

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

CARE AND LEARNING SERVICE

REVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CATCHMENT AREA FOR THE NEW BUN-SGOIL GHÀIDHLIG PHORT-RÌGH, AND TO SIMULTANEOUSLY ESTABLISH FORMAL CATCHMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF GÀIDHLIG MEDIUM EDUCATION FOR SCHOOLS WITHIN THE PORTTREE ASSOCIATED SCHOOL GROUP

This report has been prepared following a review of the proposal:

To establish a catchment area for the new Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh, and to simultaneously establish formal catchments for the provision of Gàidhlig Medium Education (GME) for schools within the Portree Associated School Group (ASG).

Having had regard (in particular) to:

- Relevant written representations received by the Council (from any person) during the consultation period:
- Oral representations made to it (by any persons) at the public meetings held in Portree on 13 September 2017, in Broadford on 14 September 2017, and in Dunvegan on 4 October 2017:
- The report from Education Scotland.

This document has been issued by the Highland Council under the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 Highland Council's People Committee, at its meeting on 23 August 2017, agreed that a statutory consultation be undertaken on the proposal to establish a catchment area for the new Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh, and to simultaneously establish formal catchments for the provision of Gàidhlig Medium Education (GME) for schools within the Portree Associated School Group (ASG). This followed the issue of Statutory Guidance by Bòrd na Gàidhlig in February 2017, which recommended that local authorities create catchment areas for the provision of GME.

1.2 **Appendix 1** is the original consultative paper and provides full details of the above proposal. **Appendices A and B** are the appendices to the original proposal.

2.0 Consultation process

2.1 The formal consultation period ran from Monday 28 August 2017 to Wednesday 25 October 2017. Written representations on the proposal were sought from interested parties as defined within the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

2.2 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following were consulted:

- (i) Parents of pupils attending Portree Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (ii) Parents of pupils attending Macdiarmid Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (iii) Parents of pupils attending Carbost Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (iv) Parents of pupils attending Dunvegan Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (v) Parents of pupils attending Edinbane Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (vi) Parents of pupils attending Knockbreck Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (vii) Parents of pupils attending Struan Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (viii) Parents of pupils attending Kilmuir Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (ix) Parents of pupils attending Raasay Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (x) Parents of pupils attending Broadford Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (xi) Parents of pupils attending Elgol Primary School; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (xii) Parents of pupils attending Bun-sgoil Stafainn; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (xiii) Parents of pupils attending Bun-sgoil Shlèite; including parents of pre-school pupils;
- (xiv) The Parent Councils of the above schools.
- (xv) Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal;
- (xvi) Staff of each of the schools listed above;
- (xvii) Trade union representatives;
- (xviii) All Community Councils for the Isle of Skye;
- (xix) Bòrd na Gàidhlig;
- (xx) Comann nam Pàrant
- (xxi) Education Scotland;
- (xxii) Highland Youth Convenor

- 2.3 The proposal document was advertised on the Highland Council website.
- 2.4 Public meetings were held in Portree on 13 September 2017, in Broadford on 14 September 2017, and in Dunvegan on 4 October 2017. The meetings were advertised in advance on the Highland Council website and Facebook page, and in the *West Highland Free Press*.
- 2.5 Following receipt of written representations received by Highland Council and consideration of oral representations made at the public meetings, officials reviewed the proposals.
- 2.6 The outcome of this review process is reflected in the response, conclusion and recommendations outlined below.

3.0 Responses received

- 3.1 A list of those who responded in writing during the public consultation is at **Appendix 2**, whilst copies of the actual responses are at **Appendix 2a**. (Some responses are in Gaelic and translations of these have been provided). The majority of responses received were from school pupils. Schools were sent age adapted questionnaires for the purpose of gathering pupil views. Some schools have returned individually completed questionnaires whereas others have returned a summary of pupil views. The various points raised are addressed in S.4 below
- 3.2 Two other responses were received. That from Bòrd na Gàidhlig expressed support for the proposal. The remaining response was from Raasay Primary School Parent Council. The island of Raasay was not included within any of the proposed Gàidhlig Medium catchment areas, due to the difficulty of travel to the nearest provision. In their response, the Parent Council suggested that the Council looks to increase the amount of Gaelic that is currently used in the school, and asked whether they could discuss how to ensure that the Gaelic language remains an important part of their learning at Raasay Primary.
- 3.3. Raasay Primary School is very fortunate in that the present Head Teacher is a fluent Gaelic speaker, something which has led to the children gaining success at events such as the Regional Mòd. Presently Gaelic is delivered at the primary school as part of the national 1 + 2 languages strategy, and as part of this programme it will continue to be an important part of the curriculum at Raasay Primary.
- 3.4 The questionnaires issued to pupils invited a response on 4 questions. A summary of the responses is provided below.

Q1 – Children from Elgol should go to Broadford PS if they want to learn in Gaelic

All of the pupils at Elgol Primary supported this aspect of the proposal although at Broadford a majority of those who responded were against (24

votes to 9). Amongst the Gàidhlig Medium pupils at Broadford who responded, opinion was split 50/50.

Q2 - Children from Carbost and Macdiarmid should go to Portree PS if they want to learn in Gaelic

The Learning Council at Carbost Primary were in support of this aspect of the proposal, but the joint return from Macdiarmid and Knockbreck Primaries indicated the majority of pupils at those schools were against (23 votes to 10). In many cases, the responses opposing the proposal were on the grounds that Gàidhlig Medium (GM) pupils should be able to attend whichever school they want to, rather than a specific school. In that sense, the criticism is that our proposal is too restrictive in seeking to designate a GM school for each address.

Pupils at Portree Primary were mostly in support of this aspect of the Proposal (157 votes to 17)

Q3 - Children from Edinbane, Knockbreck and Struan should go to Dunvegan PS if they want to learn in Gaelic

All the children from Edinbane Primary were in favour of this aspect. The pupils at Struan Primary were all against, arguing that the Struan Primary catchment should be part of the GM catchment of the Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh. The joint response from Macdiarmid and Knockbreck was the same as for Q2. Meanwhile pupils at Dunvegan Primary were evenly split on this aspect (13 votes in favour of the proposal, 13 against, with 7 “Don’t Knows”).

Q4 – Is Raasay Primary too far from any other school offering GME, for the children to be able to travel?

The majority of pupil responses, across all schools, agreed with this aspect of the proposal, although there were some who thought that Raasay pupils should have an entitlement to travel to GME elsewhere, and others who thought Raasay should be given its own GM provision.

3.5 Formal notes of the three public meetings are at **Appendices 3-3b**. No opposition to the proposal was expressed at any of the meetings.

4.0 Issues raised during the consultation period

4.1 The main arguments opposed to the proposal are summarised below, together with the responses from the Council. In many cases different responses have made the same or very similar arguments, and where this occurs the arguments have been addressed only once.

Issue 1

The Carbost Primary catchment is within the GM catchment for Bun-sgoil

Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh. Struan Primary is clustered with Carbost Primary. It would therefore be better if children from Struan to go Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh, if they wish to access GME.

Response 1

Struan Primary is located 8.8 miles/13 minutes from Dunvegan Primary, but 10.8 miles/21 minutes from Portree Primary (source: Google Maps). The travel time to Portree is therefore about 50% longer than to Dunvegan. The most direct route from Struan to Portree is also affected by winter weather conditions more frequently than the route to Dunvegan.

There is already a transport contract linking Struan to Dunvegan for GME, which works by extending the route of a contract for EM pupils from within the Dunvegan EM catchment, but who live south of the village itself. Travel from Struan to Portree would be by providing extra seats on the High School contract (which follows the longer route via Sligachan).

The clustering arrangements do not affect any pupils opting for GME, since those pupils would attend neither Struan Primary nor Carbost Primary.

Issue 2

Children from the same area should go to the same school and not be split up.

Response 2

Gàidhlig medium education is a matter of choice, and no-one is forced to undertake it.

Highland Council is committed to developing Gaelic education in pre-school and primary schools. Gàidhlig medium education gives children an opportunity to learn Gaelic in the most natural way possible as the language is being absorbed through their learning. For this reason the Council is committed to the development of standalone GM schools, and to providing as much access to GME as is reasonable possible.

Issue 3

There is a need for more children in English medium classes and nurseries.

Response 3

Highland Council agrees that many of the primary schools in the Portree ASG could benefit from having more pupils, but this should not be at the expense of GME.

Issue 4

Having more children in the Gàidhlig medium class in Dunvegan would make the class too big and noisy.

Dunvegan would be overcrowded with pupils from Edinbane, Knockbreck and Struan. These pupils should come to Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh,

Response 4

There is currently a single GM class at Dunvegan PS, with 13 pupils. This is well within normal class size limits, and there is no danger that the Proposal will make the GM class at Dunvegan too big.

The Council's Proposal largely formalises what has been happening in practice anyway, and the total pupil numbers at Edinbane, Knockbreck and Struan are very small, with the 3 schools between them currently having only 16 pupils in P1-7. Taking these factors into account, the Proposal is unlikely to have any significant effect on the roll at Dunvegan Primary.

Issue 5

Soay would be a very difficult place to get to Portree from.

Response 5

Currently there are no primary age children on the island of Soay. It would not be easy to travel regularly from Soay to any other school. If in the future there are any children resident on the island, Highland Council would make suitable arrangements for their education, which may involve granting them a place in the school hostel in Portree.

Issue 6

In some areas you would be closer to a different school than the one you are supposed to go to.

Response 6

It is not unusual for a community on the edge of a particular catchment to be closer to another school. Catchment areas tend to follow transport routes and historic boundaries, and they are also often delineated by reference to natural features. In drawing up the GM catchments, Highland Council has sought to make the boundaries coterminous with some of the existing English Medium (EM) catchment boundaries.

Issue 7

Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh, Dunvegan Primary and Bun-sgoil Shlèite all have very big catchments.

Response 7

The GM catchment area for Bun-sgoil Shlèite is identical to the EM catchment area for that school.

Under the proposal, the other two schools mentioned above will have catchment areas that overlay a number of English Medium catchments. In preparing its Proposal, Highland Council was mindful of the advice within the Statutory Guidance, which states that a catchment area for GME provision should be an area in which the education authority thinks it is reasonable for pupils wishing to receive GME to travel to school, and should have the potential to attract parents to choose GME for their children. In our view, the proposal represents the best balance between travel times and allowing as much access to GME as possible.

Paragraph 4.3 of the Proposal Paper issued for public consultation (Appendix 1) listed the distances and travel times from the six primary schools in Skye that do not offer GME, to the various schools that do. This information was taken into account when considering the proposed GM catchments.

Issue 8

People should have the choice of which school they want to go to. *[multiple responses]*

Response 8

This Proposal has arisen because of Statutory Guidance from Bòrd Na Gàidhlig, which requires local authorities to designate specific catchment areas for GME.

In common with other local authorities in Scotland, Highland Council places all of its communities within designated school catchments. Pupils enrol into the designated school for their home address, at both primary and secondary level. This system is necessary for the efficient planning of educational provision. If parents choose another school, then this must be by means of what we term a placing request. These are normally granted but can be refused where acceptance of the request would result in additional expenditure.

Issue 9

The Broadford catchment should be bigger.

Response 9

The English Medium catchment for Broadford PS abuts those of 5 other catchments; those of Kyleakin Primary, Bun-sgoil Shlèite, Elgol Primary, Carbost Primary and Portree Primary.

The Elgol catchment is already within the proposed GM catchment for Broadford Primary. Both Bun-sgoil Shlèite and Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh offer GME, so it would not be appropriate for the GM catchment for Broadford to encroach on these. Kyleakin Primary is within the Plockton ASG.

Carbost Primary is located 17.5 miles/28 minutes from Portree and 24.8 miles/37 minutes from Broadford [source: Google Maps]. Most children in the Carbost PS catchment live in communities close to the school. On balance Highland Council considers that the Carbost PS catchment should be within the GM catchment for Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh

Issue 10

The catchments for Bun-sgoil Stafainn and for Kilmuir Primary should be combined.

Response 10

Both these schools currently offer GME and should therefore retain their existing catchments. Highland Council has no plans to remove the provision of GME from either school.

Issue 11

Broadford Primary should not just get portacabins but get a new school like Portree.

Response 11

Highland Council is aware of the accommodation problems at Broadford Primary. The Council is currently reviewing its capital programme, one aspect of which is the need for investment at Broadford Primary School.

Issue 12

Elgol to Broadford is too far to travel and the road is very poor [*multiple responses*].

Carbost is too far away from Portree for children to travel to school [*several responses*]

Carbost PS is closer to Dunvegan than it is to Portree.

It's too far to travel from Edinbane, Knockbreck or Struan to Dunvegan. Pupils from these schools would not get to Dunvegan in time for their class.

Response 12

The current EM pupils from Elgol PS, Carbost PS and Edinbane PS were all unanimously in favour of the Council's Proposal. Whilst the EM pupils from Struan opposed the Proposal, they suggested GM pupils should instead travel to Portree, which is further away.

Carbost is marginally closer to Portree than it is to Dunvegan. Historically children from Carbost who wished to attend GME did so at Portree Primary School. Transport to Portree could also be shared with secondary school pupils.

Issue 13

Pupils from Macdiarmid Primary should not need to travel to Portree as there is already very good Gaelic provision at Macdiarmid.

Response 13

Gaelic is the second additional language (after French) delivered at Macdiarmid Primary as part of the 1 +2 language provision recommended by the Scottish Government. A number of the teaching and non-teaching staff at the school do have Gaelic language skills. However, the provision at Macdiarmid Primary does not represent GME. It will remain necessary for children in the Macdiarmid catchment to travel to Portree to access GME.

Issue 14

Raasay Primary School should get its own Gàidhlig Medium class *[multiple responses]*

Raasay Primary School could get a portacabin to allow a Gaelic class, just as Kilmuir Primary did.

Elgol Primary School should get its own Gàidhlig Medium class

Carbost Primary School should get its own Gàidhlig Medium class

Macdiarmid Primary School should get its own Gàidhlig Medium class

Knockbreck Primary School should get its own Gàidhlig Medium class

Struan Primary School should get its own Gàidhlig Medium class

Edinbane Primary School should get its own Gàidhlig Medium class.

Response 14

Under The Education (Scotland) Act 2016, parents of children under school age, and who have not yet started to attend a primary school, have a right to

request an assessment of the need for Gaelic Medium Primary Education (GMPE) from the education authority in whose area their child lives. When an education authority receives a parental request for GMPE, it must assess the need for GMPE. Following an initial assessment, the education authority must decide whether there is a potential need for GMPE in the assessment area or not. This is defined as demand for GMPE in relation to five or more children in the same pre-school year group.

Any parental demand for GMPE from parents in the above schools would therefore be assessed by Highland Council in accordance with the above procedure.

Issue 15

Children from Raasay should be allowed to go on the boat to get to Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh [*multiple responses*]

High School pupils already travel from Raasay to Portree on the boat. If primary school pupils wanted to travel to Portree for GME they could do so on the same boat, and some of the High School pupils could act as “buddies” for the younger children.

Response 15

As mentioned at Response 7, the Statutory Guidance states that a catchment area for GME provision should be an area in which the education authority thinks it is reasonable for pupils wishing to receive GME provision to travel to school, and should have the potential to attract parents to choose GME provision for their children. On balance, Highland Council does not feel that Raasay meets these criteria, largely due to its island status.

The Council is mindful that under its Proposal, Raasay Primary will be the only school catchment in the Portree ASG that is not allocated to a GM catchment. Should any parents wish their primary age children to travel to Portree to access GME, we would be willing to consider this on the basis that the children use existing transport to Portree High School. In this context, the “buddy” system suggested in public consultation and summarised at Issue 15, would be very worthwhile.

Issue 16

All Gàidhlig Medium pupils should go to the new school in Portree.

Response 16

This would require the closure of GME in the other 5 primary schools in Skye where it is currently offered. It would also require primary age pupils from locations like Sleat, or Glendale, to undertake long journeys to Portree to access GME. Highland Council does not therefore support this suggestion.

Issue 17

The Gàidhlig schools football competition would be unfair.

Response 17

Although Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh is much bigger than the other schools in Skye that offer Gàidhlig Medium, this is no change from the current situation, where Portree Primary has many more Gàidhlig Medium pupils than the other schools.

5.0 Summary of the issues raised by Education Scotland

- 5.1 In line with legislative requirements, Education Scotland was invited to submit comments on the Council's proposals. A copy of the report from Education Scotland is appended – **Appendix 4**. A Gàidhlig language version is at **Appendix 4a**.
- 5.2 In its report, Education Scotland concludes that the Council's proposal has potential benefits for strengthening Gaelic within the Portree ASG. Almost all stakeholders support the proposal as formalising arrangements that are already in place. Education Scotland commented however, that stakeholders have identified reasonable concerns that the Council should take forward in finalising its report. This should include more detailed illustrations of the precise nature of GME catchment areas. In the south of the island, a few pupils and parents were unclear of how the proposed catchment areas would impact on the secondary school that they would attend. Others sought clarity on how the proposal would impact on the arrangements for transport for GME provisions.
- 5.3 Education Scotland recommends that the Council's final consultation report needs to detail the educational benefits that will accrue from the proposal. These should assist in allaying parents' concerns that some GME provisions may be more attractive than others. Education Scotland add that it should be clear how the strategic leadership and curricula of all GME provisions referenced in the proposal paper will give due attention to securing high-quality outcomes for all pupils in GME. The council should continue to engage with the parents of Raasay Primary School in taking forward their interest in Gaelic. In its final report, the council should specify transition arrangements to include families who currently live outwith the proposed catchment area for the school which they are currently sending their children to and how they will guarantee places for any of their younger siblings.

6.0 Responses to the Issues Raised by Education Scotland

Issue 18

The Council's Proposal should include more detailed illustrations of the precise nature of GME catchment areas. In the south of the island, a few pupils and parents were unclear of how the proposed catchment areas would impact on the secondary school that they would attend.

Response 18

All of the school catchment maps in Highland can be found online at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y7u3thd4>

There is a "zoom" facility on the page which allows the viewer to pinpoint the position of individual houses in relation to catchment boundaries.

The proposed GM catchments are either identical to the existing EM catchments or overlay a number of existing EM catchments. Where the latter occurs, the GM catchments have been formed by amalgamating several EM catchment areas, but otherwise by following the same boundaries.

The Proposal will have no impact on the secondary schools that pupils currently attend.

Issue 19

There is a need for clarity on how the proposal would impact on the arrangements for transport to GME.

Response 19

Once the new GM catchments are set, the principle will be that transport for GM pupils is provided on the same basis as for EM pupils; that is, pupils will be given free transport to their catchment GM school. Where appropriate this will take the form of shared transport with High School pupils. Any pupil within a designated GM catchment will only receive school transport to their designated GM provision and not to any other.

The catchment area of Raasay PS is a special case, as under this Proposal it is not within any GM catchment area. Whilst there will be no entitlement for Raasay pupils to receive free transport to GME provision, any requests for such would be assessed in line with the procedure set out at Response 15

Issue 20

The Council's final consultation report needs to detail the educational benefits that will accrue from the proposal.

Response 20

The Proposal was advanced because Statutory Guidance on Gàidhlig Medium Education, issued by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on 1 February 2017, requires local authorities to create GM catchment areas. In this case, compliance with the Statutory Guidance is the primary motivation for the Proposal.

Nevertheless, the Proposal forms part of Highland Council's overall approach to the promotion of Gàidhlig medium education. Up to now, Highland Council's admission arrangements to GME have been informal and based on a "reasonable distance" (often applied as a 15 mile radius) from each school offering GME. In some locations these radii have overlapped, and the "15 mile" principle has not always been applied consistently. The creation of GM catchment areas, extended throughout Highland, will mean that admissions to GME will in future be more formal and robust.

The Proposal therefore helps to consolidate our existing provision of GME, and allows for the more efficient use of resources. It should be considered alongside other measures being undertaken to promote Gaelic, and the benefits of bilingualism.

The Education Scotland report comments that almost all consultees appreciate the potential clarity that designating catchment areas may bring.

Issue 21

It should be clear how the strategic leadership and curricula of all GME provisions referenced in the proposal paper will give due attention to securing high-quality outcomes for all pupils in GME

Response 21

The Council's Quality Improvement Team will be liaising with all our GME schools and working with Education Scotland to ensure high quality outcomes for GME pupils. We are currently preparing a Guidance Paper in order to support GME teaching in Highland, and the provision of good quality CPD will also be part of achieving this end.

Issue 22

The council should continue to engage with the parents of Raasay Primary School in taking forward their interest in Gaelic.

Response 22

This issue was raised in the public consultation and is addressed at paragraph 3.3 above. At the initial stage, discussions should be between the parents and the Head Teacher.

Issue 23

The council should specify transition arrangements to include families who currently live outwith the proposed catchment area for the school which they are currently sending their children to and how they will guarantee places for any of their younger siblings.

Response 23

There will be transitional arrangements for any parents who have children currently attending GME outwith the proposed GM catchment for their home address. Children in this position will continue to attend their current school and current transport arrangements will also continue.

Younger siblings of any such children will also be entitled to a place at the same school, and the same transport arrangements as their older sibling. These arrangements only apply in case where the older child is still attending the school in question at the time the younger sibling enrolls.

Issue 24

A few stakeholders in the locality of Struan felt that their catchment area should be that of Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh rather than the stated Dunvegan Primary School. This was to enable cluster work to be the same as that for English medium. Going forward, the council should ascertain if this would have impact for collaborative activity.

Response 24

As detailed at Response 1, Struan Primary is currently clustered with Carbost Primary, and neither of these schools offer GME. Pupils seeking GME would not therefore enrol at either school, and there would be no impact on collaborative activity.

7.0 Effects on the Community

7.1 The Proposal will not have any impact on the wider community.

8.0 Effects on School Transport

8.1 Travel arrangements are already in place for journeys to the designated GM schools, wherever there is demand. The proposals will clarify entitlement to this travel, and provision will be made according to normal criteria within these catchments.

9.0 Effects on Staff and School Management Arrangements

9.1 The proposal is not expected to have any impact on staff and school management arrangements.

10.0 Alleged omissions or inaccuracies

10.1 No alleged omissions or inaccuracies were identified during consultation.

11.0 Overall Review of Consultation Exercise

11.1 The consultation exercise has not identified any significant opposition to the Proposal. The 3 public meetings were poorly attended and, aside from the pupil responses, only two written representations were received. The consultation undertaken by Education Scotland did gather additional comments, but these were predominantly questions about how the Proposal would be implemented in detail. These issues are addressed in Section 6 above.

12.0 Legal issues

12.1 Throughout this statutory consultation Highland Council has complied in full with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

12.2 As provided for in section 1 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, it is the duty of the Council to ensure adequate and efficient provision of school education within Highland. The above, and all other legislative requirements, have been taken into account in the preparation of this Report.

13.0 Conclusion

13.1 The consultation process has complied fully with legislative requirements and has provided an opportunity for all parties to identify key issues of concern. These issues have been fully considered and the Council's response detailed in section 4 above.

13.2 Education Scotland staff visited the 6 primary schools in the ASG that offer GME to speak to parents, pupils and staff. They also had the opportunity to

review in detail the proposal document, all written responses, and the notes of the public meetings.

- 13.3 The Director of Care and Learning, on reviewing all of the submissions, the notes of the meetings, and the Education Scotland report; concludes that the Proposal and should be implemented. The reasons for this conclusion are set out above.

14.0 Recommendation

- 14.1 It is therefore recommended that Highland Council proceeds with the course of action set out at Paragraph 13.3 above.

Bill Alexander
Director of Care and Learning
5 February 2018