

Agenda Item	8.
Report No	PEO 19/18

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: People

Date: 15 March 2018

Report Title: **Review of Statutory Consultation Exercise into the Proposal to establish a catchment area for the Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh, and to simultaneously establish formal catchments for the Provision of Gàidhlig Medium Education (GME) within the Portree Associated School Group (ASG).**

Report By: Director of Care and Learning

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 Following conclusion of the statutory consultation process, this report and accompanying information sets out a recommendation to establish a catchment area for the Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort-Rìgh and to simultaneously establish formal catchments for the Provision of Gàidhlig Medium Education within the Portree Associated School Group.
- 1.2 The proposal was advanced because Bòrd na Gàidhlig has issued statutory guidance recommending that local authorities create catchment areas for GME. In effect the Proposal formalises unofficial arrangements for access to GME that have previously operated within the ASG.

It is proposed to create Gàidhlig Medium (GM) catchments on the basis of the map set out on the enclosed original consultation report (Booklet A, page 27).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-

Consider the proposal set out within the Consultation Report and associated appendices and, having given consideration to the representations received, and the Report from Education Scotland, agree to recommend to Council:

To create new GM catchments for the Portree ASG as outlined in the map on the original consultation report (Booklet A, page 27).

3. Public Consultation

- 3.1 The proposal for decision, the original proposal issued for consultation, and relevant appendices for consideration by the Committee are circulated as Appendices to this Paper. They provide details of all consultation comments received, notes of the three public meetings held, the report from Education Scotland, and the Council's response to comments arising from the consultation.
- 3.2 The proposal was widely circulated to parents, pupils and others. The majority of comments from pupils were in favour of the proposal. Those comments that opposed the Proposal are addressed in the Review Report at Booklet A.

Only two other comments were received in response to consultation. That from Bòrd na Gàidhlig expressed support for the Council's Proposal. The other, from Raasay Primary School Parent Council, is addressed in the Review Report at Booklet A.

The legislation requires that any proposal for decision must be published at least 3 weeks in advance of the meeting at which any decision may be made, to allow time for further representations. The proposal was published on 5 February. No further representations were received.

4. Report from Education Scotland

- 4.1 In its report, Education Scotland concluded 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 identified concerns that the Council should take forward in finalising its report. These concerns are addressed in the Report for decision (Booklet A, pages 1-17).

5. Procedure

- 5.1 As this report relates to a statutory consultation, any decision taken by this Committee will be considered by the full Highland Council before being implemented.

6. Implications

- 6.1 Resource – None. The arrangements proposed have previously operated on an informal basis.
- 6.2 Legal - The statutory consultation has been taken forward as per the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 6.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – None.
- 6.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – None.
- 6.5 Risk – None.
- 6.6 Gaelic – The Proposal will provide clarity to parents within the Portree ASG, in respect

of entitlement to GME.

Designation: Director of Care and Learning

Date: 6 March 2018

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Background Papers: Review of Consultation Report; original Proposal Paper
and appendices