

Agenda Item	8
Report No	G/21/23

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Gaelic Committee

**Date:** 8 December 2023

**Report Title:** Gaelic Education Update

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

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This Report informs Members of:

a) An update on recent key activities within the development of Gaelic Education

- Progress within the 3–18 Gaelic Medium Education (GME) for Inverness Feasibility Study
- Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Attainment – Gàidhlig and Gaelic 2022/23
- Gaelic Medium Primary Education for Lochaline

b) An update on the catchment consultation process for Gaelic Medium provisions and Gaelic Medium Schools.

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- consider the interim update on the Inverness 3–18 Gaelic Education Feasibility Study; and
- 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 Plans 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. The Education (Scotland) Act 2016 requires that an education authority has a duty to promote and support Gaelic Education (section 15).
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)  
There are no specific risks arising because of this report.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever  
Where possible, meetings take place online.
- 3.5 Risk  
Gaelic Education outcomes within the Gaelic Language Plan and National Plan are not achieved.
- 3.6 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)  
None.
- 3.7 Gaelic  
The report enhances Gaelic Education development within The Highland Council area and supports the implementation of The Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan and the National Plan.

#### **4. 3–18 GME Provision Inverness**

- 4.1 The 3–18 GME Provision feasibility study is now at the interim point, with the final report expected in February 2024.
- 4.2 The feasibility study is structured into the following stages:

Stage 1 Inform  
Stage 2 Explore  
Stage 3 Feasibility Analysis  
Stage 4 Articulate and Recommend

This interim point is within Stage 3 of the contract. The interim reporting provided key findings that will inform and populate the 'road map' to informing the best GME campus model for Inverness.

- 4.3 The study has identified strategic GME success factors that are considered important Gaelic outcomes. These are strategic quality factors informed by the cross-section of respondents from the consultation (GME and Gaelic development practitioner organisations, teachers, pupils, parents) and through existing reports and examples from elsewhere.
- 4.4 Practical and financial factors around future model possibilities are being closely assessed during the Stage 3 Feasibility Analysis. With existing Gaelic capital resources there is a potential for upgrading what is currently a co-located campus. The findings at Stage 3 will help make clear recommendations that are justifiable in meeting the aims of the brief for Stage 4 of the study, Articulate and Recommend.

## **5. SCQF Attainment – Gàidhlig and Gaelic 2023**

### 5.1 Last session:

- 86 pupils achieved Gàidhlig National 5 and Higher
- 30 pupils achieved Gàidhlig Higher in S5 and S6
- 56 pupils achieved Gàidhlig National 5
  
- 60 pupils achieved Gaelic Learners National 5 and Higher
- 15 pupils achieved Gaelic Learner Higher in S5 and S6
- 45 pupils achieved National 5 Gaelic Learner

### 5.2 We are seeing a return to 2021 data in the number of pupils achieving SCQF Gaelic qualifications.

There is an increase in pupils presenting for National 5 Gàidhlig from 44 in 2022 to 56 in 2023.

### 5.3 It must be noted that SCQF achievement is a single success indicator for the wider benefits of GME. The benefits of GME are wider than achievement of Gàidhlig as a Higher alone. Gàidhlig as a Higher pathway, is focused on the complexities of language through the study of texts and promotes analytical thinking and awareness of the impact of the Gaelic language. For this reason, the renewed Gaelic Plan has an increased focus on secondary Gaelic curriculum rationales.

## **6. GMPE – Lochaline**

### 6.1 In November 2023, The Highland Council received a request from parents for Gaelic Medium Primary Education in Lochaline. In line with statutory guidance an initial assessment will be carried out and the Gaelic Committee will be updated at future meetings.

## **7. Gaelic Medium Catchment Consultation Update**

### 7.1 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.

### 7.2 The public consultation into 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 concluded on 27 October 2023, and the consultation with Education Scotland concluded on 24 November.

### 7.3 Officers are considering the responses received, with a view to reporting to the Education Committee next year.

### 7.4 Informal discussions have concluded regarding a GM catchment area for the Tain 3–18 campus. As a next step, Officers intend to make recommendations to the Education Committee that a statutory consultation takes place.

Designation:

Date: 16 November 2023

Author: Lena Walker, Gaelic Education Manager and Ian Jackson, Education Officer

Background Papers:

Appendices: