

Agenda Item	9
Report No	G/5/23

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Gaelic Committee

Date: 30 March 2023

Report Title: Feasibility Study – Invitation to Quote (ITQ)
The provision of 3-18 Gaelic Medium Education Provision – Inverness

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members on 3-18 Gaelic Medium in Inverness. Quotations are currently being invited for a feasibility study considering the provision of 3-18 Gaelic Medium Education in Inverness

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to consider the approach and timescales to developing a 3-18 Gaelic Medium for Inverness.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource: The feasibility study will be undertaken using existing resources and in collaboration with the Gaelic Team, Education Team and key stakeholders.

3.2 Legal: The feasibility study will be consistent with the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and help to advance the commitments and objectives set out in the Gaelic Language Plan.

3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) Part of the Strategy, once implemented, will be to engage effectively at community level with the public, stakeholders and partners and an improved strategic approach to Gaelic communications will have a positive impact on rural and island communities.

3.4 There are no implications with regard to Climate Change/Carbon Clever; and Risk.

- 3.5 Gaelic: There will be positive implications for Gaelic in the development of a planned approach to developing Gaelic Medium Education in Inverness.

4. Gaelic Medium 3-18 Inverness Introduction

- 4.1 The strategic leadership team and officers of The Highland Council continue to meet and communicate regularly with key agencies and partners, in line with strategic Gaelic Language Plan priorities on Gaelic Education.

Included in these discussions is the production of a feasibility of a 3-18 Gaelic Medium provision for Inverness.

- 4.2 The positional vision for the future of GME is as stated in the Gaelic Language Plan;

'3.2. Strategic Commitment - Ensure that Gaelic Education is embedded in The Highland Council's Strategic Education Improvement Planning'

- 4.3 As shared at the last meeting of the Gaelic Committee in November, an Invitation to Quote for a feasibility study on 3-18 Gaelic Medium provision for Inverness was underway.

The purpose of the feasibility study is to scope out 3-18 Gaelic Education provision for Inverness. The Invitation to Quote is now complete and is out for procurement.

Following the completion of the feasibility study there will be opportunities through workshops for Gaelic Committee and Education Committee members to fully contribute to this discussion on the report and recommendations produced by the study.

- 4.3 The Highland Council is committed to a vision that is ambitious and sustainable, building on the many opportunities there are to work with partners locally and nationally to expand Gaelic education, language and culture in the Highlands.

The feasibility study will look at what can be done to expand Gaelic provision and explore options for the development of a 3-18 campus in Inverness.

As part of the preparation for this study, senior officers have engaged with UHI, Bord na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Government. This engagement is ongoing and will form part of our stakeholder discussions following the publication of the feasibility study.

- 4.4. Critical to making progress with a 3-18 feasibility study outcomes will be the identification of sustainable resourcing which means access to both capital and revenue funding; high quality curriculum and extra curriculum content and choice; and reliable teacher supply. This can only be achieved by taking a connected, partnership approach.

5. Procurement timetable

- 5.1 The ITQ procurement is intended to follow the time-line steps below:

Invitation to Quote Issued	17 th March 2023
Deadline for Quotation Responses	6 th April 2023
Contract Awarded	1 st May 2023
Initial Project Meeting (where required)	TBC

The Council reserves the right to amend this timetable and steps 2 to 4 inclusive are provided for indicative purposes only.

5.2 Purpose

The Highland Council has set out the following purpose within the business requirements of the ITQ -

The Council is looking to commission a study to explore what steps need to be taken to deliver sustainable expansion of 3-18 Gaelic Medium Education **specifically in Inverness**. An associated benefit should be to develop a fuller understanding of the approaches that could be also adopted across Highland to expand Gaelic Medium education and sustain and grow Gaelic Education in other Highland communities.

5.3 What is required

Following a collaborative process, The Highland Council agreed the following requirements in the ITQ to outline the following desired outcomes from the feasibility study;

- Review of current delivery model of GME within Inverness City and investigate potential delivery models including the development of a standalone 3-18 campus
- Comparison for strengths and challenges of different models of expansion including transition implications if provision is re-located away from existing schools
- Understanding of parental demand and how this might be impacted by the options identified
- Location and impact on catchment; consultation; planning; and transport
- The pupil journey - transitions from the experience of learners and their families; learner pathways from 0-3 to ELC, ELC to Primary into BGE and on into Senior Phase; continuation of curriculum delivery through the medium of Gaelic attainment and educational outcomes; employment pathways
- Sustainability in terms of pupil projections; teacher suppl retention, training and support; and curriculum availability and development
- Financial assessment - capital, revenue funding and ongoing costs
- Physical environment – and what this can look like to support an immersion experience i.e. What is best for pupils to enhance their learning experience.
- The role of Digital Learning Gaelic Medium secondary curriculum available to all pupils across Highland and their access to Gaelic Education (Advice on Gaelic Education Scotland)
- Identification of potential next steps in relation to the National Gaelic Plan and the development of the Council's Gaelic Language Plan 4
- Produce a report on findings and make costed recommendations

5.2 Approach

- Review existing studies and research, including an earlier feasibility undertaken by the Highland Council for a 3-18 campus in Inverness and a number of studies commissioned by others – particularly Comman Nam Parent groups – and any others of relevance
- Undertake a lessons learned exercise where approaches to expand language immersion approaches to GME development have been undertaken – to include

Glasgow's 3-18 campus model and other countries' approaches to indigenous languages (i.e. Wales, Australia, etc)

- Engage with internal and external stakeholders – including listening to the pupil voice; parent representative groups; education providers (local authorities, PVI, Storrann, Esgoil); and government and Gaelic agencies

6 Timescales and Outcome

- 6.1 The duration of the study to be no longer than 8 months and to commence within 4 weeks of the contract award.

The completed feasibility study to be provided in hard copy and electronic format at the end of this period.

Progress update meetings to be held on a monthly basis with an interim report provided at the half way point. Outcomes from the ITQ and ongoing progress updates will be provided at each meeting of the Gaelic Committee.

Designation: ECO Performance and Governance

Date: 17 Mach 2023

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Background Papers: