

<p align="center">Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig airson Co-chomhairleachadh air Sgìre-sgoile airson Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig – Sgìre a’ Phluic.</p> <p align="center">27mh An Giblean 2022</p>	<p align="center">Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Response on the Highland Council Consultation on GME Catchment Areas within for Plockton Associated School Group.</p> <p align="center">27th April 2022</p>
<p>1. Ro-ràdh</p> <p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ cur fàilte air an iomairt gu sgìre-sgoile a chur air bhonn airson Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig ann an sgìre a Phluic. Tha am Bòrd ag aithneachadh gu bheil Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a’ gluasad gu sgìrean-sgoile airson FtG a stèidheachadh air feadh sgìre na Comhairle.</p> <p>Tha Am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2018-23 agus an Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig mar bhunait airson na freagairt seo. San Stiùireadh Reachdail, far a bheil barrachd mìneachaidh air na ceumannan seo, 's e bunait na cùise gun bu chòir adhartas is fàs a bhith air Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig.</p>	<p>1. Introduction</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes in principle the initiative to establish a school catchment area for Gaelic Medium Education (GME) within the Plockton Associated Schools Group. The Bòrd recognises that Highland Council is moving to the establishment of catchment areas where there is existing GME provision in the Council’s area.</p> <p>The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education and the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 form the basis for the Bòrd’s response to this consultation. The Statutory Guidance, where there is further detail on the steps involved, has as its basis that GME should develop and grow.</p>
<p>2. Fiosrachadh sa Cho-chomhairleachadh</p> <p>Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd ag ràdh gu bheil iad airson sgìre-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson nan adhbharan a leanas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tha an Stiùireadh Reachdail a’ moladh gun tèid sin a chur air dòigh; • Tha mì-chinnt ann a thaobh sgìrean-sgoile airson FtG a tha a’ ciallachadh nach eil pàrantan cinnteach am faigh iad FtG airson an cuid chloinne; agus • Tha cleachdadh aig a’ Chomhairle gum bi iad a’ lìbhrigeadh còmhaidh taobh a-staigh sgìre a tha reusanta agus gu h-àbhaisteach tha seo a’ ciallachadh nas lugha de 15 mìltean airson ‘turas gu sgoil’. 	<p>2. Consultation Information</p> <p>The Highland Council says they want to establish a catchment area for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Statutory Guidance recommends that one be developed • There is lack of clarity for parents about the entitlement to GME for their children; and • The Council has used the practice of providing transport within a reasonable travelling distance and generally this has been understood to mean within 15 miles of the school.
<p>3. Moladh na Comhairle</p>	<p>3. Council Recommendation</p>

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt fa-near do na leanas anns an fhiosrachadh co-chomhairleachaidh a thug Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd seachad:

- a) Tha FtG na phrìomh eileamaid foghlaim sa Phloc agus ann an Loch Carrann le mu 65% de chloinn anns a' Phloc (5.1) agus 30% de chloinn ann an Loch Carrann (6.1) clàraichte ann am FtG.
- b) Tha am Bòrd a' toirt taic ann am prionnsapal ri bhith a' sònrachadh sgìrean-sgoile airson a h-uile seirbheis FtG agus a' toirt fa-near dhan amas ainmichte ann an Earrann 1.1 gum bu chòir an cruthachadh ann an dòigh a tharraingeas teaghlaichean gu FtG agus aig a bheil ullachaidhean siubhail reusanta.
- c) Tha rèiteachaidhean siubhail reusanta cuideachd air am mìneachadh ann an Earrann 2.2.
- d) Tha am Bòrd a' cur fàilte chridheil air a' ghealladh a chaidh ainmeachadh gus FtG a leasachadh air feadh Buidheann Sgoiltean Co-cheangailte a' Phluic agus sgìrean eile (7.6).
- e) Tha an t-Ùghdarras Ionadail air co-dhùnadh gu bheil a' Chomraich taobh a-muigh na sgìre siubhail air sgàth astair agus amannan siubhail (7.4). Tha teaghlaichean air a' Chomraich air iartras a chur a-steach fon Stiùireadh Reachdail air Foghlam Gàidhlig. Tha am Bòrd a' toirt taic do sholarachadh FtG air a' Chomraich agus tha e a' moladh, mar fhreagairt do na beachdan ann an 7.4, gum freagair Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd gu fàbharach agus gun toir iad seachad Seirbheis FtG Bun-sgoile sa Chomraich bhon Lùnastal 2022.
- f) Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt fa-near do na beachdan air Loch Dubhthaich agus Gleann Eilg (7.8; 7.5). Ann an Earrann 4 den fhreagairt againn tha sinn a' dèanamh mholaidhean sònraichte a thaobh na slighe air adhart.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig notes the following in the Consultation Information provided by Highland Council:

- A) GME is a crucial delivery method within Plockton and Loch Carron with approximately 65% of children in Plockton (5.1) and 30% of children in Loch Carron (6.1) registered in GME.
- B) The Bòrd supports in principle the defining of catchment areas for all GME services and notes the stated objective in Section 1.1 that these should be created in a manner that attracts families to GME and involves reasonable travelling arrangements.
- C) Reasonable travelling arrangements are furthermore highlighted in Section 2.2.
- D) The Bòrd warmly welcomes the stated commitment to developing GME across the Plockton ASG and other areas (7.6).
- E) The Local Authority has deemed that Applecross is outwith the scope of the potential catchment due to distance and travelling times (7.4). Families in Applecross have submitted an application for GME primary provision under the Statutory Guidance for Gaelic. The Bòrd supports the provision of GME in Applecross and recommends that in response to the comments in 7.4 Highland Council responds positively and delivers a GME Primary Service in Applecross from August 2022.
- F) Bòrd na Gàidhlig notes the comments on Loch Duich and Glenelg (7.8 ; 7.5). In Section 4 of our response we make specific recommendations regarding the way forward.



<p>4. Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig</p> <p>Tha an Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig a’ moladh gun tèid sgìrean-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson sgoiltean far a bheil Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtG) ri fhaighinn (Earrann 2.53 is 2.54).</p> <p>Sgìrean-sgoile FtG is Stiùireadh airson Àiteachan a Ghlèidheadh do Sgoilearan</p> <p>Bu chòir do dh’ùghdarrasan foghlaim sgìrean-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson FtG, agus dh’fhaodadh gum bu mhiann leotha beachdachadh air an iarrtas a th’ ann airson FtG nuair a bhios iad a’ stèidheachadh stiùireadh airson nan àiteachan a thèid a ghlèidheadh do sgoilearan ann am FtG.</p> <p>A rèir 2.54:</p> <p>Bu chòir do sgìre-sgoile airson sgoil le FtG a bhith na sgìre far a bheil an t-ùghdarras foghlaim den bheachd gu bheil e reusanta do chloinn san sgìre sin, a tha airson a dhol gu FtG, siubhal don sgoil, agus bu chòir coltas a bhith air an sgìre sin gun tèid pàrantan a thàladh gu bhith cur an cuid chloinne gu FtG.</p> <p>Moladh bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tha am Bòrd ann am prionnsabal ag aontachadh ri bhith a’ sònrachadh sgìrean-sgoile airson Sgoiltean Co-cheangailte a’ Phluic. 2. Chan eil Bòrd na Gàidhlig ag aontachadh ris an aithris ann an 7.10 gu bheil na rèiteachaidhean siubhail a th’ ann mar-thà airson seirbheisean FtG ann am Buidheann Sgoiltean Co-cheangailte a’ Phluic iomchaidh. 3. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ moladh gum bu chòir làn sgrùdadh ro-innleachdail a dhèanamh air solar seirbheis FtG a-nis le fòcas air na cùisean a leanas: <p>i) Ullachaidhean còmh-dhail airson a h-uile seirbheis FtG a bhios a’ dèanamh ath-sgrùdadh air ùine siubhail, cùisean sàbhailteachd, slighean air a bheil an aimsir a’ toirt buaidh mhòr, agus iom-fhillteachd</p>	<p>4. Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education</p> <p>The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education recommends that catchment areas are established for schools where Gaelic-medium education (GME) is provided (Section 2.53 & 2.54).</p> <p>GME Catchment Areas and Placing Guidelines</p> <p>Education authorities should establish catchment areas for GME provision and may wish to consider demand for GME when setting guidelines for placing pupils in GME provision.</p> <p>2.54 states:</p> <p>A catchment area of GME provision should be an area in which the education authority thinks it is reasonable for pupils wishing to receive GME provision to travel to school and should have the potential to attract parents to choose GME provision for their children.</p> <p>Recommendation from Bòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Bòrd in principle agrees with the defining of catchment areas for the Plockton ASG. 2. Bòrd na Gàidhlig does not agree with the statement in 7.10 that existing travel arrangements are acceptable for GME services in the Plockton ASG. 3. Bòrd na Gàidhlig proposes that a full strategic review of GME service provision for the Plockton, Lochcarron, Loch Duich, Glenelg and Applecross areas should now take place with a focus on the following issues: <p>i) Transport arrangements for all GME services which review time for travel, safety issues, weather dependant routes and the</p>
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<p>siubhail (a' gabhail a-steach iomadach atharrachadh eadar busaichean)</p> <p>ii) Solarachadh is leasachadh FtG air feadh na sgìre, a' gabhail a-steach cruthachadh solar FtG sa Chomraich is Gleann Eilg agus a' leasachadh Seirbheisean Tràth-bhliadhnaichean FtG. Tha sinn a' toirt fa-near gu bheil solar Foghlam Tràth-bhliadhnaichean FtG a-nis làn agus gu bheil feum air barrachd leasachaidh (5.5).</p> <p>iii) Gum bu chòir leantailachd solair bho 3-18 a bhith aig cridhe an ath-bhreithneachaidh ro-innleachdail. Tha sinn a' toirt fa-near dhan bheachd ann an 8.4 a thaobh clann a bhith a' fàgail FtG eadar diofar ìrean agus tha sinn a' moladh gun tèid dèiligeadh gu sgiobalta ri cùisean co-cheangailte ri eadar-ghluasad.</p> <p>iv) Gum bi an t-ath-sgrùdadh ro-innleachdail a' dol an sàs le pàrantan agus a' choimhearsnachd ann a bhith a' dealbh plana gus seirbheisean FtG a leasachadh mean air mhean air feadh na sgìre agus gum bithear a' cumail sùil gheur air fianais soirbheachais gus dèanamh cinnteach gun àrdaich an àireamh sa cheud de phàrantan a tha a' taghadh FtG gach bliadhna.</p>	<p>complexity of travel (including multiple bus changes).</p> <p>ii)The provision and development of GME across the area, including developing GME provision in Applecross and Glenelg and developing GME Early Years Services. We note GME Early Years provision is now at capacity in Plockton and requires further development (5.5)</p> <p>iii)Continuity of provision across 3-18 should be at the heart of the strategic review. We note the comment in 8.4 regarding transition drop out and recommend that issues relating to transition are addressed quickly.</p> <p>iv) The strategic review engages with parents and the community in devising a plan to incrementally develop GME services across the area and that evidence of success is closely monitored to ensure that the percentage of parents opting for GME increases annually.</p>
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