

<b>Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig airson Co-chomhairleachadh air Sgìre-sgoile airson Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig ann an Inbhir Theòrsa aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd</b>	<b>Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Response on the Highland Council Consultation on GME Catchment Area for Thurso</b>
<p><b>1. Ro-ràdh</b></p> <p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air an iomairt gus sgìre-sgoile a chur air bhonn airson Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig ann an sgìre Inbhir Theòrsa. Tha am Bòrd ag aithneachadh gu bheil Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' gluasad gu sgìrean-sgoile airson FtG a stèidheachadh air feadh sgìre na Comhairle.</p> <p>Tha Am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2018-23 agus an Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig mar bhunait airson na freagairt seo. San Stiùireadh Reachdail, far a bheil barrachd mìneachaidh air na ceumannan seo, 's e bunait na cùise gun bu chòir adhartas is fàs a bhith air Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig.</p>	<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes the initiative to establish a school catchment area for Gaelic Medium Education (GME) in the Thurso area. The Bòrd recognises that Highland Council is moving to the establishment of catchment areas where there is existing GME provision in the Council's area.</p> <p>The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education and the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 form the basis for the Bòrd's response to this consultation. The Statutory Guidance, where there is further detail on the steps involved, has as its basis that GME should develop and grow.</p>
<p><b>2. Fiosrachadh sa Cho-chomhairleachadh</b></p> <p>Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd ag ràdh gu bheil iad airson sgìre-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson nan adhbharan a leanas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tha an Stiùireadh Reachdail a' moladh gun tèid sin a chur air dòigh;</li> <li>• Tha mì-chinnt ann a thaobh sgìrean-sgoile airson FtG a tha a' ciallachadh nach eil pàrantan cinnteach am faigh iad FtG airson an cuid chloinne; agus</li> <li>• Tha cleachdadh aig a' Chomhairle gum bi iad a' lìbhrigeadh còmhhdail taobh a-staigh sgìre a tha reusanta agus gu h-àbhaisteach tha seo a' ciallachadh nas lugha de 15 mìltean airson 'turas gu sgoil'.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2. Consultation Information</b></p> <p>The Highland Council says they want to establish a catchment area for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Statutory Guidance recommends that one be developed;</li> <li>• There is lack of clarity for parents about the entitlement to GME for their children; and</li> <li>• The Council has used the practice of providing transport within a reasonable travelling distance and generally this has been understood to mean within 15 miles of the school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Moladh aig a' Chomhairle</b></p> <p><b>Solar làithreach agus Solar teachdail de dh'fhoghlam tron Ghàidhlig taobh a-staigh ASG Inbhir Theòrsa</b></p>	<p><b>3. Council Recommendation</b></p> <p><b>Current and Planned Provision of Gàidhlig Medium Education within the Thurso ASG</b></p>

<p>Chan eil FtG ri fhaighinn an-dràsta ann an Àrd-sgoil Inbhir Theòrsa. Ri linn sin, tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd an dùil FtG a thòiseachadh aig Àrd-sgoil Inbhir Theòrsa san Lùnastal 2020, gus freagairt air a' chiad sgoilearan bho Bhun-sgoil Mount Pleasant a' tòiseachadh AS1.</p> <p>Tha 7 bun-sgoiltean taobh a-staigh an ASG. 'S e Bun-sgoil Mount Pleasant an aon tè a tha a' tabhann FtG aig an ìre seo.</p> <p>Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' moladh gun tèid sgìre-sgoile FtG a stèidheachadh airson Bun-sgoil Mount Pleasant a thig tharais air sgìrean-sgoile airson sgoiltean Beurla: Bun-sgoiltean Bhaile a' Chaisteil, Crossroads, Hàcraig, Acadamaidh Mhic a' Mhuilleir r, nam Peighinnean agus Mheadhradh, ach le cuingealachadh air siubhal.</p> <p>Tha am pàipear a' mìneachadh nan àmannaan siubhail agus nam mìltean eadar gach sgoil agus Bun-sgoil Mount Pleasant aig 6.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bun-sgoil Bhaile a' Chaisteil – Bun-sgoil Mount Pleasant - 5 mìle, àm-siubhail 8 mionaidean.</li> <li>• Bun-sgoil Crossroads – Bun-sgoil Mount Pleasant - 10.2 mìle, àm-siubhail 14 mionaidean.</li> <li>• Bun-sgoil Hàcraig – Bun-sgoil Mount Pleasant - 7.5 mìle, àm-siubhail 13 mionaidean.</li> <li>• Bun-sgoil Acadamaidh Mhic a' Mhuilleir – Bun-sgoil Mount Pleasant - 0.8 mìle, àm-siubhail 3 mionaidean.</li> <li>• Bun-sgoil nam Peighinnean – Bun-sgoil Mount Pleasant - 1.3 mìle, àm-siubhail 4 mionaidean.</li> <li>• Bun-sgoil Hàcraig – Bun-sgoil Mount Pleasant - 11.2 mìle, àm-siubhail 18 mionaidean.</li> </ul> <p>Aig 6.7 tha a' Chomhairle ag ràdh gum feum clann sam bith bho na sgìrean-sgoile aig Baile a' Chaisteil, Crossroads, Hàcraig agus Meadhradh a dhol air a' bhus a tha ann airson sgoilearan na h-àrd-sgoile.</p> <p>6.7 Mar sin, tha a' chomhairle a' moladh gun</p>	<p>GME is currently not offered within Thurso High School. However, Highland Council proposes to introduce GME at Thurso High in August 2020, to coincide with the first Gàidhlig Medium pupils from Mount Pleasant Primary entering S1.</p> <p>There are 7 primary schools within the ASG. Mount Pleasant Primary is the only one to offer GME at the primary stage.</p> <p>The Highland Council recommends that a GMC district be established for Mount Pleasant Primary which will overlay the English Medium catchments of: Castletown, Crossroads, Halkirk, Miller Academy, Pennyland and Reay primaries, but with restrictions on transport.</p> <p>The consultation paper lists the time and distance between each school and Thurso Primary School at 6.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castletown Primary – Mount Pleasant Primary – 5 miles, 8 minutes travel time.</li> <li>• Crossroads Primary – Mount Pleasant Primary – 10.2 miles, 14 minutes travel time.</li> <li>• Halkirk Primary – Mount Pleasant Primary – 7.5 miles, 13 minutes travel time.</li> <li>• Miller Academy Primary – Mount Pleasant Primary – 0.8 miles, 3 minutes travel time.</li> <li>• Pennyland Primary - Mount Pleasant Primary – 1.3 miles, 4 minutes travel time.</li> <li>• Reay Primary - Mount Pleasant Primary – 11.2 miles, 18 minutes travel time.</li> </ul> <p>At 6.7, the Council clearly states that children from catchment areas of Castletown, Crossroads, Halkirk and Reay must use existing transport which is provided for Thurso High school pupils.</p> <p><i>6.7 The Council therefore proposes that the provision of school transport from the</i></p>
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<p>tèid còmh-dhail sgoile a thoirt seachad bho sgìrean-sgoile Bhaile a' Chaisteil, Crossroads, Hàcraig agus Meadh-rath gu Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig ann am Bun-sgoil Mount Pleasant, a' cleachdadh còmh-dhail sgoile a th' ann gu Àrd-sgoil Inbhir Theòrsa mar-thà. Mar as àbhaist, cha tèid còmh-dhail shònraichte tro thagsaidh no minibus a thoirt seachad.</p>	<p><i>catchment areas of Castletown, Crossroads, Halkirk, and Reay primary schools to GME at Mount Pleasant Primary will be on the basis of utilising the existing transport for Thurso High School. Dedicated transport by taxi or minibus will not normally be provided.</i></p>
<p><b>4. Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig</b></p> <p>Tha moladh san Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig gun tèid sgìrean-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson sgoiltean far a bheil foghlam tron Ghàidhlig (FtG) (Earrainnean 2.53 is 2.54).</p> <p><b>Sgìrean-sgoile FtG is Stiùireadh airson Àiteachan a Ghleidheadh do Sgoilearan</b></p> <p>Bu chòir do dh'ùghdarrasan foghlaim sgìrean-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson FtG, agus dh'fhaodadh gum bi iad ag iarraidh beachdachadh air an iarrtas a th' ann airson FtG nuair a tha iad a' stèidheachadh stiùireadh airson nan àiteachan a thèid a ghleidheadh do sgoilearan ann am FtG.</p> <p><b>Tha 2.54 ag ainmeachadh:</b></p> <p>Bu chòir do sgìre-sgoile airson sgoile le FtG a bhith na sgìre far a bheil an t-ùghdarras foghlaim den bheachd gu bheil e reusanta do chloinn san sgìre sin, a tha airson a dhol gu FtG, siubhal don sgoil, agus bu chòir san sgìre sin gum bi cothrom ann pàrantan a thàladh gu bhith cur an cuid chloinne gu FtG.</p> <p>Mar sin, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air a' mholadh gun tèid Sgìre-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson Bun-sgoil Mount Pleasant far a bheil FtG ri fhaighinn. Tha an t-ùghdarras foghlaim air beachdachadh air an dà chuid astar agus dòigh siubhal reusanta do sgoilearan agus pàrantan.</p>	<p><b>4. Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education</b></p> <p>The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education recommends that catchment areas are established for schools where Gaelic-medium education (GME) is provided (Section 2.53 &amp; 2.54).</p> <p><b>GME Catchment Areas and Placing Guidelines</b></p> <p>Education authorities should establish catchment areas for GME provision and may wish to consider demand for GME when setting guidelines for placing pupils in GME provision.</p> <p><b>2.54 states:</b></p> <p>A catchment area of 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.</p> <p>Therefore, Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes the recommendation that a catchment area will be established for Mount Pleasant Primary School where there is GME provision. The education authority has considered both reasonable travel distance &amp; arrangements for pupils and parents.</p>
<p><b>5. Am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2018-23</b></p> <p>'S e fear de na trì prìomhachasan sa Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2018-23 gun tèid fàs</p>	<p><b>5. The National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23</b></p> <p>One of the three priorities within National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 is to increase the</p>

a thoirt air ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig agus tha FtG air a chomharrachadh mar chuspair airson fàs. Ann am beachd a' Bhùird, cuiridh am moladh aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd ri cothroman gus FtG fhaighinn no fàs ann am FtG.

Tha am Bòrd cuideachd a' cur fàilte air a mholadh bho Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd gu bheil iad an dùil FtG a' stèidheachadh ann an Àrd-sgoil Inbhir Theòrsa bho Lùnastal 2020. Nì seo cinnteach gu bheil leantainneach ann am FtG ri fhaighinn san sgìre.

learning of Gaelic and GME is highlighted as an area for growth. In the Bòrd's view the proposed catchment area for Thurso Primary School will support the availability and growth of GME.

The Bòrd also welcomes the proposal from Highland Council that GME will be available in Thurso High School from August 2020. This will ensure that continuity of GME is available in the area.