Agenda Item	12.
Report	PEO
No	48/17

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Comn	nittee:	People Committee
Date:		6 December 2017
Repo	rt Title:	Gaelic Medium Education
Repo	rt By:	Director of Care and Learning
1.		Purpose/Executive Summary
1.1	The purpose of this report is to set out the strategic context for Gaelic Medium Education. It seeks to establish the context for future reports regarding operational delivery.	
2.		Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is invited	to scrutinise and discuss the report.

3. Background to Gaelic Medium Education

- 3.1 In 1992 The Council of Europe adoped The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to help protect and promote Europe's lesser-used indigenous languages. Whilst the aims of The Charter are varied, it looks to ensure that minority languages are used in education. The UK Government signed The Charter in 2000, and ratified this in 2001 in respect of Gaelic and Scots.
- Over a number of years, other legislation associated with Gaelic Medium Education (GME) has followed; such as **The Gaelic Language (Scotland Act) 2005, Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010, Children and Young People (Scotland Act) 2015** and more recently **The Education (Scotland) Act 2016, (part 2)** which has culminated in the publication of **Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Medium Education.**
- 3.3 The Highland Council has a commitment to give equal respect for Gaelic and English, on the basis that Gaelic is an essential part of Highland life.
- 3.4 The Highland Council recognises the educational, artistic, cultural, social and economic importance of Gaelic in underpinning our place in the modern world and its value to our future, in addition to the significant and positive contribution it has had on our past.
- 3.5 The Highland Council supports Gaelic Education through:
 - Gaelic Medium Education (GME/Gàidhlig)
 - Gaelic in the Home, Early Learning and Childcare
 - Gaelic Learner Education (GLE/Gaelic) and the 1+2 Language Learning Approach
 - Gaelic in the Community and Adult Education
- 3.6 The Gaelic Language Plan 3 sets out clear objectives for Gaelic Medium Education and Gaelic for Learners, namely to
 - increase the percentage of pupils in GME from potential enrolment figures at key transition points.
 - increase the percentage of pupils undertaking Gaelic through the Primary Language Learning programme, based on the 1+2 Language Learning Approach and subsequently through secondary Gaelic Learner Education across the Highland Council area.
 - create a Gaelic Education transitions strategy for retaining children in 0-3 / childcare to nursery, nursery to primary, primary to secondary 1, and the broad general education to senior phase.
 - develop a curriculum and workforce plan for the delivery of Gaelic Education at all levels (0–3, nursery, primary and secondary) including clear signposting to www.teagasg.com and early years recruitment via The Highland Council website.
 - undertake a Highland-wide survey of existing Gaelic Education staff to identify career-long professional learning needs, particularly in relation to Gaelic language skills, and develop a programme of training and support.
 - ensure that Gaelic Education is considered as part of the school estate capital development, whenever possible.
- 3.7 At the early stage of learning, (Primary 1 to Primary 3) through the medium of Gaelic, and where no other language is used, this is referred to as *total immersion*. When teachers are confident the children have a secure base in Gaelic language, after starting primary 4, English is introduced as a discrete area of the curriculum. The skills

learnt in the early stages can be transferred to the learning required to acquire English. However, Gaelic remains the predominant language of the classroom in all areas of the curriculum. This ensures that the 'immersion' experience continues until the end of primary school.

- 3.8 The Education, Children and Adult Services Committee was previously presented with research to show the positive impacts of bilingualism on outcomes for people throughout life:
 - 1) Social advantages:
 - access to two (or more) cultures
 - more tolerance towards/interest in other cultures
 - be more employable in a range of settings
 - 2) Linguistic advantages:
 - early awareness of sounds, words, sentences
 - enhanced language learning abilities
 - earlier reading skills
 - 3) Cognitive advantages:
 - mental flexibility and adaptibility in many different situations
- 3.9 Research underaken with regard to attainment showed that most pupils in GME, who are not exposed to English in the classroom until at least Primary 3, catch up with and overtake English Medium Education (EME) pupils in their command of English. In Science and Maths, the attainment of Primary GME and EME pupils was broadly equal when GME pupils were compared with EME pupils of similar socio-economic status. Thus, GME pupils' attainment in other areas of the curriculum does not seem to be affected by their learning subjects through the medium of Gaelic.
- 3.10 Through Gaelic Medium education, young people develop fluency in Gaelic, and this approach is recognised as the best way of achieving a sustainable future for the language. In the course of engaging with learning in this manner, children augment the benefits of bilingualism. Bilingual children function in more than one language in their daily lives.
- 3.11 Many studies have found that child additional language learners can also benefit from the cognitive advantages of bilingualism, along with social and linguistic advantages. It is recognised that exposure to another language in the primary school years is more likely to lead to active bilingualism than in late adolescent/adult years, so the best 'window of opportunity' for becoming fully bilingual is early childhood.
- 3.12 Bilingual children understand at an earlier age that other people may have a different perspective from their own, so they have awareness of other people's point of view. This advantage comes from children's constant experience of choosing a language on the basis of the person they talk to. People who grow up with more than one language can have a range of mental benefits that make them better at learning and more effective at dealing with complex situations.

4. Gaelic Medium Education

4.1 To protect the future of Scottish Gaelic and support its growth and development, GME was formally launched in the 1980s. Central Primary in Inverness was the first GME setting providing Gaelic immersion, where children absorb the language through pupil

- learning experiences.
- 4.2 The model has been widely adopted nationally, and Highland remains the largest provider of GME in Scotland.
- 4.3 Bord na Gàidhlig statistics show The Highland Council supporting Government targets through:
 - 42% of children in Scotland's Gaelic Age 0-3 Provision
 - 30% of Scotland's Gaelic Medium Education (GME) nursery children
 - 28% of Scotland's Gaelic Medium Education (GME) primary school pupils
 - 30% of Scotland's Gaelic Medium Education (GME) secondary pupils (studying Gàidhlig or subjects through the medium of Gaelic)
 - 57% of Scotland's Gaelic Learner Education (GLE) secondary pupils

4.4 **Gaelic Medium Nursery**

4.4.1 The Highland Council presently offers GME through 16 Early Years and Childcare settings providing for 230 pupils. Additionally, there are 3 commissioned (private provider) Gaelic playgroups providing for 34 pupils

Pupils in Public Funded Nurseries / Commissioned Playgroups – Pupil numbers as at start of Academic Year		
Year	2015/16	2016/17
Highland Council Total	4,152	4,212
Gaelic Medium Pupils	256	264
% Gaelic Medium Pupils	6.17%	6.27%

School/Commissioned Playgroup	Total
Acharacle Primary	5
Broadford Primary	11
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis	58
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar	18
Bun-Sgoil Shleite	11
Craighill Primary, Tain	13
Dunvegan Primary	9
Gairloch Primary	4
Kilmuir Primary	9
Mallaig Primary	8
Mount Pleasant Primary, Thurso	16
Newtonmore Primary	4
Plockton Primary	3
Portree Primary	32
Staffin Primary	8
Ullapool Primary	21
Croileagan Inbhir Pheofharain	22
Croileagan Inbhir Narann	12
Total	264

4.5 **Gaelic Medium Primary**

- 4.5.1 There are two stand-alone Gaelic Medium Primary Schools, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar and Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis. In addition, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh will open early in 2018.
- 4.5.2 There are two Gaelic Medium Designated Schools, where the majority of pupils are educated through the medium of Gaelic and have an English medium department, Bun-sgoil Shleite and Bun-sgoil Stafainn (Sleat and Staffin Primary Schools).
- 4.5.3 In a further 15 Primary Schools, 896 pupils are educated within a Gaelic Medium Department.

Pupils in Highland Council Publicly Funded Primary Schools		
Year	2015/16	2016/17
Highland Council Total	17,263	17,381
Gaelic Medium Pupils	881	896
% Gaelic Medium Pupils	5.10%	5.16%
GLPS	2,123	A review is currently being undertaken.
0/ CLDS	12 200/	
% GLPS	12.30%	N/A – see above

4.6 Gaelic Medium Secondary

4.6.1 There are 12 Secondary schools teaching Gàidhlig to 343 fluent pupils (pupils who have completed Primary education through Gaelic Medium). Nine of these schools also teach subjects through the medium of Gaelic to 265 pupils. Subjects include History, Geography, Mathematics, Science, Modern Studies, Home Economics, Personal and Social Education and Religious and Moral Education. Most of these are taught to Broad General Education Level (Secondary 1-3) with some to Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Level 4 and above.

Pupils in Highland Council Publicly Funded Secondary Schools		
Year	2015/2016	2016/2017
Highland Council Total	13,390	13,337
Fluent Gaelic	328	343
% Fluent Gaelic	2.45%	2.57%
Gaelic Medium Subjects	255	265
% Gaelic Medium Subjects	1.90%	1.99%
Gaelic Learners	1,474	1,829
% Gaelic Learners	11.01%	13.71%

Secondary School	Subjects - please note that subjects are not available to all year groups
Ardnamurchan	Geography, History, Modern Studies, RME
Dingwall	Geography, History, Modern Studies
Farr	RME

Inverness Royal Academy	Geography, History, Modern Studies, Science, PSE, RME
Lochaber	History
Mallaig	PSE
Plockton	Media
Portree	Geography, History, Modern Studies, Maths, Science, Home Economics, PSE, Drama
Tain	Home Economics

- 4.6.2 In the Senior Phase of secondary school, pupils are able to sit a National Qualification, through the SQA in Gàidhlig (fluent) and Gaelic (learners) at National 3, National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher.
- 4.6.3 SQA also makes a number of National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher examinations available through the medium of Gaelic Geography (Cruinn-eolas); History (Eachdraigh); Mathematics (Matamataig); Lifeskills Mathematics (Matamataig Fadbheatha); and Modern Languages (Nuadh-eolas).
- 4.6.4 SQA also offers a range of Gaelic qualifications suitable for leaners to fluent speakers. These qualifications not only focus on language skills but also incorporate musical, cultural, historical and vocational elements. For example, the National Certificate in Celtic Studies provides learners with an understanding of current developments in the creative and heritage industries, Gaelic language, the politics of the Celtic nations and traditional music and dance. Through the National Progression Awards (NPA) young people have the opportunity to become familiar with the latest sound and recording technology through the NPA Contemporary Gaelic Song Writing and Production award.
- 4.6.5 Uptake of SQA qualifications through the medium of Gaelic is poor. During the previous school session, at S4 18 pupils sat SQA Nat 5 exams (one pupil sat 2 subjects). Nine pupils sat the exams in Gaelic and nine, although taught through the medium of Gaelic, answered the questions in English.
- 4.6.6 The number of pupils in S4-S6 studying for Gaelic Learners (language only) at SQA is 110 with the number of pupils in S4-S6 studying for SQA exams for Gàidhlig Fluent is recorded as 103.
- 4.7 In the Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan 3, the delivery of subjects through the medium of Gaelic is identified as a priority area for development. This will be linked with the work being undertaken on a national level by Bord na Gaidhlig, on the recruitment and retention of staff in Secondary subjects. In addition, the aim is to increase the number of students sitting SQA examinations through the medium of Gaelic, and to increase the number of young people sitting Gaelic Learners and Gàidhlig Fluent (language only).

5. Gaelic Learner Education and 1+2 Languages

5.1 The 1+2 Language Learning initiative is a statutory entitlement for Scottish learners by school session 2020-21. This entitlement can be met through any language, with many Highland settings selecting Gaelic.

5.2 English Medium Provision

5.2.1 25 English Medium Primary Schools have selected Gaelic as their L2 and 72 have

selected Gaelic as their L3.

- 5.2.2 As Highland Council is transitioning to this new delivery model, (PLL Gaelic), which supersedes Gaelic Language in the Primary School (GLPS), previous GLPS data is no longer relevant and the 1+2 data has not yet been collected with specific pupil numbers, however this will be significantly higher than previous GLPS figures.
- 5.2.3 Opportunities should be available for pupils to access additional languages from Secondary 1, with a requirement for L2 to be available through to the end of Secondary 3. In the secondary setting 1+2 Gaelic is often referred to as Gaelic Learner Education (GLE).
- 5.2.4 In the Senior Phase of secondary school, if Gaelic is the L2, a demand exists and staffing is available, an entitlement exists for GLE to be available as a National Qualification through the SQA, as currently delivered across thirteen Highland secondary schools.
- 5.2.5 There are 15 Secondary schools delivering Gaelic Learner Education to 1829 pupils to those who were educated in Primary education through English.

5.3 Gaelic Medium Provision

5.3.1 In the 1+2 model, Gaelic is considered as an L2 within GME settings, where L1 remains English for most pupils. Pupils are not required to undertake a language in addition to Gaelic until primary 4, when English (L1) is introduced and L3 is delivered as normal from primary 5.

5.4 Professional Development for Staff L1 + L2

- 5.4.1 Last session, 11 primary teachers, from schools that deliver Gaelic as L2, undertook a 4 day 1+2 development course. Those teachers had previously undertaken the GLPS course or had some Gaelic learning background, and therefore this course was aimed at encouraging them to develop their own Gaelic, through embedding it within the daily routines in the class.
- 5.4.2 In addition to this, 13 primary teachers started a 4 day training course with the Go!Gaelic Language Learning programme, which also continues this session for a further 14 days.
- 5.4.3 A further five primary teachers are engaged this session, on a twilight session training course, using the Go!Gaelic programme. This course can also be accessed by those teachers on the previously mentioned courses, if they are unable to attend the days.
- 5.4.4 This is delivered via online video conferencing and therefore hopes to combat the lack of available supply teachers to release staff to attend training. In terms of expansion, training will be offered next session to the 73 primary schools that have chosen Gaelic as L3. The course will focus on the same L2 language content, but with differentiated learning activities appropriate to the upper stages.
- 5.4.5 To help combat any lack of confidence in speaking Gaelic, and in addition to the online resources available through Go!Gaelic, a core language portal has also been developed within the Quizlets programme. This online and interactive programme can assist the teacher and pupils with pronunciation of the core vocabulary, through repetitive audio language learning tasks, and also offers a fun way to help teachers

and pupils to learn the terms, through the games section, which can be played on desktops, tablets or smartboards.

5.4.6 Comprehensive topic planning sheets for Early and First levels are currently being developed and are expected to be available, online, by the start of January 2018. These will consist of detailed learning activities, linked to the current Education Scotland benchmarks, with the appropriate teaching and learning resources being made available online, to help with delivery of Gaelic as an additional language.

6. Gaelic Medium Education Additional Support Needs Working Group

- 6.1 The GME ASN Working Group was established in March 2017. Following group formation, creation of Statement of Aims and Terms of Reference, the group proceeded to create/update several key documents to support ASN within Gaelic Medium settings.
- 6.2 Following a review and consultation process with practioners and key partners, the development work was shared with Primary and Secondary Head Teacher Executive Groups and the Head of Education. At the end of the consultation process, the following documents will be brought to Elected Members via the Gaelic Implementation and Strategy Group and the People Committee:
 - Gaelic Education: The Highland Council Approach (Policy)
 - Meeting Additional Support Need in Gaelic Medium Education: Identification, Assessment and Support Strategies (Policy)
 - Triantan Mo Shaoghail (Revised Gaelic My World Triangle)
- Ongoing development work will address the need for more pupil facing resources for use by teachers, Pupil Support Assistants and other professionals. Current projects involve the adaptation and development of The Highland Council's "Wraparound Reading", "Wraparound Comprehension", "Words Up" and twenty "Intervention Packs".
- 6.4 The group has been involved in development proposals regarding the national standardisation of a diagnostic tool, "The Gaelic Reading Project". Development work predominantly involves the identification, adaptation and sharing of good national practice from both English Medium and Gaelic Medium, in partnership with school professionals, the Speech and Language Service and Psychological Services.

7. Gaelic Medium Education Grammar Working Group (GME Grammar Group)

- 7.1 The GME Grammar Group was created in March 2017. The group has led on the development of a Grammar Progression Framework.
- 7.2 The purpose of the Grammar Progression Framework is to support practitioners and scaffold the language learning throughout Gaelic Medium Education, and it will only be published in Gaelic 'Frèam-adhartais Gràmair airson Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig'
- 7.3 A design template is in place and the principle of the framework is to support the upskilling of staff, where required, through a combination of video and audio examples. Separately, worksheets and interactive online links for song, animation and film are embedded for pupil use. The blended approach delivers resources to support teachers in understanding and developing their own grammar, prior to the delivery of activities that support pupil learning. The Grammar Framework is structured from Early Level (Curriculum for Excellence), through to Second/Third Level (the end of Broad General

Education/BGE).

8. Highland Gaelic Education Website and Blog

- 8.1 Funding and an initial plan is in place to develop an online platform for Highland Gaelic Education. The site will be developed as a stand-alone site and also embedded into Highland GLOW.
- 8.2 Site contents will include sections on the following areas: An interactive blog; Gàidhlig in the Early Years; Gàidhlig Primary; Gàidhlig Secondary; Gaelic and 1+2; Additional Support Needs; Authority Resources; Gaelic Promotion. Links to relevant national partners will be prominent. Local Authority professionals and partners are being identified to take responsibility for the above sections. Relevant training will be provided for all staff agreeing to support the development of the project.

9. Gaelic in the Community and Adult Education

- 9.1 Gaelic Community Learning and Development Officers (GCLDO) support growth and development of Gaelic Medium Education, in collaboration with stakeholders.
- 9.2 GCLDOs actively seek to provide opportunities to encourage and increase the use of Gaelic in our Highland communities. This involves the support of new community partnership development plans and links with existing groups, in order to promote and support an inclusive approach to Gaelic use, in addition to providing opportunities to develop individual language skills.
- 9.3 Work is undertaken within the community and in partnership with schools, primarily through support to parents considering Gaelic Medium Education for their child, as well as through creating opportunities to extend Gaelic usage beyond the classroom.
- 9.4 Support to parents generally begins when the baby is born and goes on until the child is well into primary education. It takes the form of providing information to parents about:
 - what Gaelic Medium Education is; how it works; where and how you access it;
 - Gaelic toddler groups;
 - events to bring parents together;
 - open days to enable parents to see how GM works in practice:
 - parental requests for opportunities to learn the language;
 - homework clubs, in response to non-Gaelic speaking parents worries about their ability to support their child with schoolwork;
 - general responses to concerns and issues.
- 9.5 Gaelic learning opportunities for parents are vitally important in creating the confidence which non-Gaelic speaking parents need if they are to feel comfortable when accessing Gaelic Medium Education. A range of classes, which are also open to the public, are therefore organised where GM exists and a tutor is available.
- 9.6 Extending the use of Gaelic beyond the classroom and beyond classroom-based language is the driver behind the setting up of clubs such as Club Spòrs (a GLAIF funded project). Club Spòrs takes place on a Saturday morning; the multi-sports club takes place for all GM pupils at Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar. Other extra-curricular projects include youth residentials, Gaelic sports leadership award, summer activity programmes, etc.

- 9.7 In addition, events to support the continuation of Gaelic Medium Education in the secondary schools are organised, such as the Siuthad! Gaelic Careers Day and Seachdain nan Deugairean, both of which are offered to learners and fluent speakers. Cognisance is also given to ensuring that Gaelic is included within The Highland Council graduate placement programme.
- 9.8 A comprehensive list of recently run activities includes: homework clubs; after school clubs; Ceuman Beaga family learning groups; parent workshops; Gaelic awareness events and promotional materials; family learning week; adult learning conversational classes; adult literacy class; parent classes; extra-curricular Gaelic activities; Easter and summer activity programmes for Gaelic Medium pupils; secondary pupils Gaelic residential events; Gaelic careers event; Gaelic youth residential; tutor training; Gaelic sports leadership awards; coaching events and inter-generational activities for GME pupils.
- 9.9 The Highland Council is a lead partner in organising and delivering the national family learning week event. During that event, adults attend classes at SMO, school-age children attend a Gaelic-speaking Playscheme at Bun Sgoil Shlèite and pre-school children attend the independent Fàs Mòr child-care facility located on the SMO campus. In 2017, 33 families participated, consisting of 44 adults, 8 children of pre-school age and 46 school-age children. The Highland Council, in partnership with Urras Baile Fhlòdaigearraidh (Flodigarry Community Trust) and with financial support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, organised a family learning event of sporting and arts activities and classes for parents of and children in Gaelic Medium Education attending both Kilmuir and Staffin primaries. There is typically a higher demand for this type of support within GME settings.
- 9.10 Homework clubs are delivered in areas such as Portree, Gairloch, Dingwall, Plockton and Nairn. These provide linguistic support to GM children from non-Gaelic speaking homes.
- 9.11 Events and information sessions to promote Gaelic Medium Education and the benefits of bilingualism take place in a number of areas including Dingwall, Thurso, Tain, Nairn, Sleat, Plockton, and Newtonmore. Information sessions are specifically targeted at parents of children in Gaelic medium education, providing information on how to support their children in the home.
- 9.12 Adult education Gaelic language classes are delivered across Highland, with concession rates offered to GM parents:
 - Fort William parents class 7
 - Fort William beginners class 10 (over half are GM parents)
 - Nairn post-beginners class 9
 - Inverness parents class 6
 - Inverness beginners 2 classes of 15 each = 30
 - Inverness all other classes 38
 - Drumnadrochit 8
- 9.13 There is a clear link between the commitments in The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan and High Life Highland delivery of essential Gaelic medium services, particularly out-of-school activities for Gaelic speaking young people. This approach is to strengthen the use of Gaelic outwith the school setting to enrich the language register of all young people.

10 Gaelic Translation Service

- In-house translation is provided to support all aspects of Gaelic Education within the streams of Gaelic Medium Education (GME/Gàidhlig); Gaelic in the Home, Early Learning and Childcare; Gaelic Learner Education (GLE/Gaelic) and the 1+2 Language Learning Approach; and Gaelic in the Community and Adult Education.
- 10.2 Educational resources are translated for early years, primary and secondary sectors as well as wider support materials such as newsletters, dinner menus and questionnaires for pupils. Support is also provided regarding Gaelic education development materials such as Gaelic education audits, reporting templates, Additional Support Needs in GME materials, numeracy support packages, and official correspondence.
- 10.3 Assistance is provided for Community Learning and Development staff relating to Gaelic classes and events, as well as translations for Care and Learning Alliance newsletters. Gaelic signage is provided for all Council-owned buildings including schools, offices, sports centres, libraries etc., thereby increasing the visible profile of Gaelic within the community.

11. Implications

- 11.1 **Resource** There are some dedicated funding streams to support Gaelic Medium Education. Many services are funded through mainstream budgets, just as English medium provision is supported.
- 11.2 **Legal** As outlined in the Education Scotland (Act) 2016 Part 2
- 11.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)** Gaelic Medium Education has a positive impact in delivering the Council's aspirations in terms of equality.
- 11.4 **Climate Change/Carbon Clever** There is significant potential to support GME through digital learning.
- 11.5 **Risk** Implementation of the Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 3
- 11.6 **Gaelic** Implementation of the Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 3

Designation Director of Care and Learning

Date 27 November 2017

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Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig 2016-17 Gaelic Medium Education

Bun-sgoil le sruth FtG Primary school with GME stream Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig **GME Primary School**

Bun-sgoil le sruth FtB GME primary with English ME stream

Le sgoil-àraich FtG na cois With associated GME nursery

