

GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL
EDUCATION SERVICES

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CONSULTATIVE
DOCUMENT**

RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION

PROPOSAL: TO OPEN A NEW GAELIC MEDIUM EDUCATION (GME) PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THE SOUTH WEST OF THE CITY AND TO DEFINE NEW CATCHMENT AREAS FOR PRIMARY-AGED CHILDREN ATTENDING GLASGOW GAELIC SCHOOL/SGOIL GHÀIDHLIG GHLASCHU AND GLENDALE GAELIC SCHOOL/BUNSGOIL GHÀIDHLIG GHLEANN DAIL AND THE NEW SCHOOL.

Schools	Ward(s)	Strategic Planning Area
Glasgow Gaelic School/Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu	10	North West
Glendale Gaelic School/Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail	6	South
Gowanbank Primary School	3	South

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

This document has been issued by Glasgow City Council for consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

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1 Background

- 1.1 In August 2006, Glasgow City Council opened its first dedicated all-through GME school when the existing GME primary school relocated to the former Woodside Secondary in Berkeley Street.
- 1.2 The primary school roll has grown steadily since, and this is now reflected in the increasing roll in the secondary GME provision on the campus. For example, in 2020, the S1 intake will be at least 91 compared to 52 in August 2018.
- 1.3 In May 2016, GCC opened its second GME primary school at the Glendale Campus in the Pollokshields area of Glasgow. As a result, Glasgow now has two catchment areas identified in the city for primary GME provision.
- 1.4 GME is, without doubt, a success in the city. Glasgow has the most children being taught in GME outwith the Highlands and Islands. Bòrd na Gàidhlig will be launching its new plan. Glasgow City Council's draft Gaelic Language Plan 2018 to 2022 is currently being prepared and will have a strong focus on Education.
- 1.5 In November 2016, Education Services engaged with the GME community through two consultation events held at Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu. These events informed the paper for the Children and Young People's Policy Development Committee.
- 1.6 In March 2017, the Executive Director of Education took a paper to the Children and Young People's Policy Development Committee on the future of GME in the city. The Committee considered the paper which included an assessment of future demand and the outcome of engagement sessions held with parents and carers, staff and young people. The Committee agreed that the case was made for a third primary GME school in the city and asked the Executive Director to seek the permission of the Executive Committee to hold a consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 1.7 In April 2017, the Executive Committee agreed to a consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 1.8 Glasgow consulted in line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended. This requires that local authorities adopt a robust and transparent framework for consultations on school closures and other major changes to the education estate, for example, catchment areas. The process requires authorities to actively involve and consult with all stakeholders and other school users. It is necessary to include an educational benefit statement – that is, the authority must produce a statement setting out its assessment of the effects on children and young people and other users of an affected establishment. The consultation period was in excess of the minimum six weeks term-time.

- Consultation papers were distributed to a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties;
- Notices to advise of the consultation arrangements were placed in the local press;
- Dedicated pages were set up on the Council website for both information and to enable interested parties to respond to the proposals;
- The public consultation period ran from 22 May 2017 to 3 September 2017.
- Three public meetings were held on 6 June in Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, 20 June in Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail and 17 August in Gowanbank Primary School.

- 1.9 The total attendance at the three meetings was around 100, although a number of parents attended all three meetings.
- 1.10 In addition to the public meetings, arrangements were also put in place to discuss the proposals with parents, pupils and staff groups. An officer also attended Lavern Community Council.
- 1.11 As part of the consultation process, officers ensured that the views and opinions of respondents were given due consideration. In order to ensure a rigorous and thorough examination of the responses received, a member of the Education Directorate read the responses and notes to validate key aspects of responses in order that Elected Members are provided with a detailed, objective analysis.
- 1.12 In a major consultation there is the possibility that errors may occur therefore there are procedures in place to identify, amend and record any errors. At the Gowanbank meeting the local community council advised that they had not received a consultation paper. This was addressed and an officer attended the next community council meeting to discuss the consultation and respond to any questions. Eight people attended this meeting along with three councillors. Education Services agreed to accept a late submission from the community council.

2 RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION

- 2.1 The Council received 205 responses to the consultation. 42 or 20.5% were for the proposal to establish a new Gaelic medium primary at Gowanbank Primary School, 155 or 75.6% were against the proposal and 8 or 4.9% were unclear.
- 2.2 Almost all of those who responded did not agree with the catchment area as proposed in the consultation.
- 2.3 Many respondents both for and against the proposal welcomed the Council's support of Gaelic medium education. They did not want the Council to be in a position of turning away children from GME. However, they felt that more engagement was needed in order to reach a solution which parents would support.

2.4 Respondents felt that there was not a need to find a solution for August 2018. They disagreed with the location of Gowanbank Primary School feeling that it was too far away from the city centre. A number also felt that transport routes would make accessing the school difficult for parents, particularly those who lived in the south-east of the city. They also felt that their children would have to spend too long on school transport getting to the school.

2.5 A number of parents supported the Comann nam Pàrant Ghlaschu response which asked for a working group to be established.

‘suggest that a working group is established, with resource committed from the Council, to design and implement a 5 and 10 year plan for GME in the city, with parental representation from Comann nam Pàrant, the school parent councils, and from nursery parents, to ensure that any proposals are not simply consulted upon with the community, but are co-produced with the community.’

2.6 The Parent Council of Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu issued parents with a questionnaire. There were 115 responses. Only 16% of those that responded preferred Gowanbank as a location. 33% preferred Cartvale (a school in Govan), 33% had no preference and 19% voted for ‘other option’. Suggestions included: former Sir John Maxwell building, central Glasgow, Caledonia Primary, north of the city. One suggested Gowanbank in 2018 and Cartvale in 2019. There was no consensus coming through.

2.7 40% of respondents to the Parent Council’s questionnaire thought that the catchments as proposed were appropriate, 38% thought they were not appropriate and 22% offered alternative catchment suggestions. For the alternative some wanted to use the river as a more natural boundary, which was similar to other respondents who felt that Scotstoun and Yoker areas should stay linked to the Berkeley St site.

2.8 Many respondents produced well-thought out and considered responses which went beyond the scope of the consultation but which were nevertheless very welcome. Some quotes below:

‘I am also very concerned that GCC is planning to significantly expand GME provision when there is already a shortage of Gaelic-speaking teachers.’ Parent of primary-aged child

‘At the consultation event I attended, it was disappointing that the discussion was not focused on the quality of GME provision, staffing, breakfast and after-school club – in short, about the school day and the school community that could be built. Attendees were concerned more with the aesthetics of the building and commenting on the local area than on the quality of education to be provided or the vision for the site.’ Parent of nursery child

2.9 By far the most serious concern was that of distance, most respondents felt that the Gowanbank site was too far away from where families lived. They felt this would hinder parent participation in school which was viewed as essential,

particularly for parents who were also learning Gaelic to be able to support their child.

2.10 Transport links were also felt to be a difficulty, particularly for those parents who may need to use public transport. Parents recognised the importance of parental engagement in the life of the school when children are immersed in a second language. They felt that the distance and the transport links would make engagement with the school difficult.

2.11 Bòrd na Gàidhlig strongly supported the Council's proposals.

'The Bòrd notes the continuing rapid growth of interest in GME within the authority and congratulates the City of Glasgow Council for its swift action to meet the clearly evidenced demand to ensure that all children in the city may enjoy the benefits of Gaelic-medium education should their parents choose this option.

Glasgow City Council is an excellent example of a local authority working with parent groups, teaching staff and Gaelic representative bodies to ensure this ongoing educational success is recognised and provision continues to meet demands.'

2.12 Comann nam Pàrant Glaschu submitted a comprehensive response which, as already noted, a number of parents drew on for their responses. Comann nam Pàrant welcomed strongly the expansion of GME provision in Glasgow. However, they did not support the Council's proposal for the site at Gowanbank to be used.

'The expansion of GME provision in Glasgow is hugely welcome, and of national strategic importance. We believe that there are still significant questions as to whether the proposal to open a new GME school at Gowanbank, and to alter the catchment boundaries for August 2018 entry, is a good investment in support of this aim. We:

- Absolutely support a 'do something' option, to avoid children being turned away from GME, and recognise the urgency for identifying solutions to ensure that caps are not introduced and enforced;
- Do not believe that the 'crisis point' when new provision must be open will be August 2018;
- Would question, given the location and access issues of the Gowanbank site, whether it is the best, or only, option for provision in these timescales;
- Would like to see a thorough and systematic Transport Impact Study performed for any prospective site, before public money is invested and children's education is disrupted;
- Suggest that a working group is established with resource committed from the Council, to design and implement the 5 and 10 year plans for GME in the city, with parental representation from Comann nam Pàrant, the school parent councils, and from nursery parents, to ensure that any proposals are not

simply consulted upon with the community, but are co-produced with the community.'

- 2.13 In line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, Education Scotland submitted a report with their view of the consultation.

'Glasgow City Council's proposal to open a new GME primary school has the potential to increase the capacity for GME across the city and to reduce the possibility of demand exceeding capacity at the two existing GME schools. Overall, the proposal has the potential to provide educational benefit for children currently attending the two existing GME schools and those across the city. Almost all stakeholders support the extension of GME across the city. Most stakeholders, however, have concerns about important aspects of the proposal. These include the location and accessibility of the proposed new site and arrangements which the council would make for siblings who may, as a result of the proposal, be zoned for different primary schools. Several stakeholders would also appreciate a greater understanding about the council's overall strategic plans for GME across the city. In taking its proposal forward, the council should set out how it would address these concerns. It should continue to engage with its many committed stakeholders and other interested parties in planning to enhance its capacity for GME and satisfactorily meet the growing demand for GME.'

The full report can be found on the Education Scotland web-site
<https://education.gov.scot/what-we-do/inspection-and-review/reports/reports-for-other-sectors/School%20consultation%20reports>

3 Response from Education Services

- 3.1 Education Services appreciates the level of engagement which has arisen as a result of the consultation.
- 3.2 We agree that there is a need for further engagement with parents and representative groups to ensure that we find a solution which meets the needs of the community and would be supported by parents. As a result, we will not be progressing with the proposal to open a GME primary in Gowanbank in August 2018.
- 3.3 Section 4 outlines the impact of this on intake for August 2018 onwards.
- 3.4 We propose to establish a short-life working group to explore options for the future of GME in Glasgow. Appendix 3 provides the Terms of Reference.

Analysis of buildings

- 3.4 As noted in the consultation proposal, the schools in the south of the city do not have the capacity to use some of the classrooms to deliver GME or have the

room within their grounds for additional classrooms to be sited. In addition, we are cognisant of the fact that at the engagement session held in November 2016, a number of parents expressed the view that their preference was to have a free-standing GME provision, where possible.

- 3.5 Some respondents to the consultation indicated a preference for the Cartvale building to be considered. In the Govan area, Cartvale Secondary School is located in a former primary school. Cartvale provides education for secondary-aged young people who experience social and emotional difficulties. During 2017/18, the younger pupils at Cartvale will be moving to enhanced provision which is being developed in two mainstream secondary schools which would free up capacity, but the school would not be totally empty in August 2018. It is the view of officers that it would not be appropriate to open new GME provision in the building while there were still secondary-aged young people with additional support needs being educated in it.
- 3.6 Cartvale building currently has 12 classrooms. There is limited playground space although there is land adjacent to the school belonging to the Council. It would require significant re-development as well as agreement being sought for it to become part of Education's estate. Further work would need to be done on transport access for dedicated pupil transport as access from Govan Road would not support buses.
- 3.7 Some respondents also asked us to consider the former Drumoyne Primary School building. This building is situated in Govan on Shieldhall Road. There is an extensive playground at the front of the building and there is a pitch to the rear which is used by Govan High School. There are good transport links and Shieldhall Road is two-laned which would allow ease of access for dedicated transport. The building closed in 2009 and has fallen into a state of disrepair, including fire damage. Surveys would need to be done to consider the structural condition of the building before any decision could be made. Assuming viable, to bring back into use would require major investment and up to two years of planning and construction.
- 3.8 Some also asked us to consider the former Sir John Maxwell Primary School building. This is a large red sandstone building situated in the South East of the city near Pollok park. There are good transport links and the streets around the school would enable access for dedicated transport. The building closed in 2009. It is a substantial building set in a good-sized playground. There is no sports pitch. The building has dilapidated since closure. It would require significant investment to bring it back into use. Based on our experience of refurbishing the former Dowanhill Primary School building, which is a similar building to Sir John Maxwell, the refurbishment cost, including the cost of a nursery on-site could be around £14 million.
- 3.9 Comann nam Pàrant's response asked us to consider another school in the 'North West now to remove the majority of the pressure on Berkeley Street from families in the North of the city whilst longer term funding was found to establish a new facility in central south'. This would need to be carefully considered as one of the aims of proposing a school in the south of the city was to reduce the

number of children travelling in dedicated transport to the school as the Berkeley Street site is not easily accessible for dedicated transport. In addition, there are a range of issues which need to be considered before opening a school. The continuity of children's education is very important and short term options can increase anxiety for both children and parents. The response suggested the former St Gregory's, Yoker Primary or Garscadden Primary.

St Gregory's: This is no longer used as a school but could be re-purposed back into a school, however, this would require significant investment of circa £3m. It is not easily accessed by dedicated transport.

Yoker: This is currently being used by the nursery but when they move it could be re-purposed back into a school, however, this would require significant investment of circa £3m. It is an open plan school.

Garscadden: This building is not in good condition and was declared as 'life expired' which was part of the reason the new Clyde Campus was constructed. The only purpose that this building would serve would be to be demolished to provide land to construct a bespoke new-build school, which would require a level of investment somewhere in the region of £10 - £15 million (depending on size and scope).

4 School roll data

- 4.1 Officers have analysed the up to date roll data for the current GME schools. The secondary school roll is increasing and requires more space. During 2016/17, adaptations were carried out to increase the provision of specialist rooms to enable the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum. During 2017/18, we are seeking the support of Scottish Ministers to start work on enhancing the physical education facilities at the school.
- 4.2 It is important to consider the potential intakes for primary in 2018, 2019 and 2020 because decisions taken in one year impact on subsequent years' intake. Cognisance also needs to be given to the consequential impact on the secondary stage when those intakes move to secondary.
- 4.3 In order to enable the secondary school to extend, we need to move Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu to be using 16 classrooms with three classrooms designated as General Purpose (GP), in line with Scottish Government guidance. It can be seen from the classification in the Appendix that from September 2017 all 19 available classrooms are being used which means that if this continues then the primary department would not have access to GP space which is contrary to the guidance and limits the range of teaching approaches. Appendix 1 shows the numbers.
- 4.4 As can be seen from the tables in the Appendix, it is in 2018 that we reduce to using 18 classrooms and it would be 2021 before we reduce to using only 17 classrooms.

- 4.5 Appendix 2 shows the planned intake for Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail until 2020. There are 7 classrooms available.
- 4.6 The classifications in Appendix 2 assumes that there is no change to numbers at other stages, i.e. no families move in or out and that there is no other GME provision available.

5 Timescale

- 5.1 Parents register their children for school in November for entry the following August. It is, therefore, essential that decisions to change entry are made before November if they are to take effect the following August.
- 5.2 A decision about changing entry for August 2019 would need to be made by the end of October 2018. If this requires a decision from elected members then it would need to be proposed at the City Administration Committee by the middle of October 2018 at the very latest.
- 5.3 If the short-life working group makes recommendations to open another GME primary provision, then the Council will need to hold another statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This would mean starting a consultation by March 2018 at the latest in order to meet the timescales as set out in the legislation. This makes for a very tight timescale, hence the need to set out the intake over the next three years as time also needs to be built in for transition.

Bunsgoil **Ghàidhlig** Ghlaschu**Working Classification/Capacity (September 2017)**

Room	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL
1	24							24
2	23							23
3	23							23
4	10	13						23
5		25						25
6		27						27
7		25						25
8			29					29
9			30					30
10			12	12				24
11				32				32
12				31				31
13					32			32
14					32			32
15					12	13		25
16						21		21
17						22		22
18							23	23
19							22	22
TOTAL	80	90	71	75	76	56	45	493

Projected Aug 2018

Room	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL
1	25							25
2	25							25
3	20	5						25
4		30						30
5		30						30
6		15	10					25
7			30					30
8			30					30
9			20	5				25
10				33				33
11				33				33
12					30			33
13					30			27
14					15	10		25
15						33		33
16						33		33
17							28	28
18							28	28
TOTAL	70	80	90	71	75	76	56	518

Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail

Working Classification/Capacity (Roll as at Aug 2017)

Room	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL
1	25							25
2	8	16						25
3		22	3					25
4			20	5				25
5				10	15			25
6						10	7	17
7								
TOTAL	33	38	23	15	15	10	7	141

Maximised P1 Intake 2018 Classification Scenario

Room	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL
1	25							25
2	8	17						25
3		16	9					25
4			29					29
5				23				23
6					15	10		25
7						5	10	25
TOTAL	33	33	38	23	15	15	10	167

**Projected Aug 2019 (Preferred P1 Intake)
Classification Scenario**

Room	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL
1	21	4						25
2		29						29
3			28					28
4			5	20				25
5				18	7			25
6					16	9		25
7						6	15	21
TOTAL	21	33	33	38	23	15	15	178

**Projected Aug 2020 (Preferred P1 Intake)
Classification Scenario**

Room	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL
1	25							25
2		21	4					25
3			29					29
4				33				33
5					33			33
6					5	19		24
7						4	15	19
TOTAL	25	21	33	33	38	23	15	188

Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail

The proposal is to take 33 in the Aug 2018 academic year which is a full class of P4-P7 children going forward, to future proof the need for two classrooms to accommodate this cohort.

Because of previous years' intakes, the Aug 2019 intake would have to be maximised at 21, arguably it could be 22, however, this would produce a composite of 3/22 which is not desirable.

The August 2020 intake can thereafter revert to the sustainable intake for a 7-classroom school of 25 for all subsequent years

Bunsgoil **Ghàidhlig** Ghlaschu**Projected Aug 2019**

Room	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL
1	25							25
2	25							25
3	15	10						25
4		30						30
5		30						30
6			30					30
7			30					30
8			20	5				20
9				33				33
10				33				33
11				19	6			25
12					33			33
13					32			32
14						33		33
15						33		33
16						9	16	25
17							30	30
18							30	30
TOTAL	65	70	80	90	71	75	76	527

Projected Aug 2020

Room	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL
1	25							25
2	25							25
3	16	9						25
4		30						30
5		26						25
6			30					30
7			30					30
8			10	15				33
9				33				33
10				32				25
11					30			33
12					30			33
13					30			25
14						33		33
15						33		31
16						5	16	33
17							30	33
18							29	10
TOTAL	66	65	70	80	90	71	75	517

The above figures are based on the following principles:

- Intake has been maximised for August 2018 intake given the desire to return at least one GP space as soon as possible.
- Revert back to the sustainable intake for a 17 classroom school of 66 for subsequent years
- In so doing, the second GP room is returned for the commencement of the Aug 2021 academic year

Short Life working group on Gaelic Medium Education and the future provision of primary education

1 Membership

1.1 Elected members

- Convenor of Education, Skills and Early Years (Chair)
- Deputy Convenor of Education, Skills and Early Years
- Member of Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Development Committee from Conservative Group
- Member of Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Development Committee from Green Group
- Member of Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Development Committee from Labour Group

1.2 Key Stakeholders

- A representative from the Comhairle nam Pàrant of Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu
- A representative from the Comhairle nam Pàrant of Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail
- A representative from Comann nam Pàrant Ghlaschu
- A representative from Bord na Ghàidhlig
- A parent representative from Rowena Nursery (GME)
- A parent representative from Lyoncross Nursery (GME)

1.3 Officer support

- Jim Wilson, Head of Service for North West
- Donald MacPhee, Gaelic Officer, Chief Executive Office
- Gillian Campbell-Thow, Quality Improvement Officer (Languages)
- Donalda McComb, Headteacher, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu
- Donna Bowman, Acting Headteacher, Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann
- David McEwan, Estates Manager

The above list is not exhaustive and other Council officers may be invited to attend depending on the matters which are under discussion at any meeting.

2 Working Arrangements

- ### **2.1**
- Consistency of membership will support the group's effectiveness. Where substitutes are necessary, for elected members from the Education, Skills and Early Years Policy Development Committee these should come from the same political party and be members of the committee. For key stakeholders,

these should be nominated by the school/organisation/members of the appropriate group.

- 2.2 The purpose of the Short Life Working Group is to allow Glasgow City Council to engage with key stakeholders to consider both the short and longer term needs of GME in the city. It should be noted that recommendations may require a formal statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 2.3 It will be the responsibility of the Executive Director of Education to propose options for consultation to the Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Development Committee and then for the Convenor of Education, Skills and Early Years to take a proposal for statutory consultation to the City Administration Committee. The working group will provide an opportunity to explore areas which could assist in informing the approach to be taken and allow them to provide feedback in advance of a statutory consultation process being progressed. The areas could include, but not restricted to:
 - the location(s) of any future primary provision for GME;
 - the timescales for the development of future primary provision for GME; and
 - the timing of the statutory consultation process.

3 Approach

- 3.1 The group will not be a formally constituted sub-Committee of the Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Development Committee.
- 3.2 A minute will be taken of each meeting which will be signed off by the chair. As these represent informal discussions the minutes will not be incorporated into a final report or published in any other way. However, it should be noted that these minutes would fall within the scope of the Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation and may require to be released (redacted as appropriate) should they fall within the scope of any FOI request submitted to the Council.
- 3.3 The initial meeting will be to discuss the response to the recent statutory consultation and agreeing the priorities for the Short Life Working Group along with the implications for the meeting schedule. Further meetings will then be scheduled as appropriate.