

Agenda Item	<b>8</b>
Report No	<b>G/13/22</b>

## **THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**Committee:** Gaelic Committee

**Date:** 2 November 2022

**Report Title:** Gaelic Medium Education and Gaelic Learner Education – The Highland Council

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance

### **1. Purpose/Executive Summary**

1.1 This Report informs Members of

- a) An outline of the current key priorities within Gaelic Education (GLP3) with a specific focus on the following themes;
- Gaelic Medium Education – Early Years, Primary and Secondary
  - Gaelic Learner Education – Primary and Broad General Education Phase Secondary Education
  - National Language Plan Priorities
- b) Updates and highlights the key areas of current and future development which will support the growth of Gaelic Education in Highland Council encompassing the key priorities of GLP3.

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Consider the report and note the provision of Gaelic Medium and Gaelic Education across Highland.
- ii. Note the areas of current and future development; and
- iii. Consider what other actions can be taken to support the development of Gaelic Education.

### **3. Implications**

- 3.1 Resource -The resource implications are within the current main budget stream which include Gaelic Specific Grant, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (Bòrd na Gàidhlig).
- 3.2 Legal - The Highland Council has a requirement to implement its Gaelic Language Plan under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act of 2005.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) - The Report complies with The Highland Council policies on Equality.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever - The Gaelic Team currently attend all meetings online and virtually, thus reducing the requirement for business travel.
- 3.5 Risk – there are no specific risks arising as a consequence of this report.
- 3.6 Gaelic - The report enhances Gaelic Development within The Highland Council area and supports the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan.

### **4. Gaelic Medium Education**

- 4.1 Gaelic Medium Education is an option within Scottish education that gives children and young people an opportunity to become fluent in Gaelic. As children and young people move from stage to stage, they will continue to develop their fluency. In so doing, they also fulfil all the aims and goals of Curriculum for Excellence whilst accruing all the benefits of bilingualism.

Gaelic Medium Education is available in 14 out of 32 Scottish local authorities. Some local authorities use neighbouring local authority provision to meet the requests of parents.

In Scotland, Gaelic Medium Education is available in 61 primary schools and their associated secondaries in Scotland, including dedicated Gaelic Medium schools. An increasing number of early learning and childcare centres, secondary schools and further education centres also provide learning through the medium of Gaelic.

20 GME primary schools are located in The Highland Council area, accounting for one third of all GME primary provision in Scotland. For transition, continuation of Gàidhlig is available in 14 secondary schools.

#### **4.2 The Highland Council Context**

GME is available in the following locations in Highland - click here to open map: [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/18/gaelic\\_medium\\_education](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/18/gaelic_medium_education)

Highland Council has promoted GME in Highland schools by producing the following video linked here. The video provides information on GME as a short social media promotional tool. It provides information for parents interested in the benefits of Gaelic education.

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic>

---

The Highland Council provision of GME encompasses 19 ELC and Partner Centre provisions and 20 primary GME. Within this primary GME provision, The Highland Council has 3 standalone GME schools, 2 Gaelic schools with English Medium Provision and the remainder are schools with GME provision.

20 Secondary schools in Highland currently provide Gàidhlig for fluent and/or Gaelic learners. 13 of these schools offer GME secondary Gàidhlig as part of their Gaelic curriculum and 17 offer Gaelic Learner pathways in BGE and/or senior phase. 7 of our associated secondary provisions currently provide additional subjects through the medium of Gàidhlig at BGE and/or senior phase. This includes access to Gaelic Learners BGE, made available via a Gaelic Teacher working with the Virtual Academy for this session. These numbers do not include schools where Gaelic is part of the language learning curriculum in primary schools (1 plus 2).

The Highland Council has the largest number of school provisions that offer Gaelic and Gaelic Medium education in Scotland within one authority.

4.3

The following table illustrates where there is access GME in primary and Associated secondary schools. The % of the total school role choosing to follow a GME pathway in the primary school is also illustrated.

School Name 21-22	TOTAL P1-7	GME P1-7	EM P1-7	%GME in school	% Increase / decrease
Glenurquhart Primary School	132	14	118	11%	+4%
Lochcarron Primary School	56	17	39	30%	+5%
Kilmuir Primary School	23	16	7	70%	-6%
Gairloch Primary School	52	13	39	25%	+1%
Mount Pleasant Primary School	183	18	165	10%	-1%
Plockton Primary School	36	23	13	64%	-6%
Dunvegan Primary School	42	20	22	48%	-5%
Mallaig Primary School	56	23	33	41%	+5%
Bun-Sgoil Stafainn	38	30	8	79%	+9%
Newtonmore Primary School	110	33	77	30%	+2%
Acharacle Primary School	45	32	13	71%	+1%
Broadford Primary School	90	39	51	43%	+3%
Millbank Primary School	253	37	216	15%	No change
Craighill Primary School	202	53	149	26%	+1%
Bun-Sgoil Shlèite	74	61	13	82%	+2%
Ullapool Primary School	136	75	61	55%	+5%
Dingwall Primary School	453	78	375	17%	-1%
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar	125	125	0	100%	
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh	161	161	0	100%	
Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis	214	214	0	100%	

	A greater % pupil in GME over English medium
	Gaelic School with English Medium provision
	Standalone Gaelic Schools (no English Medium in the school at all)

School Name	Associated Secondary Gaelic Provision
Glenurquhart Primary School	Glenurquhart High School
Acharacle Primary School	Ardnamurchan High School
Dingwall Primary School	Dingwall Academy
Gairloch Primary School	Gairloch High School
Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis	Inverness Royal Academy
Newtonmore Primary School	Kingussie High School
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar	Lochaber High School
Mallaig Primary School	Mallaig High School
Millbank Primary School	Nairn Academy
Lochcarron Primary School	Plockton High School
Plockton Primary School	
Broadford Primary School	Portree High School
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh	
Bun-Sgoil Shlèite	
Bun-Sgoil Stafainn	
Dunvegan Primary School	
Kilmuir Primary School	
Craighill Primary School	
Mount Pleasant Primary School	Thurso High School
Ullapool Primary School	Ullapool High School
Applecross Primary School GMPE Request ongoing	Plockton High School

4.4 The following tables illustrate pupil numbers in Gaelic Medium Education in Highland schools from 2015-2022.

**Table 1: ELC numbers 2015-2022**

Pupils in publicly funded nurseries/partner centres							
	2015/ 16	2016/1 7	2017/1 8	2018/1 9	2019/2 0	2020/2 1	2021/2 2
Total Highland	4,152	4,212	4,052	4,025	3,996	3,952	<b>3667</b>
Total GM ELC	256	264	287	307	320	283	<b>307</b>
% GM ELC	6.17%	6.27%	7.08%	7.63%	8.01%	7.16%	<b>8.37%</b>
% change year on year		0.1%	0.81%	0.55%	0.38%	-0.85%	<b>+1.21%</b>

**Table 2: ELC, Primary, Secondary Gaidhlig, Secondary GME subjects and GLE**

Year	GME Nursery/Partner Centre Pupils	GME Primary School Pupils	Secondary School Pupils Fluent Gaelic	Secondary School Pupils Subjects through Gaelic	Secondary School Pupils Gaelic Learners
2016-17	264	896	343	265	1829
2017-18	287 Up 8.01%	923 Up 2.93%	341 Down 0.59%	259 Down 2.32%	2012 Up 9.10%
2018-19	307 Up 6.51%	963 Up 4.15%	373 Up 8.58%	282 Up 8.16%	1887 Down 6.62%
2019-20	320 Up 4.06%	1034 Up 6.87%	388 Up 3.87%	261 Down 8.05%	2131 Up 11.45%
2020-21	283 Down 13.07%	1058 Up 2.27%	414 Up 6.28%	286 Up 8.74%	2208 Up 3.49%
2021-22	<b>307</b> <b>Up 7.81%</b>	<b>1082</b> <b>Up 2.21%</b>	<b>438</b> <b>Up 5.47%</b>	<b>287</b> <b>Up 0.34%</b>	<b>2204</b> <b>Down 0.18%</b>

## 5.0 Gaelic Language Plan

5.1 Bòrd na Gàidhlig outline key priorities for Gaelic education and learning within the National Gaelic Language Plan. They state;

*“...education, learning and the development of language skills are key priorities in the **National Gaelic Language Plan** and are essential for the future and health of the language. We work in partnership with various individuals and organisations to improve and grow Gaelic education and learning at all levels – for both young people and adults, and for fluent speakers and learners”*

5.2 The [Gaelic Language \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(the Act\)](#), seeks to secure the status of Gaelic as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to the English language.

The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2023 can be read [here](#).

The next iteration of the National Plan is currently in draft and can be viewed [here](#).

5.3 The Plan is a statutory document, following the requirements of the Gaelic Language Act, where Highland Council makes a clear commitment to increasing Gaelic usage, increasing the number of Gaelic speakers, enhancing the profile of Gaelic and generating a positive image of the language. For that reason, the Highland Council has a strong focus on Gaelic Medium Education.

5.4 **The Plan has 6 priority areas which are as follows:**

1. Gaelic in the Home, Early Learning and Childcare
2. Gaelic in the Community
3. Gaelic in Education
4. Gaelic in the Arts, Culture and Heritage

- 5. Gaelic in the Workplace
- 6. The Social, Economic and Cultural Value of Gaelic

## **6. Priority Area 3. Gaelic in Education**

The specific Strategic Commitments within Gaelic in Education are bulleted below.

- Contribute to national strategic partnership initiatives and policy formulation across Gaelic education.
- Ensure that Gaelic education is embedded in The Highland Council's Strategic Education Improvement Planning.
- Build on established partnerships to continue to grow a professionally organised and trained staff to support the 0–3 Early Learning and Childcare sector.
- Develop 3 –18 Gaelic Education through a systematic and sustainable approach to increase the percentage of Gaelic Learners in establishments.
- Work with partners to review the learning materials and learning resources provided to support Gaelic Education.

## **7.0 The Highland Council Vision for Gaelic Education**

7.1 Highland Council Gaelic Team, Education Team and Senior Officers continue to meet and communicate regularly with key agencies and partners, in line with Gaelic Language Plan priorities on Gaelic Education. The key areas and strategic priorities for GME will encompass –

- 3-18 Inverness Feasibility Study
- Statutory Catchment Consultation planning and delivery
- Meeting the aims and outcomes of Highland Council's GLP3
- Delivering the outcomes for Gaelic Specific Grant
- Continue to engage and work with with Scottish Government and Bòrd na Gàidhlig with a focus on recruitment of GME teachers.

## **8.0 Grant and funding support**

8.1 Gaelic Specific Grant - The Highland Council's Gaelic Team submit an annual application to the Scottish Government for Gaelic Specific Grant funding for Gaelic Medium Education.

Outlined in the application are three overarching Project headings -

Project 1 – Gaelic Planning, Policy Implementation and Resources

Project 2 – Gaelic in the Home and in Communities - Learning & Development Projects including 0-3

Project 3 – Gaelic in Early Learning and Childcare, Primary and Secondary Education

Further details on the application and the outcomes can be found linked here –  
Item 6 Gaelic Committee

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4434/gaelic\\_committee\\_comataidh\\_na\\_gaidhlig](https://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4434/gaelic_committee_comataidh_na_gaidhlig)

- 8.2 The Gaelic Team support structure for the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan and Gaelic Education development across Highland. The *Scheme of Gaelic Specific Grant* covers all areas of Gaelic education from Pre-school, Primary, Secondary, through to adult learning. The Gaelic Team structure supports The Highland Council priorities for all these areas following the targets set in the GLP. Projects with proposed outcomes to support the aims of the Council's GLP have been outlined as part of the Gaelic Specific Grant application. The award for 2021-2022 is £910,000. This contributes towards delivering against the priorities for Education identified within GLP3 and the 3 project areas outlined in 6.2 which are managed and delivered by the Highland Council Gaelic Team.
- 8.3 Funding is awarded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig via the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF). The GLAIF Funding stream is vitally important for the Gaelic Team as it assists in implementing the key performance indicators of the Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan.
- 8.4 BnaG established the GLAIF funding stream to assist public authorities in the delivery of commitments in their Gaelic Language Plan and support the aims and outcomes of the National Gaelic Language Plan. Further information on current GLAIF applications by The Gaelic Team officers is available in a report to the Gaelic Committee on 1st September 2022 under item 8, linked [here](#).

Designation: ECO Performance and Governance,

Date: 18 October 2022

Author: Lena Walker, Gaelic Development Manager