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| Agenda Item | 7 |
| Report No | G/11/23 |

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: **Gaelic Committee**

Date: **31 May 2023**

Report Title: **Gaelic Education**

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 – Updates
 - Gaelic Learner Education – 1 plus 2 approaches to language learning Pilot Project
- b) An update on the catchment consultation process for Gaelic Medium provisions and Gaelic Medium Schools.

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 for 1 plus 2; and
- iii. Note the catchment consultation process and update for Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, Dingwall and Nairn Gaelic Medium provisions.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource -The resource implications are within the current main budget streams which include Gaelic Specific Grant, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (Bòrd na Gàidhlig) alongside core Council revenue funding.

- 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), Climate Change / Carbon Clever, 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.

4.0 Gaelic Education Updates

4.1 Nursery enrolment numbers 2021-2024

At Gaelic Committee on March 30th, officers agreed to present nursery numbers to Members. The numbers are an indication of both the growing demand in Gaelic Medium Education and the future resource implications over the period of the next Gaelic Language Plan 2023-2028.

| | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24* |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| Acharacle GM | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| Broadford Primary Nursery - GM | 8 | 11 | 5 |
| BSGI | 78 | 72 | 78 |
| Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar Nursery | 28 | 45 | 56 |
| Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Phort Rìgh | 48 | 53 | 57 |
| Bun-sgoil Shleite - GM | 15 | 16 | 12 |
| Bun-Sgoil Stafainn | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Craighill Primary Nursery - GM | 8 | 13 | 12 |
| Croileagan Inbhir Narainn | 9 | 13 | 15 |
| Croileagan Inbhir Pheofharain | | | |
| Dunvegan Primary Nursery - GM | 13 | 16 | 17 |
| Gairloch Primary Nursery – GM (2 days a week) | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Glenurquhart GM | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| Kilmuir Primary Nursery - GM | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Mallaig Primary Nursery - GM | 14 | 9 | 3 |
| Mount Pleasant Primary Nursery - GM | 16 | 14 | 9 |
| Newtomore GM | 17 | 13 | 12 |
| Plockton Primary Nursery | 15 | 15 | 14 |
| Ullapool Primary Nursery - GM | 23 | 18 | 13 |
| Total | 289 | 339 | 330 |

*The total number of enrolments for 2023/24 is expected to increase beyond previous years as the final total in nursery in June of each year, invariably exceeds the total enrolled at the beginning of each session, as some children enrol during the session rather than during enrolment week.

The total number of pupils in Gaelic Education at the end of school session at the second iteration of Gaelic Language Plan 2016/17 and the end of school session point at the third iteration of the Gaelic Language Plan 2022/23 are illustrated in the table below (Sgioba na Gàidhig in-gathering of data).

| GLP | End of School Session | GME Nursery/ Partner Centre Pupils | GME Primary School Pupils | Secondary School Pupils Fluent Gaelic | Secondary School Pupils Gaelic Learners |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| GLP 2012-2016 | 2016-17 | 264 | 896 | 343 | 1829 |
| GLP 2018-2023 | 2022-23 | 339 | 1101 | 436 | 2030 |
| | % increase | 28% | 23% | 27% | 11% |

In total, across all sectors of Gaelic education, there is an increase of 17% on the total number of pupils in Gaelic education over the duration of the third iteration of the Gaelic Language Plan.

5.0 1 plus 2 Approach to Gaelic Learner Education in Highland

5.1 Highland continues to expand and support the delivery of Gaelic as a modern language in line with the 1+2 initiative. In May and June of 2023, a targeted support model of professional learning and teaching support will be piloted for identified schools to increase provision of L2 and L3 Gaelic.

The Gaelic Development Officer has maximised the use of digital and technology opportunities available to provide virtual learning of Gaelic in primary schools.

The following table illustrates that a high percentage Primary Schools in the West are providing a Gaelic education pathway.

| Area | L2 | L3 | Other | Total Number of Primary Schools | Provision of L2 and L3 as a percentage within the area |
|-------|----|----|-------|---------------------------------|--|
| Mid | 1 | 9 | 23 | 33 | 30% |
| North | 2 | 7 | 21 | 30 | 30% |
| South | 0 | 24 | 26 | 50 | 48% |
| West | 24 | 23 | 7 | 54 | 87% |

The achievement of increasing L2 and L3 Gaelic is a strategic priority in the draft GLP4.

Targeted schools will include for example where Gaelic and English medium provision are situated together in the same school.

A Highland Council led 1+2 pilot project was delivered in May, with Gaelic language lessons being taught live and online to classes across Highland and Argyll & Bute. This 4

week long project focused on Gaelic vocabulary learning activities and songs, led by the Highland Council Gaelic Education Officer, but was also supported by the class teachers, through follow up activities, such as games.

This team-teaching approach facilitates the delivery of Gaelic 1+2 training direct to teachers, whilst also modelling language lessons with their class at the same time. The aim is that this can support class teachers with pronunciation through having live audio support and help build confidence in order for them to deliver further Gaelic activities after the session has ended.

Approximately 29 classes, comprising 17 schools, including 5 *new schools have joined the live sessions in this pilot. (*schools that previously had not offered Gaelic as a 1+2 language)

These 5 new schools are:

| Area | Schools not having offered Gaelic as a 1+2 language previously |
|-------|--|
| North | Pennyland PS + Dunbeath PS |
| South | Bishop Edens PS |
| Mid | South Lodge PS + Bridgend PS |
| West | |

This development work will help support The Highland Council deliver the strategic priority within GLP4 of increasing the number of schools offering Gaelic as an additional language.

5.2 Next Steps

Following feedback from this pilot project, we aim to offer further GLL programmes to other schools across Highland, in particular targeting those EME schools that have a GME setting within them, but also other schools that do not deliver Gaelic as either an L2 or an L3 language.

This opportunity will allow new schools to experience a taste of Gaelic and which will hopefully encourage them to look into delivering more Gaelic learning within the school.

These live sessions link in with existing online modules and CLPL recorded sessions, developed by The Highland Council, which class teachers can access to further support their Gaelic 1+2 delivery.

6.0 Update on the creation of Gaelic Medium catchments

6.1 At the time of writing, the Council has created Gàidhlig Medium catchment areas for 16 of the 20 primary schools in Highland that offer GME, and for 10 of the 14 secondary schools that do so.

Since the last time this was reported to the Committee, catchment areas have been approved for Glenurquhart PS and Glenurquhart High School, and for Plockton PS, Lochcarron PS and Plockton High School.

6.2 Next Steps

Officers now propose to conduct a formal consultation creating a catchment area for Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, together with GM catchment areas for Inverness Royal Academy, Dingwall Primary School, Dingwall Academy, Millbank Primary School and Nairn Academy. A paper to this effect is being submitted to the Education Committee tomorrow (1 June), seeking permission to start the formal consultation after the school summer holidays.

A single Proposal Paper is being put forward for the 6 catchment areas, as any changes to the proposed GM catchments for one of these would affect the other. The proposal is therefore a complex one covering a wide geographical area
The proposed catchment for Millbank PS/Nairn Academy encapsulates the Nairn Associated School Group (ASG).

6.3 Proposed Catchments

The proposed catchment for Dingwall PS/Academy covers the Dingwall and Ainess ASGs, and a large part of the Fortrose ASG. GME is not offered in either of the latter two.

The proposed catchment for Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis/Inverness Royal Academy covers the 5 Inverness ASGs (Charleston, Culloden, Inverness High, IRA and Millburn) plus part of the Fortrose ASG.

Designation: ECO Performance and Governance,

Date: 5th May 2023

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