

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE**

**12 November 2009**

Agenda Item	11.
Report No	ECS/55/09

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH GAELIC MEDIUM PROVISION IN GLENURQUHART  
PRIMARY SCHOOL, DRUMNADROCHIT**

**Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport**

**Summary**

A draft consultation paper on a proposal to establish Gaelic Medium Education at Glenurquhart Primary School, Drumnadrochit, is attached for Members' consideration.

**1. Background**

1.1 The Education, Culture and Sport Committee, at its meeting on 21 May 2009, agreed that consultation be undertaken on the provision of Gaelic Medium Education at Glenurquhart Primary School, Drumnadrochit, and in order that locally based consultation could commence consultation papers should be drawn up by the Director in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee and the Chairman of the Gaelic Committee.

**2. Proposal**

2.1 It is proposed that the statutory consultation on the provision of Gaelic Medium Education at Glenurquhart Primary School, Drumnadrochit, should proceed on the basis of the draft consultation paper attached (Appendix 1).

2.2 A statutory consultation on education provision should run for a minimum period of 28 days. It is proposed that the report of the outcomes of the consultation be considered at the meeting of Education, Culture & Sport Committee on 14 January 2010.

**3 Consultation Process**

3.1 The consultation procedure will include distribution of the consultation paper to:

- a) (i) Parents of pupils affected including parents of pre-school pupils.
- (ii) Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament.
- (iii) Parent Council/Forum.
- (iv) Community Council.
- b) Public advertisement of availability of consultation paper.
- c) Meetings of parents will be convened, with a minimum of 14 days' notice. The

Authority may be represented at such meetings by:

- (i) Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of the Education Culture and Sports Committee and Chairman of the Gaelic Committee.
  - (ii) Local Councillor(s) not otherwise covered by above.
  - (iii) Director of Education, Culture & Sport or his representative.
- d) Following publication of the consultation paper a minimum of 28 days will be allowed for the submission of written comments to the Area Education, Culture & Sport Manager.
- e) At the end of the consultation period all written submissions and minutes of meetings will be presented to the Education Culture & Sport Committee for consideration and decision.

**4. Recommendation**

- (i) The Committee is requested to agree to the terms of the consultation paper to be issued in accordance with the Education Authority's agreed procedure to meet the relevant statutory requirements; and agree
- (ii) That the outcome of the consultation be considered at the meeting of the Education, Culture & Sport Committee on 14 January 2009.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Date: 5 October 2009

Author: Ms Veronica McKay, Education Officer

Background Papers: Minute of Education, Culture & Sport Committee, 21 May 2009

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**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH GAELIC MEDIUM PROVISION AT GLENURQUHART  
PRIMARY SCHOOL, DRUMNADROCHIT**

**THIS IS A CONSULTATIVE PAPER PREPARED IN TERMS OF THE EDUCATION  
AUTHORITY'S AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE RELEVANT STATUTORY  
REQUIREMENTS**

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AGREED PROCEDURE TO MEET THE RELEVANT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 A number of parents in Drumnadrochit have requested Gaelic Medium provision for their children. Their request is supported by evidence that, should Gaelic Medium provision be made, the number of participating pupils would be viable both in terms of Council policy and experience with other Gaelic Medium facilities in Highland.
- 1.2 The Education, Culture and Sport Committee meeting on 21 May 2009 agreed that consultation be undertaken with regard to Gaelic Medium provision at Glenurquhart Primary School.

**2.0 RELEVANT ISSUES**

**(a) Projected Gaelic Medium pupil numbers**

The projected number of pupils enrolled for Gaelic Medium provision based on commitments made by parents is as undernoted:

<b>School Session</b>	<b>Projected Enrolments</b>	<b>Gaelic Department Roll</b>
2010/11	4	4
2011/12	2	6
2012/13	4	10
2013/14	1	11

**(b) Projected roll – Glenurquhart Primary School**

<b>Session</b>	<b>Projected Roll</b>
2010/11	129
2011/12	129
2012/13	124
2013/14	116

**(c) Accommodation**

A recent extension to Glenurquhart Primary School has provided improved teaching accommodation within the school but current school roll projections for English medium are such that no capacity for Gaelic medium education exists. Given this a further extension or provision of a demountable to the school would be required to provide for Gaelic medium accommodation.

The accommodation required is one classroom, one nursery room, ancillary accommodation and external play area for nursery children at an approximate cost of £500,000 for either extension or demountable unit. A procurement timescale for additional accommodation is still to be established.

**(d) Staffing**

Although in the past there have been significant difficulties in recruiting qualified primary Gaelic Medium teachers, the situation has now eased with more teachers becoming qualified.

The additional staffing in the first full year of Gaelic Medium provision would be a full-time teacher and a part-time classroom assistant (3 hours). The total staffing cost would be a maximum of £42,189.

Specific grant at 75% from the Scottish Government will reduce this cost to £10,547. Specific grant is designed to fund new provision for a period of up to five years.

**(e) School Transport**

School transport requirements are difficult to predict. The Council's policy is to make provision for school transport on the same basis as English medium pupils and to provide school transport to pupils within reasonable travelling distance of a school with a Gaelic Medium department, which is normally interpreted as being approximately fifteen miles.

**3.0 CONCLUSION**

3.1 The Education, Culture and Sport Committee wishes to consult on the proposal to establish Gaelic Medium provision at Glenurquhart Primary School in the light of the above factors and having regard to all relevant representations.

3.2 Following the consultation procedure, a report and submissions received will be presented to the Education, Culture and Sport Committee of the Highland Council.