil Chaitligeach A' Ghearasdain bho 2003-2004 gu 2008-2009

Bliadhna		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Iomlan	IOMLAN CÒMHLA	%
2003-2004	FTMG	12	15	7	9	12	13	1	69	160	43%
2003-2004	FTMB	13	10	8	9	20	18	13	91		57%
2004-2005	FTMG	9	12	14	7	9	13	12	76	171	44%
2004-2005	FTMB	13	9	11	11	10	21	20	95		56%
2005-2006	FTMG	10	8	11	13	7	9	13	71	155	46%
2005-2006	FTMB	9	14	9	10	10	10	22	84		54%
2006-2007	FTMG	9	10	8	11	13	7	9	67	145	46%
2006-2007	FTMB	9	11	15	8	14	9	12	78		54%
2007-2008	FTMG	14	8	10	8	11	13	6	70	144	49%
2007-2008	FTMB	5	9	11	16	8	15	10	74		51%
2008-2009	FTMG	9	14	8	9	8	11	13	72	148	49%
2008-2009	FTMB	8	5	9	12	18	9	15	76		51%

Tha e follaiseach bho Chlàr 1 gu bheil an àireamh às a' cheud de sgoilearan a tha a'

faighinn foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air a bhith ag èirigh beag air bheag bho 2003-2004 gu 2007-2008 agus thathar an dùil gum bi 49% de sgoilearan na bun-sgoile a' a' faighinn foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an seisean 2008-2009 (72 sgoilear). Ged a tha an àireamh às a' cheud de sgoilearan air àrdachadh, tha an àireamh de sgoilearan air fuireach aig cha mhòr an aon ìre le mu 70 sgoilear.

Clàr 1a

Àireamh Ro-sgoile agus Ro-mheasadh airson Bun-sgoil Chaitligeach A' Ghearasdain 2003-2011

Bliadhna		3bl	4bl	IOMLAN	IOMLAN CÒMHLA	%
2003-2004	FTMG	12	6	18	37	49%
2003-2004	FTMB	19	0	19		51%
2004-2005	FTMG	14	7	21	35	60%
2004-2005	FTMB	14	0	14		40%
2005-2006	FTMG	10	14	24	40	60%
2005-2006	FTMB	10	6	16		40%
2006-2007	FTMG	12	7	19	43	44%
2006-2007	FTMB	8	16	24		56%
2007-2008	FTMG	8	8	16	42	38%
2007-2008	FTMB	13	13	26		62%
2008-2009	FTMG	4	7	11	30	37%
2008-2009	FTMB	7	12	19		63%
2009-2010	FTMG	8	4	12	27	44%
2009-2010	FTMB	8	7	15		56%
2010-2011	FTMG	8	8	16	32	50%
2010-2011	FTMB	8	8	16		50%

Tha Clàr 1a a' sealltainn àireamh nan ro-sgoilearan airson foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus foghlam tro mheadhan na Beurla bho 2003-2004 gu na h-àireamhan a thathar an dùil a bhios ann ann an 2010-2011. Ged a tha lùghdachadh air a bhith anns an àireamh às a' cheud de chloinn a tha air a bhith a' dol gu cròileagan Gàidhlig an taca ris na tha a' dol gu cròileagan tro mheadhan na Beurla gu 2008-2009, thathar an dùil gum bi àrdachadh anns an àireamh às a' cheud de sgoilearan ro-sgoile a bhios a' dol gu cròileagan Gàidhlig. Thathar an dùil gum bi 16 sgoilear a' faighinn foghlam ro-sgoile ann an 2010-2011 tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, an dàrna leth dhen chloinn gu lèir.

Clàr 2

Sgìre foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig 2007-2008 (Àireamhan mar a bha air 3mh dhen Iuchair 2008)

	Gaelic medium
An Claigeann & Inbhir Lòchaidh	9
Achadh an Tobhair Àrd	12
Plantation	5
An Caol, Lochyside	13
Banbhaidh, A' Chorpach	6
An Àird	4
An Gearasdan	11
Tòrr Lunndaidh	0
Drochaid an Aonachain & An Drochaid Ruadh	3
Gleann Nibheis	3
Achadh a' Phùbail & Gleann Fhionghain	4

Tha Clàr 2 a' sealltainn nan àiteachan ann an sgìre a' Ghearasdain agus timcheall bho bheil na sgoilearan a tha ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a' tighinn an-dràsta. Ann an seisean 2007-2008, bha 44 dhen 70 sgoilear a bha anns an sgoil bhon Ghearasdan le 19 a' fuireach anns A' Chaol, Lochyside, Banbhaidh agus sgìre na Corpaich. Aig an àm seo, tha 7 sgoilearan bho Dhrochaid an Aonachain, An Drochaid Ruadh, Achadh a' Phùbail agus Gleann Fhionghain anns an sgoil.

3.0 RUDAN A BHEIR BU Aidh AIR AN T-SEIRBHEIS ANNS AN ÀM RI TEACHD

Tha ro-mheasadh air a dhèanamh air àireamh sgoilearan ann am Bun-sgoil Chaitligeach a' Ghearasdain anns na còig bliadhna a tha ri teachd a rèir àireamhan breith anns an sgìre agus cuideachd a rèir buaidh a bheireadh leudachadh air na tha de thaighean anns a' bhaile. Tha a bhith a' dèanamh ro-mheasadh airson àireamhan nan sgoilearan a bhios a' dol gu foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig doirbh. Faodaidh pàrantan a tha a' fuireach ann an sgìre sgoile eile ann an sgìre a' Ghearasdain taghadh an cuid chloinne a chur gu foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Tha an ro-mheasadh a leanas air a stèidheachadh air an fhiosrachadh a tha ann an Tuairmse Àireamhan Sgoile a tha ri fhaighinn air làrach Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd agus bhon fhiosrachadh air àireamhan sgoile Lùnastal 2008-2009 a chaidh a thoirt seachad leis an sgoil. Tha an ro-mheasadh a tha air a thaisbeanadh gu h-ìseal air a thomhas a rèir nan àireamhan de sgoilearan a tha air a dhol gu foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann am Bun-sgoil Chaitligeach a' Ghearasdain agus a rèir nan àireamhan a tha ann an sgoiltean sgìre A' Ghearasdain. Chaidh an tomhas seo a chur an uairsin a rèir an àireamh de chloinn a bha air am breith ann an sgìre a' Ghearasdain airson nam bliadhnachan 2006 agus 2007

Clàr 3

Ro-mheasadh Àireamhan Ro-sgoile agus Bun-sgoile airson Bun-Sgoil Chaitligeach A' Ghearsdain 2009 – 2013

Bliadhna		3 bli.	4 bli.	Ro-sgoile lomlan	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Iomlan	Iomlan Còmhla
2009-2010	FTMG	8	4	12	4	9	14	8	9	8	11	63	75
2009-2010	FTMB	8	7	15	12	8	5	9	11	16	9	70	85
2010-2011	FTMG	8	8	16	4	4	9	14	8	9	8	56	72
2010-2011	FTMB	8	8	16	7	12	8	5	9	11	16	68	84
2011-2012	FTMG	8	8	16	8	4	4	9	14	8	9	56	72
2011-2012	FTMB	8	8	16	8	7	12	8	5	9	11	60	76
2012-2013	FTMG	8	8	16	8	8	4	4	9	14	8	55	71
2012-2013	FTMB	8	8	16	8	8	7	12	8	5	9	57	73

Thathar an dùil gun tuit an àireamh sgoilearan airson na sgoile gu lèir, cròileagan agus bun-sgoil, bho 186 ann an seisean 2007-2008 gu 144 sgoilear ann an 2013. Tha seo a rèir an ìsleachaidh ann an ìrean breith anns an sgìre. Ach, bu chòir beachd a ghabhail gu bheilear an dùil gum fuirich an àireamh às a' cheud de sgoilearan na sgoile ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig mu 49% dhe na sgoilearan air fad.

Thathar an dùil gum bi mu 16 sgoilear ro-sgoile aig aois 3 agus 4 bliadhna anns an sgoil bho 2011 gu 2012/2013.

4.0 RUDAN A DH'FHAODAR DÉANAMH

A' dol a rèir prògram rianachd na Comhairle gus leasachadh sgoiltean Gàidhlig fa-leth adhartachadh agus a rèir an iartais bho Chomann nam Pàrant a' Ghearsdain le ceisteachain chun nam pàrantan airson a leithid sin, tha an t-ùghdarras air na roghainnean a leanas a chomharrachadh:

Roghainn A

Cùisean a chumail mar a tha iad – foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a chumail mar tha e air a libhrigeadh ann am Bun-sgoil Chaitligeach a' Ghearsdain.

Roghainn B

Sgoil Ghàidhlig fa-leth a chruthachadh do sgìre a' Ghearsdain le bhith

- (i) a' leasachadh togalach a tha ann a-cheana airson a bhith air a chleachdadh mar sgoil Ghàidhlig; no le bhith
- (ii) a' togail sgoil ùr air làrach ùr
- (iii) le bhith a' togail sgoil Ghàidhlig ùr fa-leth mar phàirt de dh'aonta làrach-sgoile le bun-sgoil ùr airson a' Ghearsdain mar phàirt de sgrùdadh air seirbheisean foghlaim anns a' bhaile.

5.0 BUAIDH A BHITH A' CUR NAN ROGHAINNEAN AN GNÌOMH

Roghainn A Cùisean a chumail mar a tha iad.

Leanaidh Bun-sgoil Chaitligeach a' Ghearasdain air sgoilearan a theagasg tro mheadhan na Beurla agus tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Roghainn B Sgoil Ghàidhlig fa-leth a chruthachadh airson sgìre a' Ghearasdain le bhith

- (i) a' leasachadh togalach a tha ann a-cheana airson a bhith air a chleachdadh mar sgoil Ghàidhlig; no le bhith
- (ii) a' togail sgoil ùr air làrach ùr
- (iii) le bhith a' sgoil Ghàidhlig ùr fa-leth mar phàirt de dh'aonta làrach-sgoile le bun-sgoil ùr airson a' Ghearasdain mar phàirt de sgrùdadh air seirbheisean foghlaim anns a' bhaile.

Bidh foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an sgìre a' Ghearasdain air a stèidheachadh ann am bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig fa-leth a bhios cuideachd na stèidh airson coimhearsnachd Gàidhlig a' Ghearasdain agus ann a bhith a' togail inbhe na Gàidhlig anns a' choimhearsnachd anns an fharsaingeachd. Tha buaidh aig cò an tè de na Roghainnean ann am B a bhios air a taghadh. Bidh cosgaisean calpa mòr mu chois gach roghainn agus cha deach an tuairmse cosgais a dhèanamh orra fhathast agus dh'fheumadh a bhith air an cur ann am Prògram Foghlam, Cultar & Spòrs.

(i) A' leasachadh togalach a tha ann a-cheana

'S dòcha gum biodh e comasach pàirt de dh'Òstail Chamaghael anns a' Ghearasdan, a leasachadh na sgoil Ghàidhlig fa-leth a bhiodh mòr gu leòr airson 72 - 96 sgoilear le cròileagan agus le àite airson leudachadh anns an àm ri teachd, agus 's dòcha a' cleachdadh nan goireasan spòrs còmhla ri Àrd-sgoil Loch Abair. Dh'fheumadh sgrùdadh comasachd a bhith air a dhèanamh air an roghainn seo gus dearbhadh am biodh Òstal Chamaghael freagarrach airson a bhith air atharrachadh gu bhith na bhun-sgoil agus gus na cosgaisean an cois sin agus gus an cur ann am Prògram Calpa Foghlam, Cultar & Spòrs. Bu chòir beachd a chumail air gum bi Òstal Chamaghael air a chleachdadh le Àrd-sgoil Loch Abar gu deireadh 2012 fhad 's a thathar a' leasachadh na h-àrd-sgoile, ach bidh na feumalachdan nas cinntiche ann an 2009 aon uair 's gum bi Ìre II dhen phrògram air a leasachadh.

(ii) a' togail sgoil ùr air làrach ùr

Tha còmhraidhean air a bhith air an cumail le Manaidsear Ro-innleachd Oighreachd air dè cho comasach agus a bhiodh e sgoil Ghàidhlig a thogail air aon de thrì làraich anns A' Ghearasdan, a dhà dhiubh sin le Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd agus an làrach eile le sealbh prìobhaideach. Bidh feum air barrachd obair gus dearbhadh a bheil na làraich sin freagarrach agus gus cosgaisean an leasachaidh a dhearbhadh agus cuideachd

dh'fheumadh sgrùdadh comasachd a bhith air a dhèanamh orra gus dearbhadh dè cho feagarrach 's a bhiodh iad airson sgoil ùr agus gus na cosgaisean an cois sin a dhearbhadh.

(iii) Sgoil Ghàidhlig ùr fa-leth a thogail mar phàirt de dh'aonta làrach-sgoile le bun-sgoil ùr airson a' Ghearasdain mar phàirt de sgrùdadh air seirbheisean foghlaim anns a' bhaile.

Tha an aon làrach freagarrach a chaidh a thoirt am follais fo shealbh prìobhaideach agus thathar a' beachdachadh air an làrach anns an sgrùdadh air libhrigeadh foghlaim ann an sgìre a' Ghearasdain airson sgoil Ghàidhlig fa-leth agus bun-sgoil tro mheadhan na Beurla do thaobh an iar a' Ghearasdain. Dh'fhaodadh gun cleachdadh an dà sgoil na h-aon ghoireasan leithid àite bidhe, àite cruinneachaidh/talla spòrs, rianachd far a bheil sin iomchaidh. Leis an fhiosrachadh air a bhith ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig ann an suidheachaidhean sòisealta agus a rèir na bhios ann de dh'àite, thèid beachdachadh air dà raon-cluiche a leasachadh.

Tha iomadh buaidh le toraidhean gu math coltach ri chèile aig gach roghainn a tha gu h-àrd:

Buaidh air còmh-dhail

Ann an seisean 2007-08, dhen 70 sgoilear a bha a' faighinn foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, bha 28 a' faighinn còmh-dhail an asgaidh dhan sgoil. Chan eil dùil gun atharraich sin. Chan eilear an dùil gum bi cosgaisean còmh-dhail mòra an cois a' mholaidh seo

Bhon bhliadhna 2000 tha an t-ùghdarras air poileasaidh a chur an gnìomh far a bheil còmh-dhail an asgaidh air a thabhann an taobh a-staigh 10 mìle bho bhun-sgoil le foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Ach, bidh feartan ionadail a' toirt buaidh air ruigsinneachd do dh'fhoghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus thèid beachdachadh air gach suidheachadh fa-leth.

Buaidh a thaobh luchd-obrach

Dh'fheumadh Ceannard Sgoile agus dreuchdan àrdaichte eile a bhith air an taghadh airson obair anns an sgoil. Dh'fheumadh na tuarastail airson nan dreuchdan seo a bhith air an cur aig ìre a rèir na h-obrach

Luchd-teagaisg. Bhiodh an luchd-obrach a tha an-dràsta ag obair taobh a-staigh foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig anns a' Ghearasdain air an gluasad chun na sgoile ùire, an dèidh beachd a ghabhail air an àireamh sgoilearan anns an sgoil aig an àm sin.

Luchd-obrach eile. Bhiodh luchd-obrach eile a tha ag obair ann a bhith a' coileanadh foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air an gluasad chun na sgoile ùire.

A' choimhearsnachd a' cleachdadh an togalaich

Cha bhiodh atharrachadh sam bith anns an dòigh anns am biodh a' choimhearsnachd a'

cleachdadh Bun-sgoil Chaitligeach a' Ghearasdain (taobh a-staigh Poileasaidh Cleachdadh Coimhearsnachd na Comhairle.) Bhiodh barrachd thogalaichean coimhearsnachd air an cruthachadh le bhith a' stèidheachadh sgoil Ghàidhlig a bhiodh na stèidh airson leasachadh na Gàidhlig anns a' choimhearsnachd.

Sgìrean Dealbhte

Cha bhiodh atharrachadh sam bith anns na sgìrean dealbhte airson sgoilearan a tha a' dol gu foghlam tro mheadhan na Beurla ann am Bun-sgoil Chaitligeach a' Ghearasdain. Chumadh sgoilearan a bhiodh a' faighinn foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig air tighinn à sgìre a' Ghearasdain agus iadsan a tha a' fuireach taobh a-staigh mu 10 mìle bhon bhaile.

6.0 CO-DHÙNADH

Tha am pàipear conaltraidh seo air fhoillseachadh a rèir modhan aonaichte an Ùghdarrais gus na laghan iomchaidh a choileanadh. An dèidh a' chonaltraidh, bidh na h-aithisgean agus na beachdan a thèid fhaighinn air an toirt do Chomataidh Foghlam, Cultar agus Spòrs Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd.

Bu chòir do bheachdan sam bith mun phàipear seo a bhith air an cur ann an sgrìobhadh gu:

Iain Ritchie, Stiùiriche Sgìreil Foghlam, Cultar is Spòrs, Ros, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach agus Loch Abar, Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd, Oifis Sgìre Foghlaim, Òstail Chamaghael, Camaghael, An Gearasdan, ron 10mh dhen Damhair.

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Highland Council School Roll Forecasts (2007) updated July 2008

MINUTE OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 25TH SEPTEMBER 2008 AT FORT WILLIAM RC PRIMARY SCHOOL TO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A STAND ALONE GAELIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Present: Cllr W Fernie (Chair of Education, Culture and Sport)
Cllr D Miller (Vice Chair Education, Culture and Sport)
Mr H Fraser (Director of Education)
Mr D MacDonald (Head of Education Service)
Mr L Young (Senior Education Officer)
Mr D MacNeill (Gaelic Development Manager)

Cllr E Hunter: Cllr A Henderson: Cllr W Clark: Cllr M Foxley:

Approximately 50 additional people were present including Cllrs Henderson, Hunter, Clark and Foxley

Apologies: Cllr D Cameron

Cllr W Fernie welcomed those present and summarised the proposed programme for the evening. He outlined the status of the consultation period/process inviting those present to make submissions within the timescale agreed.

Donald MacNeill then welcomed and addressed as above, in Gaelic.

Donnie MacDonald opened the proceedings by outlining the background to the proposals as detailed in the consultation paper which had been prepared. He explained the legislative process, required agreed procedures and the status of the Gaelic Language Scotland Act and the related National Gaelic Language Plan. Those present were informed that one of the commitments agreed by Highland Council Members in its own Gaelic Language Plan is to provide two dedicated Gaelic Schools in the period between 2007 and 2011. Expressions of interest were received from Fort William and Portree and following discussions this was taken to the Gaelic Committee then to the Education Culture and Sport Committee. Members agreed a consultation and following this public meeting people are invited to submit their views by 10 October 2008.

Laurence Young addressed the detail of the consultation paper going through each part in detail and further explaining the rationale for education within a dedicated Gaelic school.

Cllr Fernie then invited questions from those present.

Cllr Hunter Thanks and apologies for not speaking in Gaelic. Delighted to see the proposal for a Gaelic school on the agenda. On page 2 – Option A and page 8 Option A. They seem to be different.

Laurence Young said that they should be same as on first page.

Rev Fr MacKinnon Given the possibility of a stand alone Gaelic school being built what will happen to RC pupils who presently attend the Gaelic Class in Fort William RC Primary? How might these pupils be incorporated into a new school?

Laurence Young recognised this as an important issue. Roman Catholic should be able to access Religious Education in any new Gaelic School and discussions would need to take place on how best to do this. There would be a desire to deliver as best we can and further discuss the matter with the church.

Andrew McHale pointed out that Gaelic Medium Education in Fort William RC Primary is non denominational.

Karen MacInnes – parent of two Gaelic Medium children. Fully support the building of a new stand alone school for Lochaber. Based on the success of other Gaelic schools, feels the provision will hugely improve attainment and standards. The vision should be that it is a focal point for entire community to celebrate the Gaelic language and its culture. Regarding the option of a campus, personally do not believe it is one that should happen. Sharing facilities might increase to the extent that nothing would really have changed. Parents waited so long for this that there should be careful consideration before opting for a campus arrangement.

Ingrid Henderson Is there a proposal already in the pipeline for creating new English Medium schools in Fort William and incorporating Option B – Campus?

Laurence Young explained that there would be sharing of playing fields etc if, for example, a new Gaelic school was put in a refurbished Camaghael Hostel. More detailed discussions on this matter will take place with members at business meetings. This is a different issue and will be discussed at another time.

Michelle McNeil It does refer in the paper to what Ingrid has mentioned.

Laurence Young It is only a suggestion at the moment.

Hugh Fraser The consultation paper is about establishing the principle of stand alone Gaelic provision. If stand alone then we must ensure that we do not have a situation where it is set up in such a way that nothing changes. Enhancement of Gaelic Medium is what is needed and a variety of options need to be considered. We will look in detail at

all possibilities as no detailed work had been done to date. This current exercise is about how to develop stand alone Gaelic provision.

Fiona Byrne It is a natural progression to have a stand alone schools

Cllr Henderson When attending meetings of Comann nam Pàrant groups, people have expressed that they would like a stand alone school. I am delighted to think that the heartland of Gaelic is pushing for a Gaelic Medium school. We should go for a free standing school on its own, otherwise we miss a great opportunity. Gaelic Medium Education has done well for 20 years. It should move forward now and go for real thing.

Cllr Foxley Had full praise for provision at Fort William RC School and the Head teacher but echoed Cllr Henderson's views. Things must move on though. The Fort William area needs and demands a stand alone school although we could share something in the way of fields etc. Numbers have stabilised now but new careers in Gaelic are available and there are huge job vacancies so we need to look at a unit where the classes grow. Substantial proportion of Fort William pupils go to the school so we need to move on and grow. I give my full support as a parent.

Darren Chambers – parent of 2 children in GM Echo that this is fantastic opportunity for Gaelic in the Highlands.

Ingrid Henderson It is difficult to get accurate statistics at the moment. Tables provided in the paper are useful but from speaking to people, a stand alone school would attract many more pupils and numbers will exceed the statistics given in the paper.

Donnie MacDonald This very point has been proven by the other schools where there is wrap around childcare. Our challenge is language acquisition by babies and toddlers. We need to seek to establish routes for young people. The suggestion is that if childcare provision existed, the kids would not be entering P1 with no Gaelic, they'd be further ahead and therefore likely to take even more benefit from the Gaelic immersion phase in P1-3

Karen McInnes Gaelic pre school facilities have already been set up in Fort William so good work is in place to feed into a Gaelic Medium school.

Cllr Fernie Raised the topic of employment opportunities and invited comment.

Donald MacNeill With any Gaelic provision there are a growing number of opportunities available. Clearly there is the challenge of recruitment – we're drawing on a small labour pool and to an extent it is only through initiatives like this, the enhancing of GME provision that we're going to provide sufficient people with the language skills to take this forward. Ideally in a dedicated school there would be a whole range of ancillary staff needed with Gaelic abilities – from catering to janitors to school office and admin support.

Shona Gillies – parent of three children in Gaelic and one in English. What sort of support for learning will be available in a Gaelic Medium stand alone school? This is a concern.

Donnie MacDonald Recognised as a significant issue. Within the terms of legislation there is an obligation to identify and staff and resource these needs. A range of staff beyond teaching staff is needed but there remains a shortage of Learning Support Auxiliaries and associated support staff from other agencies. We need to keep working on this and have a level playing field but nationally it is a challenge to get there. A point may be reached eventually where the NHS may be required to produce a Gaelic Plan. As more public bodies are required to produce a language plan then they will need to develop support systems. It is necessary to take account of Additional Support Needs in the circumstances within which the youngster is living. However, the principle is to seek to make the same provision for Additional Support Needs in Gaelic as in English.

Cllr Fernie Asked if anybody present opposed the supporting views and were there any alternate views.

Karen MacInnes Inverness Gaelic school has apparently outgrown the current accommodation. This should be taken into account with projected growth accommodated.

Catriona Gordon Are there any plans to increase Gaelic provision in secondary?

Donnie MacDonald the Gaelic Plan is ambitious and can broadly summarise the education elements into three sections (1) Commitment by members to two Gaelic schools: (2) Early years provision: (3) secondary – seek to have a minimum of 5 subjects delivered through medium of Gaelic. There is a recruitment issue though and teachers need to have a high standard of written and oral fluency in order to teach their subject through Gaelic. Currently working with Donald MacNeill and other partners such as colleges, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Government to see how inroads can be made to this. There are a substantial number of teachers who are Gaelic speakers but do not want to take on the responsibility of delivering in the language. There remains also the issue of availability of resources in Gaelic. Stòrlann is presently working to produce resources presently but this has some way to go.

It is important that secondary pupils realise that there are good jobs available within the Gaelic sector.

Fiona Byrne Asked about funding.

Hugh Fraser No funding set aside meantime but we see it as a major area that needs to be worked on nationally to take the project forward. When the Glasgow Gaelic school was established considerable additional funding was available. Approaches will be made in this regard.

Ingrid Henderson Is there a timescale on the current capital plan?

Hugh Fraser 4 years presently but this is to be worked on

Michelle McNeil What about Fiona Hislop's commitment to 250 new schools?

Hugh Fraser There is no specific reference to Gaelic in this. The Scottish Government's aim is 250 new schools

Cllr Fernie and Donald MacNeill thanked everybody for attending and invited submissions by 10th October 2008.

**Views of current parents/pre-school parents of the Greater Fort William
area supporting Option A (The Status Quo)**

5 submissions

The 5 submissions supporting Option A (The Status Quo) were postcards with Option A ticked and no supporting details.

Views of current parents/pre-school parents of the Greater Fort William area supporting Option B (proposal to develop a stand alone Gaelic primary school)

57 submissions

- ✚ A new Gaelic primary school is the logical step forward for our community.
- ✚ Having a dedicated stand alone school will expose the children to more spoken Gaelic in all aspects of school life.
- ✚ Pupils will have increased opportunity to undertake extra-curricular activities in Gaelic.
- ✚ Pupils will have a strong sense of identify and belonging.
- ✚ A dedicated Gaelic school will provide a focal point where all aspects of Gaelic culture including language, music and art can be celebrated thus benefiting the entire Lochaber community.
- ✚ I believe it is an important step in educating our youngsters in the native language and heritage of their area and would like to see it become a reality as soon as possible.
- ✚ This is a fabulous opportunity for an area already rich in Gaelic tradition and culture and it would help to focus education of Gaelic language and culture for Lochaber's young people.
- ✚ A dedicated free standing school would ensure that Gaelic was spoken within and outwith the classroom.
- ✚ There is an obvious benefit that all supporting staff will speak Gaelic giving fuller immersion of the language outside of the classroom setting.
- ✚ This would help our children to find it more natural to speak Gaelic all the time rather than just in a classroom.