

<p style="text-align: center;">Moladh Co-chomhairle Reachdail – Sgìre Chomar nan Allt an Iar</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p style="text-align: center;">18 Dùbhlachd 2023</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Statutory Consultation Proposal – West Area of Cumbernauld</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Response by Bòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p style="text-align: center;">18 December 2023</p>
<p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ cur a-steach nam freagairtean a leanas dhan cho-chomhairle làithrich air a’ Cho-chomhairle Reachdail air Ath-dhealbhadh Tràth-ionnsachadh agus Cùram-chloinne agus Foghlam Bun-sgoile ann an Sgìre Taobh Siar Chomar nan Allt.</p> <p>Tha an fhreagairt ann an dà earrainn. Tha Earrann a h-Aon a’ toirt seachad freagairtean do cheistean na co-chomhairle agus tha Earrann a Dhà a’ mìneachadh freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig do na prìomh cheistean co-cheangailte ri Solar tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an Comhairle Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath a tha mar cho-theacs dhan cho-chomhairle.</p> <p>Bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig glè thoilichte barrachd cuideachaidh leantainneach a thoirt dhan phròiseas gus seirbheisean Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtG) a leasachadh do choimhearsnachdan ann an Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath. Cuiribh fios gu Stiùiriche an Fhoghlaim sa chiad dol a-mach - jennifer@gaidhlig.scot</p> <p>Earrann a h-Aon: Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig do Cheistean na Co-chomhairle:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1. A bheil sibh ag aontachadh ri dùnadh Sgoil Cuimhneachaidh Mhic a' Bhàird?</p> <p>Chan eil seasamh aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig air cùisean sònraichte co-cheangailte ri eagrachadh oighreachd sgoiltean ann an Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath. Bidh e cudromach ge-tà gun tèid co-dhùnaidhean co-cheangailte ri feumalachdan a thaobh toglaichean airson FtG a cho-rèiteachadh le luchd-cleachdaidh seirbheisean FtG agus gum bi teaghaichean a tha a’ cleachdadh seirbheisean FtG a’ toirt taic do na molaidhean.</p>	<p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig is submitting the following responses to the current consultation on the Statutory Consultation on the Reconfiguration of Early Learning and Childcare and Primary Education in the West Area of Cumbernauld.</p> <p>The response is provided in two sections. Section One provides responses to the consultation questions with Section Two outlining the response of Bòrd na Gàidhlig to the core issues relating to Gaelic Medium Provision in North Lanarkshire Council which are the context for the consultation.</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig will be very happy to provide further ongoing input into the process of developing Gaelic Medium Education (GME) services for communities in North Lanarkshire. Please contact the Director of Education in the first instance - jennifer@gaidhlig.scot</p> <p>Section One: Response from Bòrd na Gàidhlig to the Consultation Questions:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1. Do you agree with the closure of Baird Memorial?</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig does not have a position on the specific issues relating to school estate organisation in North Lanarkshire. It will be important however that decisions relating to the accommodation needs for GME are negotiated with GME service users and that families using GME services support proposals.</p>

2. A bheil sibh ag aontachadh gum bu chòir foghlam prìomh-shruthach a ghluasad gu Bun-sgoil Chondobhrait?

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig fada den bheachd gu bheil an dà chuid FtG agus Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Beurla (FtB) nan dòighean foghlaim prìomh-shruthachadh. Ann an Alba tha Curraicealaman nan Tràth-bhliadhnaichean, na Bun-sgoile agus na h-Àrd-sgoile air an libhrigeadh a rèir Prionnsabalan a' Churraicealaim airson Sàr-mhathais an dàrna cuid tro mheadhan na Beurla no tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. Nì pàrantan taghadh tùsail a thaobh dè am meadhan libhrigidh a tha iad ag iarraidh, i.e. FtG no FtB.

A thaobh na cùise susbaintich, chan eil seasamh aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig air cùisean co-cheangailte ri stiùireadh oighreachd taobh a-staigh an ùghdarras ionadail. Mar an fhreagairt do Cheist a h-Aon, bithear an dùil, far a bheil cùisean oighreachd a' toirt buaidh air libhrigeadh FtG, gun tèid co-chomhairle a chumail le teaghlachan a tha a' cleachdadh FtG agus às dèidh sin gu bheil iad ag aontachadh ris na molaidhean a tha an t-Ùghdarras Ionadail a' dèanamh.

3. A bheil sibh ag aontachadh gum bu chòir Sgoil-àraich Feumalachdan Taic a Bharrachd aig Sgoil Cuimhneachaidh Mhic a' Bhàird a dhùnadh agus a ghluasad gu FLC?

Mar a chaidh a chur an cèill ann am freagairtean na bu thràithe, chan eil seasamh aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig a thaobh riaghladh oighreachd ach a-mhàin a thaobh nam molaidhean a thaobh co-chomhairle le agus aonta bho luchd-cleachdaidh seirbheis FtG (Faic freagairtean Ceistean a h-Aon is a Dhà).

4. A bheil sibh ag aontachadh ri gluasad FtG airson tràth-bhliadhnaichean/ Bun-sgoil bho Chondobhrait gu làrach Sgoil Cuimhneachaidh Mhic a' Bhàird?

Mar a chaidh a chur an cèill ann am freagairtean na bu thràithe, chan eil seasamh aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig a thaobh riaghladh oighreachd ach a-mhàin a thaobh nam molaidhean a thaobh co-chomhairle le agus aonta luchd-cleachdaidh seirbheis FtG (Faic freagairtean Ceistean a h-Aon is a Dhà). Tha grunn bheachdan aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig a thaobh leasachadh FtG, a tha air am mìneachadh ann an Earrann 2.

Earrann a dhà - a' Cho-chomhairle air solarachadh seirbheis FtG.

2. Do you agree with the transfer of mainstream education to Condorrat Primary?

Bòrd na Gàidhlig highlights that both GME and English Medium Education (EME) are mainstream forms of education. Within Scotland the Early Years, Primary and Secondary Curricula are delivered according to the Principles of Curriculum for Excellence either through the medium of English or through the medium of Gaelic. Parents make an initial choice regarding the medium of delivery i.e., GME or EME.

Regarding the substantive issue, Bòrd na Gàidhlig does not have a position on issues relating to estate management within the local authority. As with the response to Question One, it would be expected that where estate issues impact on GME delivery, families using GME are consulted with and are thereafter in agreement with the proposals being made by the Local Authority.

3. Do you agree with the closure of ASN Nursery at Baird Memorial and transfer to FLC

As with previous responses Bòrd na Gàidhlig does not have a position on estate management except for the recommendations regarding consultation with and agreement of GME service users (See responses to Questions One and Two).

4. Do you agree with the transfer of GME for EY / Primary from Condorrat to the site of Baird Memorial?

As with previous responses Bòrd na Gàidhlig does not have a position on estate management except for the recommendations regarding consultation with and agreement of GME service users (See responses to Questions One and Two). Bòrd na Gàidhlig has a range of comments regarding the development of GME, which are outlined in Section 2.

Section Two- The Consultation on GME Service Provision.



Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig toilichte fhaicinn gu bheil molaidhean gan dèanamh gus leasachadh a thoirt air solar seirbheis FtG ann an Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath agus bu mhath leotha na h-oifigearan a mholadh airson na h-obrach a rinn iad gus prìomh ghealltanasan ann am Plana Gàidhlig Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath 2022-27 a thoirt air adhart.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air na prìomh chùisean a leanas a chomharrachadh:

- Tha an fhianais staitistigeil airson FtG Bun-sgoil agus FtG sna Tràth-bhliadhnaichean gu math fàbharach agus a' sealltainn soirbheachas FtG taobh a-staigh an ùghdarrais ionadail.
- Tha e soilleir gu bheil na h-àireamhan de chloinn a tha ann am bun-sgoil FtG agus anns na Tràth-bhliadhnaichean gu leòr gus bun-sgoil FtG fa leth a bhith ann le togalaichean iomchaidh agus Ceannard agus sgioba luchd-obrach a' stiùireadh FtG ann an Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath a-steach gu ìre leasachaidh ùr. Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' toirt fa-near do ghealltanas an ùghdarrais ionadail ann an Earrann 3. Molaidhean:

“S e buaidh nam molaidhean foghlam ann an sgìre Chomar nan Allt an Iar a chur ann an aon ionad foghlaim bun-sgoile agus aon ionad FtG air leth.”

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte mhòr air a bhith a' stèidheachadh ionad FtG fa leth agus na feartan a leanas den mholadh a tha air an comharrachadh ann an Earrann 4. Buannachdan foghlaim:

- *Gus ceannas a neartachadh, agus barrachd doimhneachd agus farsaingeachd de luchd-obrach a thoirt seachad agus gus àrdachadh a thoirt air an tairgse do chloinn aig aois na bun-sgoile*
- *Meudachadh air bogadh taobh a-staigh FtG tro bhith a' stèidheachadh sgoil air leth*
- *A' toirt seachad ionnsachadh tron teirm do chloinn ann an Tràth-ionnsachadh agus Cùram-chloinne tro Mheadhan na Beurla agus tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig*

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is pleased to see that proposals are being made to develop GME service provision further in North Lanarkshire and would like to commend officers for the work they have undertaken to advance key commitments in the North Lanarkshire Gaelic Language Plan 2022-27.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has identified the following key issues:

- The statistical evidence for GME Primary and GME Early Years is positive and shows the success of GME within the local authority.
- The numbers of children now in GME primary and Early Years clearly merit the establishment of a standalone GME Primary school with appropriate accommodation and a Head Teacher and staffing team leading GME in North Lanarkshire into the next phase of development. Bòrd na Gàidhlig notes the Local Authority commitment in Section 3. Proposals:

“The effect of the proposals is to align education in the West area of Cumbernauld to one primary education establishment and a separate GME establishment”.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig very much welcomes the setting up of a separate GME establishment and the following features of the proposal identified in Section 4. Education Benefits:

- *To strengthen leadership, provide greater depth and breadth of staffing and enhance the offering to primary aged children*
- *Increased immersion within GME through the establishment of a separate school*
- *Providing term time learning for children in both English Medium and Gaelic Medium Early Learning and Childcare*



Ach, tha feum air soilleireachd air mar a thèid ceannardas a neartachadh airson FtG agus am bi an sgoil ùr ag obair gu neoisimeileach bho bhun-sgoil Chondobhrait leis an structar luchd-obrach aice fhèin oir chan eil e soilleir an tèid dreuchd Ceannard ùr a chruthachadh airson na sgoile Gàidhlig fa leth. Tha am moladh cuideachd ag ràdh nach bi buaidh mhòr sam bith air an dàrna cuid luchd-teagaisg no luchd-obrach nach eil a' teagasg.

Tha sinn a' cur fàilte air a' mholadh gum bi barrachd àiteachan ann am FtG a' coileanadh dleastanasan an Ùghdarras Ionadail fon reachdas ainmichte agus gun cùm sin taic ri barrachd sùbailteachd agus pàtrain frithealaidh ann an Tràth-ionnsachadh is Cùram-chloinne FtG.

Ma thèid gabhail ris na molaidhean, bidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig glè thoilichte taic leantainneach a thoirt seachad gus am prìomh amas a choileanadh
"barrachd bogaidh taobh a-staigh FtG tro bhith a' stèidheachadh sgoil air leth."

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' moladh gum bu chòir sanasachadh a dhèanamh airson dreuchd Ceannard-sgoile FtG le Gàidhlig mar an ath cheum cudromach. Chaidh cho cudromach 's a tha leasachadh ceannardais a chomharrachadh anns an Sgrìobhainn Co-chomhairleachaidh agus faodaidh an leithid de dhreuchd dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid Bun-sgoil FtG ùr a stèidheachadh le sgioba-stiùiridh ro-innleachdail proifeiseanta a' stiùireadh leasachaidhean bho thùs. Le bhith a' fastadh Ceannard ùr, gabhaidh taic a thoirt do thrusadh dhan Bhun-sgoil FtG ann an Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath, a' fàgail gum bi structar adhartachadh-dreuchd tarraingeach aig an ùghdarras do thidsearan bun-sgoile FtG a bhios comasach air cothroman adhartas fad-beatha a thoirt seachad ann an Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath bho Thidsear Clas gu Ceannardas.

Thug an Aithisg do Chomataidh Foghlaim is Theaghlaichean mu Leasachadh na Gàidhlig (12.09.23) (Suirbhìdh Plana na Gàidhlig) fa-near gun robh 55% de phàrantan FtG agus 67% de luchd-obrach FtG a' comharrachadh luchd-obrach mar fhactar cudromach ann an leasachadh FtG ann an Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath. Le bhith a' stèidheachadh structar adhartachadh-dreuchd bho Thidsear Clas gu Ceannardas ann an Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath, cuiridh sin ri cliù an Ùghdarras Ionadail gu nàiseanta, a' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath na roghainn tharraingeach do thidsearan FtG. Bidh fastadh Ceannard ùr agus sgioba luchd-obrach cho luath 's a ghabhas na eileamaid chudromach de bhith a' fuasgladh

However, clarity is required on how leadership will be strengthened for GME and if the new school will operate independently from Condorrat primary with its own staffing structure as it is unclear if this will result in the creation of a new Head Teacher post for the separate school. The proposal also states that there will be no significant impact on either teaching or non-teaching staff.

We welcome the proposal that increased places in GME will deliver on the Local Authority's obligations under the named legislation and support increased flexibility and patterns of attendance in GME Early Learning and Childcare.

Should the proposals be accepted Bòrd na Gàidhlig will be very happy to provide ongoing assistance in meeting the key objective of
"increased immersion within GME through the establishment of a separate school."

Bòrd na Gàidhlig recommend that the advertising of a Gaelic speaking GME Head Teacher post would be an important next step. The importance of leadership development has been identified in the Consultation Document and such an appointment can ensure that the new GME Primary School is established with a professional strategic leadership team leading developments from the outset. The appointment of the new Head Teacher can support all recruitment into GME Primary in North Lanarkshire, equipping the authority with an attractive promotion structure for GME primary teachers who will consequently be able to envisage lifelong career advancement within the North Lanarkshire from Class Teacher to Headship.

The Report to the Education and Families Committee on Developing Gaelic Language (12.09.23) (Gaelic Language Plan Survey) noted that 55% of GME parents and 67% of GME staffing identified staffing as an important factor in GME development in North Lanarkshire. Establishing a promotion structure from Class Teacher to Headship within North Lanarkshire will enhance the reputation of the Local Authority nationally, ensuring that North Lanarkshire is an attractive option for GME teachers. The employment of a new Head Teacher and staffing team at the earliest opportunity will be an important element in



dhraghan phàrantan agus luchd-teagaisg, a chaidh a chomharrachadh san t-suirbhidh.

Chuireadh Bòrd na Gàidhlig fàilte air Bun-sgoil FtG fa leth a bhith air a stèidheachadh agus tha e a' dèanamh fiughair ri tuilleadh com-pàirteachais le bhith ag obair leis an Ùghdarras Ionadail agus le diofar choimhearsnachdan air feadh Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath gus a' Ghàidhlig a thoirt air adhart mar stòras cultarail cudromach dhan a h-uile duine ann an Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath.

response to the concerns of parents and staff, which were identified in the survey.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig would welcome the establishment of a standalone GME Primary School and looks forward to further partnership working with the Local Authority and various communities across North Lanarkshire to develop Gaelic as an important cultural asset for everyone in North Lanarkshire.

