



Bòrd na Gàidhlig response to the proposal for the new Tain campus (Education, Children and Adult Services Committee 28 August 2014) to discontinue education provision at the following campuses – Tain Craighill Primary School, Tain Knockbreck Primary School and St Duthus Special School and to relocate provision to a new 3 to 18 campus to be established on the site of the existing Tain Royal Academy.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Gaelic is an essential part of Scottish identity, and providing future stability for the language in Scotland is a dedicated policy aim of the Scottish Government. Remarkable progress has been achieved in recent years towards enhancing the status of Gaelic, increasing the provision of education through Gaelic and extending access to the language through a dedicated Gaelic digital television service and through the Gaelic Language Plans of Public Authorities. The 2011 Census figures demonstrate that these initiatives have had the impact of almost halting the decline in the numbers of Gaelic speakers in Scotland after over a century of decline since 1891. This platform should now provide the springboard from which the aim of growing Gaelic in Scotland can be secured.
- 1.2 A key milestone was attained in Gaelic development when the Scottish Parliament approved the Gaelic Language Act (Scotland) 2005 (the Act). The Act established Bòrd na Gàidhlig (the “Bòrd”) as a statutory organisation with responsibility for securing the status of Gaelic as an official language in Scotland, commanding equal respect to English. The Bòrd has specific statutory responsibilities in relation to promoting Gaelic, and to providing advice to Ministers and public organisations about matters concerning Gaelic language, culture and education. The Bòrd has to execute these responsibilities towards increasing the number of Gaelic speakers, extending access and encouraging awareness of Gaelic and offering more opportunities to people involved with Gaelic matters.
- 1.3 The Act placed a duty on the Bòrd to produce a *National Plan for Gaelic* and to implement successfully the priorities identified in the National Plan. It also remitted the Bòrd to require Public Authorities in Scotland to produce Gaelic Language Plans within a framework set out in the Act. There are currently 60 organisations in Scotland either implementing Plans or preparing one.
- 1.4 The Schools Act (Consultation) (Scotland) 2010 has placed an extra duty on Bòrd na Gàidhlig as statutory consultant, with regard to recommendations which have an impact on the provision of education through Gaelic.

2. National Gaelic Education Strategy

2.1 The National Gaelic Education Strategy is an essential part of the National Plan for Gaelic. It recognises how crucial education is in the development of Gaelic. In particular, it details several priority areas where progress has to be made. These include:

- an increase in Gaelic Medium Education (GME) at pre-school, primary school and secondary school levels;
- an increase in Gaelic learners' provision within the primary school, secondary school and adult education sectors;
- an increase in childcare resources in Gaelic.

3. Response to the proposal for the development of a new Tain campus (Education, Children and Adult Services Committee 28 August 2014) and to discontinue education provision at the following campuses – Tain Craighill Primary School, Tain Knockbreck Primary School and St Duthus Special School and to relocate provision to a new 3 to 18 campus to be established on the site of the existing Tain Royal Academy.

3.1 Bòrd na Gàidhlig supports the proposal to build a new 3-18 Tain campus which will include current provision at Tain Craighill Primary School, Tain Knockbreck Primary School, St Duthus Special School and Tain Royal Academy.

3.2 Continuing Gaelic provision in the proposed new build will raise the profile of the Gaelic provision and make it attractive to potential new parents. The benefits of bilingualism are widely documented and research shows that children in Gaelic-medium education out-perform or do as well as children in English-medium education (Gaelic-medium Education in Scotland: choice and attainment at the primary and early secondary school stages, Edinburgh University). Providing the opportunity for more children to access the benefits of bilingualism and Gaelic-medium education can only be a positive development. The amalgamation of all schools in Tain opens opportunities of Gaelic-medium education, to families who had not previously considered Gaelic-medium education for their children, as a result of living outwith the Tain Craighill Primary School catchment area.

3.3 The development should ensure that there is adequate provision for expansion of Gaelic-medium education across all sectors and that Gaelic-medium provision is not calculated on current numbers of children accessing Gaelic-medium education. The National Gaelic Language Plan 2012-17 outlines the national aspiration of doubling the number of children enrolled in P1 Gaelic-medium education by 2017. Since 2012 there has been an national increase of circa 40% in the numbers enrolled in Gaelic-medium P1 and this trend sets to continue. In 2013 the number of children enrolled in Tain Craighill Primary GME was 2. This has increased to 9 in 2014. Bòrd na Gàidhlig with agreement from Highland Council has undertaken to raise the profile of Gaelic-medium education in the area through local advertisement

and promotion. At present there are around 50 children accessing 0-3 the Gaelic activities in the Tain area.

- 3.4 On establishing a 3-18 provision advantage should be taken of the opportunities to develop broader Gaelic provision as part of the 1+2 languages initiative i.e. Gaelic Medium Education (GME); Gaelic Learner Education (GLE); and the promotion of Learning about Gaelic Language and Culture (LAGC) as part of Scotland's identity. A provision where Gaelic and English languages are given equal respect can have a positive impact on the whole campus and provide an enriching experience for all who access the new campus. Including Gaelic visually across the whole campus creates a context for the learning and can enable those who access the campus to understand the place of Gaelic within the campus community and the wider Tain community. Pupils being educated in non-Gaelic-medium classes should equally have access to Gaelic language as an additional language from early years through to primary school and secondary school. Children currently attending St Duthus Special School will have the opportunity of accessing Gaelic learning and learning about and experiencing Gaelic language and culture.
- 3.5 The recruitment of Gaelic-medium staff is an on-going challenge. Establishing a sizeable Gaelic-medium provision can make it attractive to staff in terms of collegiality and career long professional learning. There will be opportunities for closer transition working between early years, primary and secondary staff to develop Gaelic education in the proposed campus and these should be realised. The development of a new modern state of the art building will also open opportunities for the campus to take advantage of the national Gaelic virtual school currently being scoped.
- 3.6 Bòrd na Gàidhlig will continue working with and supporting Highland Council in Gaelic-medium education development and in promoting an awareness of Gaelic education across all sectors.

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Bòrd na Gàidhlig

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Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig a thaobh a' mholaidh airson àrainn foghlaim ùir ann am Baile Dhubhthaich (Comataidh nan Seirbheisean Foghlaim, Cloinne is airson Inbhich 28 Lùnastal 2014), a dheigheadh an àite nan goireasan foghlaim sna h-àiteachan a leanas – Bun-sgoil Chnoc na Creige ann am Baile Dhubhthaich, Bun-sgoil a' Chnuic Bhric ann am Baile Dhubhthaich agus Sgoil Shònraichte an Naoimh Dubhthach agus gus sgoilearan bho na sgoiltean sin a ghluasad gu goireas ùr airson clann aois 3-18 a thèid a stèidheachadh far a bheil Acadamaidh Rìoghail Baile Dhubhthaich.

1. Ro-ràdh

- 1.1 Tha a' Ghàidhlig na pàirt bunaiteach de dhùthchas na h-Alba, agus tha e na amas fa leth am measg phoileasaidhean Riaghaltas na h-Alba gun tèid cor na Gàidhlig a ghleidheadh air stèidh sheasmhach is tèarainte ann an Alba. Rinneadh adhartas iongantach o chionn beagan bhliadhnaichean ann a bhith ag àrdachadh inbhe na Gàidhlig, a' meudachadh foghlam tron Ghàidhlig agus a' leudachadh nan cothroman air a' chànan tro sheirbheis telebhisein dhidseatach Ghàidhlig, agus tro na Planaichean Gàidhlig aig Ùghdarrasan Poblach. Tha na h-àireamhan bho Chunntas-sluaigh 2011 a' sealltainn gu bheil na h-oidhirpean sin air cuideachadh le bhith cur stad cha mhòr air a' chrìonadh ann an àireamh luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a tha air a bhith leantainn airson còrr is ceud bliadhna bho 1891. Bu chòir an soirbheachadh sin a bhith na bhun-stèidh a-nis air am faodar togail agus sinn ag iarraidh Gàidhlig a chur am feabhas ann an Alba.
- 2 Ràinig sinn clach-mhìle chudromach a thaobh adhartachadh na Gàidhlig nuair a dh'aontaich Pàrlamaid na h-Alba ri Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005. Stèidhich Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005 Bòrd na Gàidhlig (am "Bòrd") mar bhuidhinn reachdail ris a bheil e an urra inbhe na Gàidhlig a dhèanamh tèarainte mar chànan oifigeil ann an Alba, a bhios a' dleasadh na h-aon spèis agus a th' ann don Bheurla. Tha dleastanasan reachdail sònraichte aig a' Bhòrd gus Gàidhlig a chur air adhart, agus comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan is buidhnean poblach mu chùisean co-cheangailte ri cànan, cultar is foghlam na Gàidhlig. Bidh am Bòrd a' coileanadh nan dleastanasan sin leis an amas àireamh luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a mheudachadh, na cothroman a th' ann air a' Ghàidhlig agus am mothachadh a th' ann don chànan a chur am meud, agus barrachd chothroman a thoirt do dhaoine an lùib chùisean Gàidhlig.
- 3 Dh'fhàg Achd na Gàidhlig 2005 uallach air a' Bhòrd gus *Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig* a dhealbhadh agus gus prìomhachasan a' Phlana Nàiseanta a chur an gnìomh. Cuideachd, dh'fhàg e uallach air a' Bhòrd gus iarraidh air Ùghdarrasan Poblach ann an Alba Planaichean Gàidhlig ullachadh fo chumhachan a chaidh a chur an cèill san Achd. Tha 60 buidheann ann an Alba an-dràsta a tha an dàrna cuid a' cur Plana an gnìomh no ag ullachadh Plana.
- 4 Tha Achd nan Sgoiltean (Co-chomhairle) (Alba) 2010 air uallach a bharrachd fhàgail air Bòrd na Gàidhlig mar bhuidhinn-chomhairleachaidh reachdail, a thaobh mholaidhean a bheireadh buaidh air foghlam tron Ghàidhlig.

2. Ro-innleachd Nàiseanta airson Foghlaim Ghàidhlig

2.1 Tha an Ro-innleachd Nàiseanta airson Foghlaim Ghàidhlig na pàirt ro chudromach den Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig. Tha e a' cur an cèill cho cudromach agus a tha foghlam do dh'adhartachadh na Gàidhlig. Tha e a' toirt iomradh sònraichte air grunn raointean air a bheil prìomhachas far am feumar adhartas a dhèanamh. Nam measg tha:

- leudachadh air Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig (FtG) aig ìre ro-sgoile, bun-sgoile agus àrd-sgoile;
- leudachadh air foghlam luchd-ionnsachaidh ann am bun-sgoiltean, àrd-sgoiltean agus ann am foghlam do dh'inbich;
- leudachadh air goireasan cùram-chloinne Gàidhlig.

3. Freagairt don mholadh gus àrainn foghlaim ùir a stèidheachadh ann am Baile Dhubhthaich (Comataidh nan Seirbheisean Foghlaim, Cloinne is airson Inbich 28 Lùnastal 2014) agus gus solar foghlaim a stad sna sgoiltean a leanas – Bun-sgoil Chnoc na Creige ann am Baile Dhubhthaich, Bun-sgoil a' Chnuic Bhric ann am Baile Dhubhthaich agus Sgoil Shònraichte an Naoimh Dubhthach agus gus sgoilearan bho na sgoiltean sin a ghluasad gu goireas ùr airson clann aois 3-18 a thèid a stèidheachadh far a bheil Acadamaidh Rìoghail Baile Dhubhthaich.

3.1 Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur taic ris a' mholadh àrainn foghlaim ùir a thogail airson clann aois 3-18 ann am Baile Dhubhthaich a bhios a' frithealadh air sgoilearan a tha an-dràsta ann am Bun-sgoil Chnoc na Creige ann am Baile Dhubhthaich, Bun-sgoil a' Chnuic Bhric ann am Baile Dhubhthaich, Sgoil Shònraichte an Naoimh Dubhthach agus Acadamaidh Rìoghail Baile Dhubhthaich.

3.2 Le bhith cumail a' dol le foghlam Gàidhlig san àrainn ùir a thathar a' moladh, thèid ìomhaigh foghlam na Gàidhlig a thogail agus bidh e tarraingeach do phàrantan, a tha a' smaoinichadh air foghlam Gàidhlig 's dòcha, gu bheil e stèidhichte an sin. Tha fianais gu leòr ann air na buannachdan a gheibhear bho dà-chànanas, agus tha rannsachadh a' sealltainn gum bi clann ann am foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a' dèanamh nas fheàrr, no a cheart cho math, ri clann ann am foghlam tron Bheurla (*Foghlam Tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an Alba: Roghainn agus Buileachadh sa Bhun-sgoil agus Tràth san Àrd-sgoil*, Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann). 'S cinnteach gur e adhartas a th' ann ma tha cothrom gu bhith aig barrachd chloinne air foghlam tron Ghàidhlig. Ma thèid na sgoiltean ann am Baile Dhubhthaich a chur còmhla, tha sin a' dol a chruthachadh barrachd chothroman a thaobh foghlam tron Ghàidhlig do theaghlaichean nach robh air beachdachadh ron seo air foghlam tron Ghàidhlig airson an cuid chloinne, seach nach eil iad a' fuireach san sgìre air a bheil Bun-sgoil Chnoc na Creige a' frithealadh.

3.3 Bu chòir dèanamh cinnteach leis a' ghoireas ùr gu bheil àite gu leòr ann gus an gabh foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a leudachadh aig gach ìre agus nach bithear ag obrachadh a-mach dè na goireasan a tha dhìth air foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a rèir na h-àireimh chloinne a tha ann am foghlam tron Ghàidhlig an-dràsta. Tha am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2012-17 a' cur amas nàiseanta an cèill gus an àireamh de chloinn ann an P1 ann am foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a dhùblachadh ro 2017. Bho 2012 tha an àireamh de chloinn clàraichte ann am foghlam tron Ghàidhlig airson P1 gu nàiseanta air a dhol an àirde 40% agus tha coltas ann gu bheil an gluasad sin a' dol a leantainn. Ann an 2013 bha 2 dhuine cloinne clàraichte ann am FtG ann am Bun-sgoil Chnoc na Creige ann am Baile Dhubhthaich. Chaidh sin an àirde gu 9 ann am 2014. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air aontachadh le Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd iomairt a chur air dòigh san sgìre gus ìomhaigh foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a thogail tro shanasachd is le bhith ga bhrosnachadh am measg

dhaoine. An-dràsta, tha mu 50 duine cloinne a' dol an sàs ann an tachartasan Gàidhlig airson aoisean 0-3 ann an sgìre Bhaile Dhubhthaich.

- 3.4 Nuair a thèid an goireas ùr airson clann 3-18 a chur air bhonn, bu chòir brath a ghabhail air na cothroman a bhios ann gus tuilleadh Gàidhlig a theagasg mar phàirt den iomairt, 1+2 chànan. Mar eisimpleir, Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig (FtG); Foghlam Luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig (FLG); agus a' cur air adhart Ag Ionnsachadh mu Chànan is Cultar na Gàidhlig (ICCG) mar phàirt de dhearbha-aithne na h-Alba. Ma tha àrainneachd foghlaim ann far a bheil spèis cho-ionann ga nochdadh don Ghàidhlig agus a' Bheurla, dh'fhaodadh sin cur ris an àrainn foghlaim san fharsaingeachd agus faodaidh e a bhith gu buannachd a h-uile neach a tha dèanamh feum dheth no a' tadhal air an àrainn ùir. Ma thèid Gàidhlig a shealltainn air feadh an ionaid ùir, cruthaichidh sin co-theacsa don fheadhainn a tha ga h-ionnsachadh agus seallaidh e do na daoine a bhios san àrainn, agus do mhuinntir Bhaile Dhubhthaich san fharsaingeachd, dè an t-àite a th' aig a' Ghàidhlig nam measg agus sa choimhearsnachd. Bu chòir cothrom a bhith aig clann ann an clasaichean Beurla air a' Ghàidhlig mar chànan a bharrachd bho na tràth-bhliadhnaichean gu ìre na bun-sgoile agus na h-àrd-sgoile. Bidh cothrom aig clann a tha ann an Sgoil Shònraichte an Naoimh Dubhthach Gàidhlig ionnsachadh agus ionnsachadh mu chànan is cultar na Gàidhlig.
- 3.5 'S e dùbhlán a th' ann fhathast gu leòr luchd-teagaisg Gàidhlig a thrusadh. Ma thèid barrachd solair airson foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a stèidheachadh, dh'fhaodadh sin cuideachadh le bhith dèanamh dreuchd teagaisg Gàidhlig nas tarraingiche, seach gum bi barrachd cho-obraichean ann agus bidh barrachd cothroman ann airson ionnsachadh Proifeiseanta Fad-beatha Dreuchdail. Bidh barrachd cothroman san ionad ùr do luchd-obrach aig ìre nan tràth-bhliadhnaichean, na bun-sgoile agus na h-àrd-sgoile obair còmhla a thaobh nuair a bhios clann a' gluasad bho aon ìre gu ìre eile, agus gus dèanamh cinnteach gu lean iad bho ìre gu ìre, feuch an tèid foghlam Gàidhlig am meud agus bu chòir na cothroman sin a ghabhail. Cuideachd, ma thèid togalach ùr, goireasach a thogail, bidh cothroman san ionad ùr pàirt a ghabhail san sgoil nàiseanta Gàidhlig 'air-loidhne' air a bheilear a' beachdachadh an-dràsta.
- 3.6 Cumaidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig orra ag obair còmhla ri agus a' toirt taic do Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd gus foghlam tron Ghàidhlig a thoirt air adhart agus gus aire dhaoine a tharraing gu foghlam tron Ghàidhlig aig gach ìre.

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