

Co-comhairleachadh Reachdail: Molaidhean airson Sgìrean-sgoile airson Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig ann am Baile Obar Dheathain.

Ceann-latha mu dheireadh: 8 Dàmhair 2021

Freagairt fhoirmeil bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig

Aithris Thòiseachail

Thug sinn seachad molaidhean a thaobh na co-chomhairle sgoile a bhathar a' moladh airson Seirbheis tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann am Baile Obar Dheathain agus bha e na bhriseadh dùil dhuinn gun deach a' cho-chomhairle air adhart mar a bhathar a' moladh an toiseach. Tha sinn den bheachd gu bheil na molaidhean a th' ann an-dràsta a' cur muinntir Obar Dheathain fo ana-cothrom. A bharrachd air seo, tha sinn den bheachd nach brosnach na h-ullachaidhean a thathar a' moladh iarrtas nas motha air Foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig anns a' bhaile. Tha seo na dhleastanas laghail air an Ùghdarras fon Stiùireadh Reachdail air a' Ghàidhlig. Tha sinn air na prìomh adhbharan a mhìneachadh san earrainn a leanas air carson a tha a' bhith sinn air co-dhùnadh nach bu chòir dhan Chomhairle na molaidhean làithreach aontachadh.

Ceistean sònraichte

1. Tha an t-seirbheis FtG air a thoirt seachad agus air a mhaoineachadh mar sheirbheis dhan a h-uile duine ann an Obar Dheathain agus mar sin tha a' bhith a' cruthachadh sgìrean-sgoile cumhang a' ciallachadh gu bheil a' mhòr-chuid de luchd-còmhnaidh Obar Dheathain air an dùnadh a-mach às an sgìre-sgoile agus mar sin tha bacadh orra ro bhith a' faighinn a-steach dhan t-seirbheis. Bhiodh e na chleachdadh àbhaisteach gu nàiseanta gum biodh Seirbheisean FtG aig Ùghdarras Ionadail fosgailte do luchd-còmhnaidh uile an ùghdarras ionadail mur a h-eil ann ach aon sheirbheis. Mar sin, 's e an rèiteachadh àbhaisteach, agus as cothromaiche a bhiodh ann, a bhith a' sònrachadh sgìre an Ùghdarras Ionadail air fad mar an sgìre-sgoile.
2. Tha cruthachadh sgìrean cumhang sa bhaile a' dùnadh a-mach a' mhòr-chuid de luchd-còmhnaidh a' bhaile, oir feumaidh iad a dhol tro shiostam iarrtais gus àite faighinn san t-seirbheis aig an Ùghdarras Ionadail aca fhèin. Faodaidh seo cuideachd buaidh a thoirt air co-dhùnaidhean san àm ri teachd a thaobh rèiteachaidhean siubhail.
3. Tha an Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig ag ràdh gu bheil dleastanas air Ùghdarrasan Ionadail gus Foghlam tro Meadhan na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh agus ann a bhith a' comharrachadh sgìre-sgoile, gum bu chòir na leanas a bhith ann:

“cothrom ann pàrantan a thàladh gu bhith cur an cuid chloinne gu FtG”
(Earrann 2.54 Stiùireadh Reachdail).

Is e ar beachd làidir nach tàladh sgìrean cumhang agus cleachdadh neo-riatanach de phròiseasan iarrtais pàrantan gu Seirbheis FtG an Ùghdarras Ionadail.

4. Tha am moladh a' cruthachadh diofar sgìrean-sgoile airson FtG san àrd-sgoil agus sa bhun-sgoil. Cruthaichidh seo barrachd troimh-chèile agus tha e na chnap-starra do phàrantan air nach eil feum. Bidh teaghlaichean ann, mar eisimpleir, a tha a' fuireach ann an sgìre na h-àrd-sgoile ach a tha thaobh a-muigh sgìre na bun-sgoile, agus bidh troimh-chèile agus biurocrasaidh a bharrachd ann an dà chuid aig ìre na bun-sgoile agus na h-àrd-sgoil ann am FtG. Tha seo cuideachd a' togail dhraghan a bharrachd nach eil an t-Ùghdarras Ionadail a' cur an Stiùireadh Reachdail air Gàidhlig an sàs, a tha ag ràdh na leanas:

“Mar sin, tha e riatanach gum bi ùghdarrasan foghlaim a’ planadh airson leantail ann an ionnsachadh FtG, gu sònraichte aig amannan gluasaid mar eadar ... P7 agus ÀS1.”

(Earrann 2.1 Stiùireadh Reachdail).

Tha am moladh a' dèanamh eadar-ghluasad eadar Bun-sgoil agus Àrd-sgoil ro thoinnte oir bidh pròiseasan iom-fhillte ann gus iarrtasan àite a dhèanamh aig an ìre ro-chudromaich seo.

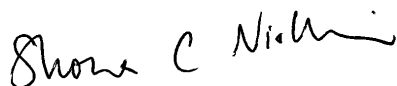
5. Chan eil am moladh mar a tha e sa cho-chomhairle idir ceangailte ris an ìre iarrtais aig an àm seo no ris an ìre ro-mheasta airson an àm ri teachd. Tha e coltach nach eil smaoineachadh ro-innleachdail air a bhith ann a thaobh a bhith a' cur fàs air FtG anns a' Bhaile agus a' togail air na roghainnean a tha pàrantan Obar Dheathain air dèanamh.

Co-dhùnadh.

Mar a tha sinn air mìneachadh, tha am moladh mì-riarachail. Mholamaid gum biodh seirbheisean Ùghdarras Ionadail mar FtG rim faighinn dhan a h-uile duine anns an Ùghdarras Ionadail sin agus mar sin mholamaid gu làidir gun tèid na molaidhean a th' ann an-dràsta a dhiùltadh agus an àite sin gun tèid sgìre-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson a' bhaile air fad airson gach cuid FtG aig ìre na Bun-sgoile agus na h-Àrd-sgoile.

Bhìomaid glè thoilichte barrachd comhairle agus taic phroifeasanta a thoirt dhan Sgioba Foghlaim anns a' bhaile a thaobh sgìrean-sgoile agus ro-innleachdan airson fàs agus leasachadh ann am FtG mar stòras san t-solar foghlaim a bhios Baile Obar Dheathain a' toirt seachad.

Nach cuir sibh fios dhan Stiùiriche Foghlam Gàidhlig againn, a bhiodh ro-thoilichte taic agus comhairle a bharrachd a thoirt dhuibh.



Shona Nicllinnein
Ceannard

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Deit: 7mh là dhen Dàmhair 2021



Statutory Consultation: Proposed Catchment Zones for Gaelic-medium Provision in Aberdeen City.

Concluding: 8th October 2021

Formal Response from Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Introductory Comments

We provided recommendations regarding the proposed school catchment consultation for the Gaelic-medium Service in Aberdeen City and were disappointed that the consultation has gone ahead as originally proposed. We think the current proposals disadvantage the people of Aberdeen. Moreover, it is our considered opinion that the proposed arrangements will not encourage greater uptake of Gaelic-medium Education (GME) in the city. This is a statutory duty of the Authority under the Statutory Guidance for Gaelic. We have set out the principal reasons for our conclusion, that the current proposals should not be agreed by the Council, in the next section.

Specific Issues

1. The GME service is provided and funded as a service for everyone in Aberdeen therefore the creation of narrow catchment areas results in most Aberdeen residents being excluded from the catchment and therefore their accessing the service is impeded. It would be normal national practice for Local Authority GME Services to be open to all residents of a local authority if there is one service only. The normal arrangement therefore, and the fairest would be to cite the whole of the Local Authority as the catchment.
2. The creation of narrow catchments within the city disenfranchises the overwhelming majority of residents, as they will have to engage in the placing request system to access a place in their own Local Authority service. This also of course impacts potentially on future decisions regarding travel arrangements.
3. The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education states that Local Authorities have a duty to promote Gaelic-medium Education and that in delineating catchment areas, the catchment should have

“the potential to attract parents to choose GME provision for their children “
(Section 2.54 Statutory Guidance).

Our considered view is that the creation of narrow catchments and the unnecessary use of placing request processes will not attract families to the Local Authority GME Service.

4. The proposal creates different catchments for GME Secondary and Primary. This will create further confusion and is an unnecessary obstacle for parents. Families will find themselves, for example, in the secondary catchment but not the primary, resulting in confusion and additional bureaucracy in both primary and secondary GME.



This also raises further concerns that the Local Authority is not implementing the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic, which notes the following

“it is therefore considered essential that education authorities plan for continuity and progression. key transition points such as moving between P7 and S1 ”

(Section 2.1 Statutory Guidance).

The proposal unnecessarily complicates transitions between Primary and Secondary as it will result in complex placing request processes taking place at this crucial stage.

5. The proposal as contained in the consultation is totally unrelated to current or projected uptake. It appears to be the case that strategic thinking has not taken place regarding growing GME in the City and building on the choices being made by Aberdeen parents.

Conclusion.

As we have outlined the current proposal is unsatisfactory. We would propose that Local Authority services such as GME are provided for everyone in a Local Authority and consequently we would advocate strongly that the current proposals are rejected in favour of a city-wide catchment area for both Primary and Secondary GME.

We will be very happy to provide further professional advice and support to the Education Team in the city regarding catchments and strategies to grow and develop GME as an asset to the educational provision provided by the City of Aberdeen.

Please contact our Director of Gaelic Education who will be very happy to provide additional support and advice.

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Date: 7th October 2021



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