



Executive Director of
Education
Maureen McKenna

Education Services
Glasgow City Council
City Chambers East Building
40 John Street
Glasgow G1 1JL

Our Ref MMcK/SLA
Date October 2017

Dear Consultee

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.

Officers have considered the response to the above consultation. The full report on the response to the consultation is available on-line at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17886>

Glasgow City Council received 205 responses to the consultation. 42 or 20.5% were in favour 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 in their response.

The majority who responded did not agree with the proposed catchment area in the consultation.

However, many respondents - both for and against the proposal - welcomed the council's support of Gaelic medium education (GME).

Although respondents did not want the council to be in a position of turning away children from GME, they felt that more engagement was needed in order to reach a solution which parents would support.

Respondents felt that there was no need to find a solution for August 2018. They disagreed with the location of the former 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 and carers, particularly those who lived in the south-east of the city. They also felt that their children would have to spend too long being transported to and from the school.

Education Services appreciates the level of public engagement which has resulted during the consultation. 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 of the consultation responses we will not be progressing with the proposal to open a GME primary in the former Gowanbank Primary in August 2018.

We now propose to establish a short-life working group to explore options for the future of GME in Glasgow. The terms of reference and membership of the group are set out in the full report.

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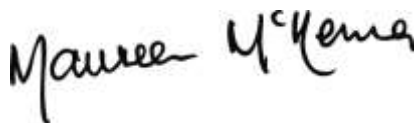
The rejection of the Gowanbank option obviously impacts on the intake of the new P1 in 2018 across the existing Gaelic schools in the city.

Any future proposal from the short-life working group would require a statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and it may be that the intake for 2019 and/or 2020 will also be affected.

The full report explains this in full and we have provided future classifications for both primary schools in an Appendix to the full report.

The report will go to the Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Development Committee on 23rd November for consideration. This will contain a recommendation for the paper to go to the City Administration Committee on 14th December for agreement to establish a Short Life Working Group. If agreed, the first meeting of the Short Life Working Group will take place in January 2018.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen McKenna". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and surname clearly legible.

MAUREEN McKENNA
Executive Director of Education