

JM Whannel, Stiùiriche Foghlaim / Director of Gaelic Education, Bòrd na Gàidhlig

7mh là dhen Dàmhair 2021 / 7th October 2021

<b>Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig airson Co-chomhairleachadh air Sgìre-sgoile airson Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig ann an Àth Tharracail aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd</b>	<b>Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Response on the Highland Council Consultation on GME Catchment Area for Acharacle.</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 Àth Tharracail. 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 Acharacle 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>

## 2. Fiosrachadh sa Cho-chomhairleachadh

Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd ag ràdh gu bheil iad airson sgìre-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson nan adhbharan a leanas:

- Tha an Stiùireadh Reachdail a' moladh gun tèid sin a chur air dòigh;
- 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
- Tha cleachdadh aig a' Chomhairle gum bi iad a' libhrigeadh 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'.

## 2. Consultation Information

The Highland Council says they want to establish a catchment area for the following reasons:

- The Statutory Guidance recommends that one be developed;
- There is lack of clarity for parents about the entitlement to GME for their children; and
- 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.

## 3. Molaidhean na Comhairle

Tha sinn a' toirt fa-near do na rudan a leanas ann am moladh Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd:

- Tha solar àrd-sgoile FtG air a thoirt seachad ann an Àrd-sgoil Àird nam Murchan airson sgoilearan anns an sgìre-sgoile a tha san amharc airson FtG sa bhun-sgoil. Chaidh aire a thoirt air solarachadh FtG san Àrd-sgoil taobh a-staigh a' mholaidh a' sealltainn lèirsinn airson FtG thar Bun-sgoil is Àrd-sgoil.
- Chaidh fiosrachadh mionaideach a thoirt seachad a thaobh rèiteachaidhean còmhhdail iomchaidh agus tha sinn a' toirt fa-near gu bheil a' gabhail a-steach Cille Chòmhain agus tha sinn a' toirt fa-near dhan reusanachadh air cùl a' chodhùnaidh a bhith a' gabhail a-steach na cloinne sin a bhiodh mar as trice air am meas ro fhada bhon t-seirbheis FtG. Tha sinn a' toirt fa-near ge-tà gu bheil a' meas gum biodh ùine siubhail de 51 mionaid eadar Chille Chòmhain agus Àth Tharracail agus ged a tha sinn riarachichte gum bi an rèiteachadh a chaidh a mholadh iomchaidh an-dràsta, tha sinn a' cur ìmpidh air an Ùghdarras Ionadail beachdachadh air solar FtG ùr a stèidheachadh ann am Bun-sgoil Chille Chòmhain. Leis cho soirbheachail 's a tha

## 3. Council Recommendation

In the proposal from Highland Council, we note the following:

- GME Secondary provision is provided at Ardnamurchan High School for pupils in the proposed primary GME catchment. The provision of Secondary GME has been taken into account within the proposal displaying a vision for GME across Primary and Secondary.
- Detailed information has been provided regarding appropriate transport arrangements and we note the inclusion of Kilchoan and the reasoning behind the decision to include these children who would normally be judged as too distant from the GME service. We note however the travelling time estimate of 51 minutes between Kilchoan and Acharacle and whilst we are satisfied that the proposed arrangement will be adequate at present, we would urge the Local Authority to consider the merits of new GME provision at Kilchoan Primary School. Given the enormous success of GME in Acharacle where 70% of the pupils in Acharacle Primary are now in GME there is clear evidence of growing and sustained uptake of GME in the area.



<p>FtG ann an Àth Tharracail far a bheil 70% de na sgoilearan ann am Bun-sgoil Àth Tharracail a-nis ann an FtG tha fianais shoilleir ann gu bheil FtG a' sìor fhàs san sgìre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tha sinn a' toirt fa-near nach deach Bun-sgoiltean Àird Ghobhair agus Loch Àlainn a thoirt a-steach dhan sgìre-sgoile airson adhbharan iomchaidh co-cheangailte ri ùine siubhail. Mholamaid gun dèan an t-Ùghdarras Ionadail conaltradh leis a' choimhearsnachd a thaobh solar FtG ann an Àird Ghobhar agus Loch Àlainn. Tha sinn mothachail gun deach an cuspair seo a thogail aig a' choinneimh phoblaich air 29mh dhen t-Sultain agus mholamaid gun cruthaich an t-Ùghdarras plana le clàr-ama airson FtG a thoirt a-steach ann an Àird Ghobhar agus Loch Àlainn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We note that Ardgour and Lochaline Primaries have not been included within the catchment for appropriate reasons relating to travelling time. We would urge the Local Authority to engage now with community regarding GME provision in Ardgour and Lochaline. We note that this issue was raised at the public meeting on the consultation on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and would urge to Authority to develop a timed plan for introducing GME in Ardgour and Lochaline.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig</b></p> <p>Tha an Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig a' moladh gun tèid sgìrean-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson sgoiltean far a bheil Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtG) ri fhaighinn (Earrann 2.53 is 2.54).</p> <p><b>Sgìrean-sgoile FtG is Stiùireadh airson Àiteachan a Ghlèidheadh do Sgoilearan</b></p> <p>Bu chòir do dh'ùghdarrasan foghlaim sgìrean-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson FtG, agus dh'fhaodadh gum bu mhiann leotha beachdachadh air an iarrtas a th' ann airson FtG nuair a bhios iad a' stèidheachadh stiùireadh airson nan àiteachan a thèid a ghlèidheadh do sgoilearan ann am FtG.</p> <p><b>A rèir 2.54:</b></p> <p>Bu chòir do sgìre-sgoile airson sgoil 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 coltas a bhith air an sgìre sin gun tèid 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 Àth Tharracail far a bheil solar FtG ann.</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 Acharacle Primary School where there is GME provision.</p>





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