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|-------------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Report To:</b>       | <b>Education and Communities Committee</b>   | <b>Date:</b>       | <b>14 June 2022</b>    |
| <b>Report By:</b>       | <b>Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development</b>                | <b>Report No:</b>  | <b>EDUCOM/27/22/RB</b> |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b> | <b>Ruth Binks</b>  | <b>Contact No:</b> | <b>01475 712748</b>    |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | <b>Establishment of a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision at Whinhill Primary School</b> |                    |                        |

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Education and Communities committee with the outcome of the statutory consultation to establish a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision at Whinhill Primary School.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Education and Communities Committee, at their meeting on 25 January 2022, agreed that officers undertake a statutory consultation to establish a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision at Whinhill Primary School.
- 2.2 The consultation, in terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 was carried out over the period 01 February – 18 March 2022 during which time all interested parties were invited to submit written representations and two public meetings were held. The outcome document is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.3 After the consultation period, and in accordance with the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 the outcome document has been published three weeks prior to the decision being taken with the recommendation that a catchment area is established for primary Gaelic provision at Whinhill Primary School. If a pupil attending the school wishes to cease Gaelic provision in primary they will automatically revert to their non-denominational catchment school without the need to submit a placing request. Whinhill Primary is the school associated with Inverclyde Academy and will be classed as such for any admission to secondary school.
- 2.4 If an Inverclyde wide catchment area is created then all primary pupils within Inverclyde will be entitled to transport if they live further than one mile from the primary school. There will be financial implications linked to this proposal. The approximate additional initial cost for transporting primary pupils will be in the region of £30,000 per year but this could increase if numbers rise. Whilst the current transport budget could contain the costs, the anticipated rising costs in transport may mean that this is not the case in the future when the transport contracts are retendered. The initial solution was to offset increased costs in the longer term with the money allocated to provide transport to Glasgow for secondary provision but this option was deferred by the committee. The cost of transport for the secondary provision is £36,000. A further report will be brought to a future Committee identifying options to contain the funding.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to:

- Approve that a primary catchment area is established for Gaelic education at Whinhill Primary School. The catchment area will cover the whole of Inverclyde.
- Approve that pupils attending the school can revert to their catchment area non-denominational school without the need for a placing request and for the purposes of transfer to secondary school that attendance at Whinhill will be classed as attending an associated primary school.
- Note that a further report will be brought back to a future committee identifying the exact financial impact of the proposal and options to contain the spend within the directorate's budget.

**Ruth Binks**

**Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 During conversation with Bord na Gaidhlig about Gaelic secondary provision it became apparent that a catchment area for the Gaelic provision at Whinhill Primary school has never been established. The Bord suggested that this should be remedied as soon as possible.
- 4.2 The Education and Communities Committee, at their meeting on 25 January 2022, agreed that officers undertake a statutory consultation to establish a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision at Whinhill Primary School.

## **5.0 PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 The consultation, in terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 was carried out over the period 01 February – 18 March 2022 during which time all interested parties were invited to submit written representations and two public meetings were held. The outcome document is attached as Appendix 1. The proposal document has all the relevant information referred to in this report.
- 5.2 When the consultation period closed in March 2022 Education Scotland was provided with a summary of all relevant written responses and oral representations made during the consultation period. The majority of respondents were in favour of the proposal and more detailed analysis of answers is attached as part of the appended outcome paper.
- 5.3 The report written by Education Scotland is also in the outcome paper and summarised as follows:

“HM Inspectors have evaluated Inverclyde Council’s proposal to establish a council-wide catchment area for Gaelic Medium Education at Whinhill Primary School. HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has potential to result in educational benefits. The proposal is well-received for its potential to strengthen the educational benefits associated with Gaelic Medium Education. HM Inspectors recommend that educational benefits would be enhanced further with clarity on secondary provision within the proposed catchment area”.
- 5.4 After the consultation period, and in accordance with the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 the outcome document has been published three weeks prior to the decision being taken with the recommendation that a catchment area is established for primary Gaelic provision at Whinhill Primary School. For clarity, if a pupil wishes to cease Gaelic provision in primary they will automatically revert to their non - denominational catchment school without the need to submit a placing request. Whinhill Primary is the school associated with Inverclyde Academy and will be classed as such for any admission to secondary school.
- 5.5 If an Inverclyde wide catchment area is created then all primary pupils within Inverclyde will be entitled to transport if they live further than one mile from the primary school.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Finance**

There will be financial implications linked to this proposal. The approximate additional initial cost for transporting primary pupils will be in the region of £30,000 per year but this could increase if numbers rise. The anticipated rising costs in transport will almost certainly have an impact on this proposal. The initial solution was to offset increased costs in the longer term with the money allocated to provide transport to Glasgow for secondary provision but this option was deferred by the committee. The cost of transport for the secondary provision is £36,000. A further report will be brought to a future Committee identifying options to contain the funding.

## Financial Implications:

### One off Costs

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | Budget Years | Proposed Spend this Report | Virement From | Other Comments |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| N/A         |                |              |                            |               |                |

### Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | With Effect from | Annual Net Impact | Virement From (If Applicable) | Other Comments |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| N/A         |                |                  |                   |                               |                |

## 6.2 Legal

This consultation has been undertaken in terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010.

## 6.3 Human Resources

N/A

## 6.4 Equalities

### Equalities

- (a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | YES - which will be uploaded and made available on the Inverclyde Council website using the following address:<br><a href="https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2022">https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2022</a> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required  |

- (b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO   |

- (c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals. |
|--------------------------|---|

|   |    |
|---|----|
| X | NO |
|---|----|

## 6.5 Repopulation

Access to Gaelic provision could promote the area to families.

## 7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 This consultation has been undertaken in terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010.

## 8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Equality Impact Assessment.

**Appendix 1**

**Education Services**

***Seirbheis an Fhoghlaim***

**Establishment of a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision in  
Whinhill Primary School in Inverclyde**

***A' stèidheachadh sgìre-sgoile airson foghlam bun-sgoile tro  
mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig Bun-sgoil Chnoc a' Chonaisg ann an  
Inbhir Chluaidh.***

**Consultation Outcome Document**

***Sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh***

*May 2022*

This report has been published by Inverclyde Council in response to the statutory consultation undertaken under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This report will be presented to the Education and Communities Committee of Inverclyde Council for consideration on June 14 2022.

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone: (01475) 712853.

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## **Appendices**

Report 1. Initial proposal paper

Report 2. Consultation response form

Report 3.      Comments from consultation response form submissions

Report 4.      Comments from public meetings

Report 5.      Report from Education Scotland

## **1.      Purpose of the report**

1.1      The purpose of this report is to advise all stakeholders on the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the establishment of a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision in Whinhill Primary School in Inverclyde

## **2.      Background on the consultation process**

2.1 A consultation proposal document was issued as a result of a decision taken by the Education and Communities Committee on 25 January 2022 to consult on the proposal below to establish a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision in Whinhill Primary School in Inverclyde.

2.1.1 Currently primary Gaelic medium is offered at Whinhill Primary School, however there is no established catchment area for Gaelic and pupils attend by means of a placing request.

2.1.2 The proposal is to create a catchment area that covers the whole of the Inverclyde Council area for Gaelic primary provision in Whinhill Primary School. This means that every pupil who chooses Gaelic medium education for primary school who lives within the Inverclyde boundary but further than a mile from Whinhill Primary School will be entitled to free transport.

2.2      Notice of the proposal and publication of the proposal document was placed in the Greenock Telegraph to engage with the general community.

2.3      A copy of the proposal document was made available from 01 February 2022 to statutory and other consultees. In addition further communications were made with parents, pupils, parent councils and Church representatives.

2.4      The consultation document was available from a variety of sources including schools and online and is attached as Appendix 1.

2.5 The consultation, in terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 was carried out over the period 01 February – 18 March 2022 during which time all interested parties were invited to submit written representations. A copy of the consultation response form and the collated feedback received from the consultation response forms is shown in Appendix 2.

2.6 As part of the consultation process there were also 2 public meetings. They were held on:

Monday 21 February 2022 on webex, 6:30 pm

Tuesday 22 February 2022 at Whinhill Primary School, 6:30 pm

A summary of the oral representations made at the meetings is in Appendix 3a and b of this paper.

2.7 As required, in March 2022 Education Scotland was provided with a summary of all relevant written responses and oral representations made during the consultation period.

2.8 Inverclyde Council received a copy of Education Scotland's report in April 2022. A summary of this report is included in section 5 of this report and a copy of the full report is included in Appendix 4.

2.9 Following the consultation period it is the Council's duty to review the proposal taking account of the feedback received from stakeholders during the consultation period which includes online responses, written responses and oral representations made during the public meetings. The content of Education Scotland's report should also be taken into consideration.

2.10 It should be noted that this consultation outcome report is published at least 3 weeks before it is formally considered by the Education and Communities Committee on *14 June 2022*.

### **3. Summary of written responses**

3.1 The total number of responses received on the official consultation response form (via the online survey or hard copy) was 31. Below is a summary of the responses to the questions posed:

- The majority (71%) agreed with the proposal to establish catchment areas for Gaelic Medium Education.
- Most (81%) agreed that the whole of the local authority should be the catchment area for Gaelic Medium Education.
- Most (77%) agreed that children should be provided with free transport if they reside further than a mile by an acceptable walking route.

### **5. Summary of response by Education Scotland**

5.1 The section below is the summary of the report by Education Scotland addressing the educational aspects of the proposal by Inverclyde Council

5.2 The full report can be found in Appendix 4.

**Summary:**

HM Inspectors have evaluated Inverclyde Council's proposal to establish a council-wide catchment area for Gaelic Medium Education at Whinhill Primary School. HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has potential to result in educational benefits. The proposal is well-received for its potential to strengthen the educational benefits associated with Gaelic Medium Education. HM Inspectors recommend that educational benefits would be enhanced further with clarity on secondary provision within the proposed catchment area.

5.3 **Council response**

The Council is pleased that Education Scotland found that there was a sound educational case for this proposal.

6. **Review of proposals by Education Services (Inverclyde Council)**

6.1 Education Services Senior Management Team has considered the original proposal and reflected upon the responses received. For clarity, if a pupil wishes to cease Gaelic provision in primary they will automatically revert to their non - denominational catchment school without the need to submit a placing request. Whinhill Primary is the school associated with Inverclyde Academy and will be classed as such for any admission to secondary school.

6.2 It is recommended that a primary catchment area is established for Gaelic education at Whinhill Primary School. The catchment area will cover the whole of Inverclyde.

7. **Resource, risk and policy implementation**

7.1 **Resource implications**

If the proposal is approved, education services will arrange for appropriate school transport to be in place from the beginning of the academic year 2022/23.

7.2 **Risk implications**

Education Services will continue to monitor the transport arrangements linked to this proposal and any increase in pupil numbers due to the implementation of the policy.

### **7.3 Policy Implications**

If the proposal is approved, the necessary changes will be reflected in Council policy immediately.

***Seirbheis an Fhoghlaim***

**Establishment of a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision in  
Whinhill Primary School in Inverclyde**

***A' stèidheachadh sgìre-sgoile airson foghlam bun-sgoile tro  
mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig Bun-sgoil Chnoc a' Chonaisg ann an  
Inbhir Chluaidh.***

**Consultation Proposal Document**

***Sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh***

We are looking for your views on our proposal to establish a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde. Currently primary Gaelic medium is offered at Whinhill Primary School, however there is no established catchment area for Gaelic and pupils attend by means of a placing request.

The proposal is to create a catchment area that covers the whole of the Inverclyde Council area for Gaelic primary provision in Whinhill Primary School. This means that every pupil who chooses Gaelic medium education for primary school who lives within the Inverclyde boundary but further than a mile from Whinhill Primary School will be entitled to free transport. This proposal is only for primary education and not for early years or secondary education.

*Tha sinn a' sireadh ur beachdan air sgìre-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson solar foghlaim tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an Inbhir Chluaidh. An-dràsta tha sinn a' tabhann foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig Bun-sgoil Chnoc a' Chonaisg, ach chan eil sgìre-sgoile ann airson Gàidhlig, agus bidh sgoilearan a' frithealadh na Gàidhlig a-rèir iarrtasan sgoile.*

*Tha sinn a' moladh sgìre-sgoile airson Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig Bun-sgoil Chnoc a' Chonaisg a ghabhas a-steach sgìre Inbhir Chluaidh air fad. Tha seo a' ciallachadh gum faigh a h-uile sgoilear a thaghas foghlam bun-sgoile tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig, a tha a' fuireach còir is mìle air falbh bho Bhun-sgoil Chnoc a' Chonaisg, còmhdaile saor an-asgaidh. 'S ann airson foghlam bun-sgoile a tha seo a-mhàin.*

**Closing date for responses on this consultation will be:**

**Friday 18 March 2022**

**There will be 2 public meetings held on:**

**Monday 21 February 2022 on webex, 6:30 pm**

If you wish to attend the online meeting, please send an e-mail to [admin.educationhq@inverclyde.gov.uk](mailto:admin.educationhq@inverclyde.gov.uk) and the link for the meeting will be shared directly with you.

**Tuesday 22 February 2022 at Whinhill Primary School, 6:30 pm**

If you wish to attend in person, please log your interest by calling 01475 712850 and press option 5. An operator will take your details and advise on the details of the event.

This document has been issued by Inverclyde Council for consultation under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.  
If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone: (01475) 712853.

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## **Communication list and how to access the proposal document:**

### **Statutory consultees:**

- The Parent Council of affected schools
- The parents/carers of the pupils at the affected schools
- Parents whose children are expected to attend the affected schools within 2 years of publication of the proposal document
- Pupils (where they are considered to be of suitable age and maturity)
- Council employees at the affected schools
- Trade Union representatives
- Church representatives
- Bord na Gaidhlig
- Community Councils

### **Other stakeholders who will be contacted:**

- Education Scotland
- Elected Members
- Local Members of Parliament and local members of Scottish Parliament
- General Public (Inverclyde)

Consultees will be informed that in order for their views to be taken into account, they must complete and submit a copy of the Consultation Response Form. Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposal by making an online submission using the link:

[www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay)

Alternatively, written submissions should be made using the form attached at the end of this document no later than Friday 18 March.

## **Accessing the proposal document**

The steps listed below have been taken to ensure that the proposal document is widely available.

- Notice of the proposal and of publication of this proposal document has been placed in the Greenock Telegraph to engage with the general community
- The proposal document has been published on the Inverclyde Council website: [www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay)
- This document can be made available in alternative forms or translated by contacting Education Services on (01475) 712853
- The proposal document will also be available for inspection at all educational establishments, Council Customer Contact Centre and libraries

## **1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL**

- 1.1 The Education and Communities Committee meeting of 25 January 2022 approved that officers undertake a consultation to establish a catchment area for primary Gaelic medium. Currently Gaelic medium is offered at Whinhill Primary School.

## **2.0 PROPOSED CHANGES**

- 2.1 The proposal is that a catchment area is established for Gaelic medium primary education. The catchment area would cover the whole of the Inverclyde local authority area.
- 2.2 Any pupil who wishes to pursue Gaelic medium education at Whinhill primary school would live in the catchment area if they live in Inverclyde. If they live over a mile from the school they will be entitled to transport in accordance with Inverclyde Council Transport Policy.
- 2.3 Whinhill Primary School is a non-denominational school and pupils who attend will be deemed to have chosen a non-denominational education. If pupils choose to attend secondary education for their catchment area they will be given equal priority and status to those who attended the non-denominational catchment school.

## **3.0 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

- 3.1 The formal consultation on the proposal within this document will be undertaken under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended. The consultation requires to run for 30 school days and will start on Tuesday 1 February and will end on Friday 18 March 2022. Written representations must be received by this date in order to be taken into account.
- 3.2 All primary schools will be affected by this proposal.
- 3.3 **Public Meeting**

There will be 2 public meetings held on:

Monday 21 February 2022 on webex, 6:30 pm

Tuesday 22 February 2022 at Whinhill Primary School, 6:30 pm

The meetings will provide those in attendance with an opportunity to:

- Hear about the proposal
- Ask questions about the proposal
- Express views about the proposal

A note will be taken of the views expressed during the public meeting and of any questions asked. In addition to the public meeting, written representations including online responses will be able to be made during the consultation period.

### **3.4 Who will be consulted?**

Statutory consultees:

- The Parent Council of affected schools
- The parents/carers of the pupils at the affected schools
- Parents whose children are expected to attend the affected schools within 2 years of publication of the proposal document
- Pupils (where they are considered to be of suitable age and maturity)
- Council employees at the affected schools
- Trade Union representatives
- Church representatives
- Bord na Gaidhlig
- Community Councils

Other stakeholders who will be contacted:

- Education Scotland
- Elected Members
- Local Members of Parliament and local members of Scottish Parliament
- General Public (Inverclyde)

Consultees will be informed that in order for their views to be taken into account, they must complete and submit a copy of the Consultation Response Form.

Pupil consultation will take place through representatives of Pupil Councils.

### **3.5 Involvement of Education Scotland**

The Council will provide the proposal document to Education Scotland at the start of the consultation period. When the consultation period has ended, Inverclyde Council will collate all of the written and oral representations. Thereafter, the following information will be provided to Education Scotland:

- A copy of relevant written representations made to Inverclyde Council on the proposal (or summary of them if agreed within Education Scotland)
- A summary of oral representations made at the public meetings
- Other relevant documentation, as far as is practicable

Education Scotland will prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal taking account of the above, the Educational Benefits Statement contained in this proposal document and in so far that Education Scotland considers them relevant, any written representations made directly to them. Education Scotland may also visit the schools affected by the proposal and make reasonable

inquiries of persons there and of such other persons as they consider appropriate. Education Scotland require to send their report to Inverclyde Council no later than 3 weeks (or longer if agreed with Inverclyde Council) after having received the information from Inverclyde Council.

### **3.6 Consultation Report**

After receiving Education Scotland's report, Inverclyde Council will review the proposal taking account of relevant written representations received during the consultation period, oral representations made during the public meeting and Education Scotland's report. Inverclyde Council will then prepare and publish a consultation report which will include a recommendation on the proposal.

Inverclyde Council will notify on the publication of the consultation report, which will be made available on Inverclyde Council's website, in schools and at Inverclyde Council's Customer Contact Centre.

The consultation report will be published 3 weeks before it is formally considered by Inverclyde Council.

### **3.7 Inaccuracies or omissions**

Where inaccuracies or omissions are discovered within this proposal document, Inverclyde Council will determine whether relevant information has been omitted or, if there has been an inaccuracy. Appropriate action will then be taken by Inverclyde Council which may include issuing corrections, issuing a corrected proposal document or an extension of the consultation period. In any of these events all relevant consultees (and where applicable the notifier(s) of any omissions or inaccuracies) and Education Scotland will be advised of the appropriate action. Notifiers of any omissions or inaccuracies will also be given the opportunity to make representations if they disagree with Inverclyde Council's determination of and any action on the matter, which may result in Inverclyde Council making a further determination / decision on the matter.

## **4.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE FOR THE PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 It is expected that the proposal, if accepted, would be implemented from the start of term August 2022.

## **5.0 EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS – ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSAL**

- 5.1 Inverclyde Council is firmly committed to delivering a high quality education provision in learning environments fit for learning and teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Environments that nurture ambition and aspirations, improve attainment and achievement, and create and widen opportunities for all children and young people to achieve their full potential and move into positive and sustained destinations when they leave school. Inverclyde Council also demonstrates its strong belief in the value of education through financial investment to allow full implementation of Curriculum for Excellence and Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), and supporting programmes and activities that focus on removing barriers to learning and closing the attainment gap.
- 5.2 Inverclyde Council is committed to the promotion of Gaelic. The Council recognises the importance of Gaelic to our national culture and heritage and as such, is delighted to present our second Gaelic Language Plan 2022/27. As a Council, we are committed to supporting Gaelic and will seek to further promote its development within Inverclyde over the life of this plan.

Through the implementation of this Plan, we aim to support the delivery of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 and meet our responsibilities under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act

2005.

Our long term vision is to nurture Gaelic within Inverclyde to ensure a supportive environment, recognising the importance and value of the language. Governance of the Plan will therefore be provided by the Corporate Equalities Group which will help to ensure that this work is mainstreamed within all services and promote Council wide ownership of its delivery.

- 5.3 All Inverclyde schools remain open to all pupils and will continue to have an inclusive and respectful ethos which helps every pupil to achieve their best. The establishment of a catchment area for Gaelic medium primary education means that pupils who wish to pursue Gaelic medium education will not have to submit a placing request. This is of an educational benefit to the pupils because they can be assured a place at the school rather than requesting a placing request.
- 5.4 The establishment of a catchment area means that transport will be provided by the Council for pupils living further than a mile from Whinhill Primary School. This is of an educational benefit to pupils because the associated costs and availability of transport may prove to be a barrier to families who wish to pursue Gaelic medium education.

## **6.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 This proposal will have financial implications for the transport budget for education services. This is expected to initially be in the region of £38,000 but will increase if pupil numbers increase.

## **8.0 RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL**

- 8.1 Page 4 of this document provides details on how to access a copy of the proposal document.
- 8.2 Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposal by making an online submission using the link:  
[www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay)

Alternatively, written submissions should be made using the form attached at the end of this document no later than Friday 18 March 2022

## **Education Services**

### **Establishment of catchment areas for primary and secondary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde**

### **CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM**

Please use this form to let us know what you think about this proposal

The closing date for responses is **Friday 18 March 2022**.

**This form should be returned to:**

Education Services  
Wallace Place  
Greenock  
PA15 1JB

We are looking for your views on our proposal to establish a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde. Currently primary Gaelic medium is offered at Whinhill Primary School, however there is no established catchment area for Gaelic and pupils attend by means of a placing request.

The proposal is to create a catchment area that covers the whole of the Inverclyde Council area for Gaelic primary provision in Whinhill Primary School. This means that every pupil who chooses Gaelic medium education for primary school who lives within the Inverclyde boundary but further than a mile from Whinhill Primary School will be entitled to free transport.

**Q1 Do you agree with the establishment of a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided ☐

**This box gives an opportunity to explain the reason for your response.**

**Q2 Do you agree that the catchment area for Gaelic medium for Whinhill primary school should be the whole of the local authority area?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided ☐

**This box gives an opportunity to explain the reason for your response.**

**Q3 Do you agree that free transport should be provided for those who live within Inverclyde but further than a mile by acceptable walking route from the school?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided ☐

**This box gives an opportunity to explain the reason for your response.**

**In order to validate your response to this proposal please provide your details:**  
(this section must be completed in order for your views to be taken into account)

**Name**

**Address**

**Q6** I am responding in my capacity as a (please indicate by selecting the appropriate answer below)

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Parent/carer of a child at primary school   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parent/carer of a child at secondary school | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parent/carer of a child in nursery          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parent Council member (primary school)      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parent Council member (secondary school)    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Member of staff at primary school           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Member of staff at secondary school         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Church representative                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Elected Member                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Trade Union                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Member of the public                        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Member of Community Council                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bord na Gaidhlig                            | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other group (please specify)

**Handling your response – Please note that:**

We will use the information you provide for the purpose of this consultation, including statistical and analytical purposes.

We will pass a full copy of your response to Education Scotland, or a summary of it if agreed with them.




We are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and therefore would have to consider any request made under the Act for information relating to written responses/records or oral representations made to us relating to this consultation.

**Thank you for taking the time to respond.**

**If you would like to make any comment on the proposal, or suggest an alternative option for consideration please do so in the space below:**

# Gaelic Provision in Inverclyde 2022 – Appendix 3

## 2. Page 2



| 1. Do you agree with the establishment of a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde? |   |   |                  |                |
|--|---|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Choices   |   |   | Response Percent | Response Total |
| 1  | Yes                                     |    | 70.97%           | 22             |
| 2  | No                                      |    | 19.35%           | 6              |
| 3  | Undecided                               |    | 9.68%            | 3              |
|  |   |   | answered         | 31             |
|  |   |   | skipped          | 0              |
| This box gives an opportunity to explain the reason for your response. (13)                            |   |   |                  |                |
| 1  | 02/02/2022<br>15:20 PM<br>ID: 184090877 | Free Breakfast club should take priority over transport for a school that has been chosen when there are alternatives near by   |                  |                |
| 2  | 02/02/2022<br>20:35 PM<br>ID: 184120595 | Wouldn't like to exclude those just outside a boundary when it is still their nearest GME school.   |                  |                |
| 3  | 03/02/2022<br>13:34 PM<br>ID: 184168451 | so parents will boycott the classes, shame.   |                  |                |
| 4  | 03/02/2022<br>15:08 PM<br>ID: 184178898 | The need for transport for children who's parents have opted to send their children to that school should not be treated differently from any other placing request.  |                  |                |
| 5  | 09/02/2022<br>17:09 PM<br>ID: 184619446 | If there is an increase in demand can the school accommodate it.  |                  |                |
| 6  | 12/02/2022<br>00:52 AM<br>ID: 184812756 | It would be more prudent to concentrate on Mathematics English improve on the basics, moving to online education, Estonian teaches robotics by P7.  |                  |                |
| 7  | 12/02/2022<br>21:32 PM<br>ID: 184842587 | I do not believe we should have Gaelic in schools   |                  |                |
| 8  | 17/02/2022<br>18:38 PM<br>ID: 185244571 | At present the only option for Gaelic Education is at Whinhill. I live in Port Glasgow and although manage find it very difficult to get to and from school and work full time. Childminders have also refused to take my kids as they have rules about locations. It's not great having to complete a placement request when it's the only school available in the local area that provides Gaelic. I know that most parents are not from the Catchment area of Whinhill also. |                  |                |
| 9  | 26/02/2022<br>18:41 PM<br>ID: 185795082 | Every child in inverclyde should be offered the opportunity to attend GME, travel costs/time should not be a barrier.   |                  |                |
| 10   | 09/03/2022<br>21:52 PM<br>ID: 186661505 | Gaelic provision in central belt should be a lower priority for funding   |                  |                |
| 11   | 17/03/2022<br>10:56 AM<br>ID: 187268947 | This would encourage more pupils to access GME more easily who may not have been able to due to travel restrictions.  |                  |                |

### 1. Do you agree with the establishment of a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde?

|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 12 | 17/03/2022<br>11:00 AM<br>ID: 187273349 | I feel we should try and make learning Gaelic as accessible as possible.   |
| 13 | 18/03/2022<br>17:01 PM<br>ID: 187403626 | It makes sense for their to be an established catchment area that alleviates the need for placing requests from within the council area. |

### 3. Page 3

### 2. Do you agree that the catchment area for Gaelic medium for Whinhill primary school should be the whole of the local authority area?

| Answer Choices |           |  | Response Percent | Response Total |
|----------------|-----------|--|------------------|----------------|
| 1              | Yes       |  | 80.65%           | 25             |
| 2              | No        |   | 19.35%           | 6              |
| 3              | Undecided |  | 0.00%            | 0              |
|                |           |  | answered         | 31             |
|                |           |  | skipped          | 0              |

This box gives an opportunity to explain the reason for your response. (13)




|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 02/02/2022<br>15:20 PM<br>ID: 184090877 | Yes but transport should not be provided  |
| 2 | 02/02/2022<br>20:35 PM<br>ID: 184120595 | I think that Kilwinning GME is too far away for pupils in Skelmorlie who are in North Ayrshire. Perhaps the catchment could be about halfway and the Councils could cooperate and communicate to reach agreement. |
| 3 | 03/02/2022<br>13:34 PM<br>ID: 184168451 | Whinhill Primary is designated school for Gaelic  |
| 4 | 03/02/2022<br>15:08 PM<br>ID: 184178898 | See previous.   |
| 5 | 09/02/2022<br>17:09 PM<br>ID: 184619446 | If available to all in Inverclyde then it should cover the whole area.  |
| 6 | 12/02/2022<br>00:52 AM<br>ID: 184812756 | Same as before, if you wish to teach a language, try mandarin or Japanese,  |
| 7 | 12/02/2022<br>21:32 PM<br>ID: 184842587 | I do not believe that we should have Gaelic in schools  |
| 8 | 17/02/2022<br>18:38 PM<br>ID: 185244571 | As it's the only Gaelic offering in Inverclyde the catchment should be whole of Inverclyde.   |
| 9 | 02/03/2022<br>20:08 PM<br>ID: 186087398 | I am not in favour of offering Gaelic language in schools   |

## 2. Do you agree that the catchment area for Gaelic medium for Whinhill primary school should be the whole of the local authority area?

|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 10 | 15/03/2022<br>16:10 PM<br>ID: 187128486 | All children in Inverclyde should have the opportunity to learn Gaelic.  |
| 11 | 17/03/2022<br>10:56 AM<br>ID: 187268947 | This will allow for the greatest opportunity for pupils within the council to more easily access GME.                  |
| 12 | 18/03/2022<br>17:01 PM<br>ID: 187403626 | There is no other Gaelic provision within Inverclyde, therefore the whole council area should form the catchment area. |
| 13 | 18/03/2022<br>21:49 PM<br>ID: 187419329 | Gaelic should be offered for the full council area.  |

## 4. Page 4

## 3. Do you agree that free transport should be provided for those who live within Inverclyde but further than a mile by acceptable walking route from the school?

| Answer Choices |           |   | Response Percent | Response Total |
|----------------|-----------|---|------------------|----------------|
| 1              | Yes       |  | 77.42%           | 24             |
| 2              | No        |  | 19.35%           | 6              |
| 3              | Undecided |  | 3.23%            | 1              |
|                |           |   | answered         | 31             |
|                |           |   | skipped          | 0              |

This box gives an opportunity to explain the reason for your response. (10)










|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 03/02/2022<br>15:08 PM<br>ID: 184178898 | If their parents wish their children to attend a school that is not in their catchment why should the transport be subsidised when other children in the same position do not get it?  |
| 2 | 09/02/2022<br>17:09 PM<br>ID: 184619446 | Ultimately it is still a parental choice, suitable schools are available closer. Gaelic education provision is a luxury not a necessity.   |
| 3 | 12/02/2022<br>00:52 AM<br>ID: 184812756 | Obesity is rife, walking is good for the children.<br>If they can walk it in 45 mins.  |
| 4 | 12/02/2022<br>21:32 PM<br>ID: 184842587 | I do not believe that we should have Gaelic in schools   |
| 5 | 23/02/2022<br>23:51 PM<br>ID: 185633109 | Other than the Overton area/close to the school, yes they should be able to get the bus  |
| 6 | 26/02/2022<br>18:41 PM<br>ID: 185795082 | It would be good to also demonstrate the environmental benefits of offering school transport versus a high number of cars driving to Whinhill Primary from all over inverclyde   |
| 7 | 08/03/2022<br>11:05 AM<br>ID: 186487293 | The school is difficult to access for the majority of Inverclyde residents who would like their children to experience Gaelic medium education. Either free transport should be provided, or a more central school used as the base. |

### 3. Do you agree that free transport should be provided for those who live within Inverclyde but further than a mile by acceptable walking route from the school?

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 8  | 09/03/2022<br>21:52 PM<br>ID: 186661505 | unnecessary expense   |
| 9  | 17/03/2022<br>10:56 AM<br>ID: 187268947 | I believe transport should be there to make access to GME as easy as possible within all areas of the council.  |
| 10 | 18/03/2022<br>17:01 PM<br>ID: 187403626 | Inverclyde covers a large area, it would be a lot to expect those living further than a mile from the school to provide their own transport to and from school. |

## 5. Page 5

### 4. I am responding in my capacity as a (please indicate by selecting the appropriate answer below):

| Answer Choices                    |   |   | Response Percent | Response Total |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|------------------|----------------|
| 1                                 | Parent/carer of a child at primary school   |    | 41.94%           | 13             |
| 2                                 | Parent/carer of a child at secondary school |  | 22.58%           | 7              |
| 3                                 | Parent/carer of a child in nursery          |  | 6.45%            | 2              |
| 4                                 | Parent Council member (primary school)      |  | 3.23%            | 1              |
| 5                                 | Parent Council member (secondary school)    |   | 0.00%            | 0              |
| 6                                 | Member of staff at primary school           |  | 25.81%           | 8              |
| 7                                 | Member of staff at secondary school         |  | 3.23%            | 1              |
| 8                                 | Church representative                       |   | 0.00%            | 0              |
| 9                                 | Elected Member                              |   | 0.00%            | 0              |
| 10                                | Trade Union                                 |   | 0.00%            | 0              |
| 11                                | Member of the public                        |  | 22.58%           | 7              |
| 12                                | Member of Community Council                 |   | 0.00%            | 0              |
| 13                                | Bord na Gaidhlig                            |  | 3.23%            | 1              |
| 14                                | Other group (please specify):               |  | 3.23%            | 1              |
|                                   |   |   | answered         | 31             |
|                                   |   |   | skipped          | 0              |
| Other group (please specify): (1) |   |   |                  |                |

**4. I am responding in my capacity as a (please indicate by selecting the appropriate answer below):**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 02/02/2022<br>20:35 PM<br>ID: 184120595 | Family of Gaelic speakers who lived in Fairlie, Bute and Inverkip.. |
|---|---|---|

**6. Page 6**

**5. If you would like to make any comment on the proposal, or suggest an alternative option for consideration please do so in the space below:**

| Answer Choices |   |   | Response Percent | Response Total |
|----------------|---|---|------------------|----------------|
| 1              | Open-Ended Question                     |   | 100.00%          | 12             |
| 1              | 02/02/2022<br>15:20 PM<br>ID: 184090877 | Parents who pick this school should think about transport breakfast club should not be paid for if these parents get transport for free   |                  |                |
| 2              | 02/02/2022<br>15:36 PM<br>ID: 184092670 | This will be great for the children and their Scottish identity.  |                  |                |
| 3              | 02/02/2022<br>20:35 PM<br>ID: 184120595 | I applaud the efforts being made to increase Gaelic provision in the area.  |                  |                |
| 4              | 03/02/2022<br>13:34 PM<br>ID: 184168451 | Why not the proposal a go and see how many actually boycott   |                  |                |
| 5              | 03/02/2022<br>15:08 PM<br>ID: 184178898 | There should be no different rule because parents have been able to benefit from sending their children to Gaelic provision.  |                  |                |
| 6              | 09/02/2022<br>17:09 PM<br>ID: 184619446 | In this day and age of cost savings having to be made, this seems like an unnecessary luxury. Everyone wants to get pupils into their school of choice it is discriminatory against parents from outwith the catchment area who put in a placing request for Whinhill but not for the Gaelic option.  |                  |                |
| 7              | 12/02/2022<br>00:52 AM<br>ID: 184812756 | It would be better to focus on the basics and improve.  |                  |                |
| 8              | 12/02/2022<br>21:32 PM<br>ID: 184842587 | I do not believe that we should have Gaelic in schools  |                  |                |
| 9              | 17/02/2022<br>18:38 PM<br>ID: 185244571 | It's a welcome change. Gaelic is wonderful and having more accessibility for the whole of Inverclyde is extremely positive. Add in some good advertisements that Inverclyde has a Gaelic provision and we will no doubt see an increase in demand.  |                  |                |
| 10             | 08/03/2022<br>11:05 AM<br>ID: 186487293 | Introducing children to Gaelic in primary school would be a fantastic step forward in encouraging awareness and use of the language. If it could be embedded in the curriculum for all schools and not limited to Whinhill Gaelic centre, that would be brilliant. I would love for my child to experience a Gaelic medium education, but current provision in Inverclyde is poor, difficult to access and underfunded. |                  |                |
| 11             | 09/03/2022<br>21:52 PM<br>ID: 186661505 | there should be higher priorities for council spending than gaelic provisions in central belt   |                  |                |
| 12             | 18/03/2022<br>17:01 PM<br>ID: 187403626 | I wholeheartedly support the proposal to create a GME catchment area for Inverclyde. It will offer all children/families a new option which may have previously not been available  |                  |                |

**5. If you would like to make any comment on the proposal, or suggest an alternative option for consideration please do so in the space below:**

|  |  |   |          |    |
|--|--|---|----------|----|
|  |  | to them. Provision of transport will ensure equity for those who live furthest from Whinhill, as the cost of transport is a huge factor when deciding on schools. |          |    |
|  |  |   | answered | 12 |
|  |  |   | skipped  | 19 |

**Consultation – Establishment of a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision**

**in Whinhill Primary School**

**Monday 21 February 2022 ~ Webex**

**Note of meeting**

Separate register taken

R Binks welcomed everyone.

Introductions.

R Binks shared presentation providing overview of the consultation process:

- The Schools Consultation Act tells us that if a Council wishes to vary a catchment area for its schools they have to undertake statutory consultation.
- The consultation period opened on 01 February 2022 and will close on 18 March 2022
- As well as opportunities to respond online there are two public meetings.
- Education Scotland then receive the relevant results of the consultation and have 3 weeks to prepare their own report.
- The final report will then be collated and taken to the first Education Committee after the May 2022 election.
- If taken forward the proposed changes will take effect from August 2022.

R Binks shared why we are making changes and what they are:

- There is currently no identified catchment area for Gaelic Primary education in Inverclyde.
- This means that all pupils currently attend primary Gaelic medium education by means of a placing request
- The change is that the catchment area for Whinhill Primary Gaelic provision will be the whole of Inverclyde Council.

- Pupils who wish to attend Gaelic medium education in Inverclyde will no longer need to submit a placing request and will be entitled to transport in line with the Inverclyde transport policy for schools

Opportunity for questions as noted below. R Binks also indicated that if anyone had questions that they wished to ask privately that they indicate in the chat and she will arrange that they are answered.

R Binks thanked everyone for coming along. Another meeting will be held tomorrow in Whinhill Primary School at 6:30pm. Report will be shared with education Scotland on 18 March 2022.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Name                                   |  |
| Capacity                               | Parent   |
| Question                               | If a child attended GME at Whinhill then decided to return to EME, would they be able to return to their previous catchment school?  |
| Answer<br>RB<br>MR<br>LC<br>LR<br>EMCL | We would try to accommodate but sometimes there isn't space so they may have to wait. We would want to be fair and to meet the young person's needs.<br><br>This would be a non-denominational school as we ask parents to make this choice when young person starts school. |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Name     |   |
| Capacity | Parent  |
| Question | What mode of transport would be used? If there were many coming from one area would it be a bus or many taxis?<br><br>Would it be door to door? |

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Answer | <p>RB- it would be what was most cost effective and similar to approach used for other routes and schools, not necessarily door to door.</p> <p>LC- It would depend on how many. SPT will decide if it will be taxi, mini bus or a larger bus. Route is then determined which will probably be pick-ups along a mainstream route.</p> |
| RB     |   |
| MR     |   |
| LC     |   |
| LR     |   |
| EMCL   |   |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Name     |   |
| Capacity | Parent  |
| Question | How would this work with staggered start and end times?   |
| Answer   | <p>Our bus presently comes for early times of 8:45 and 2:45.</p> <p>We assume that by August we will be back to normal start and end times and will have moved away from staggered times.</p> |
| RB       |   |
| MR       |   |
| LC       |   |
| LR       |   |
| EMCL     |   |

**Consultation – Establishment of a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision**

**in Whinhill Primary School**

**Tuesday 22 February 2022 ~ Whinhill Primary School**

**Note of meeting**

Separate register taken

R Binks welcomed everyone.

Introductions.

R Binks shared presentation providing overview of the consultation process:

- The Schools Consultation Act tells us that if a Council wishes to vary a catchment area for its schools they have to undertake statutory consultation.
- The consultation period opened on 01 February 2022 and will close on 18 March 2022
- As well as opportunities to respond online there are two public meetings.
- Education Scotland then receive the relevant results of the consultation and have 3 weeks to prepare their own report.
- The final report will then be collated and taken to the first Education Committee after the May 2022 election.
- If taken forward the proposed changes will take effect from August 2022.

R Binks shared why we are making changes and what they are:

- There is currently no identified catchment area for Gaelic Primary education in Inverclyde.
- This means that all pupils currently attend primary Gaelic medium education by means of a placing request
- The change is that the catchment area for Whinhill Primary Gaelic provision will be the whole of Inverclyde Council.

- Pupils who wish to attend Gaelic medium education in Inverclyde will no longer need to submit a placing request and will be entitled to transport in line with the Inverclyde transport policy for schools

Opportunity for questions as noted below. R Binks also indicated that if anyone had questions they wished to ask privately they could ask at the end of the meeting.

No questions raised regarding the establishment of a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision in Whinhill Primary School.

All present were in agreement that the proposal regarding the Whinhill Gaelic provision catchment area was a good idea.

R Binks thanked everyone for coming along.

# **Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

**Report by HM Inspectors of Education addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Inverclyde Council to establish a Gaelic Medium Education catchment area for primary Gaelic provision in Whinhill Primary School.**

March 2022

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of Inverclyde Council's proposal to establish a catchment area for primary Gaelic Medium Education at Whinhill Primary School. Section two of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section three of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section four summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the 2010 Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the schools; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- virtual discussions with relevant consultees.

## 2. Consultation process

2.1 Inverclyde Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#). The formal consultation ran from 1 February 2022 to 18 March 2022. The proposal paper was distributed to a wide range of stakeholders. Interested parties were invited to respond to the statutory consultation by letter or electronically. The council provided a survey, to which 31 responses were received. The following is high-level summary of the views expressed by respondents in this survey.

- The majority (71%) agreed with the proposal to establish catchment areas for Gaelic Medium Education.
- Most (81%) agreed that the whole of the local authority should be the catchment area for Gaelic Medium Education.
- Most (77%) agreed that children should be provided with free transport if they reside further than a mile by an acceptable walking route.

The council held two public meetings to enable further consultation on the proposal. Stakeholders could choose to attend these meetings in person, or by using digital technology. Fewer than ten attended these meetings. The meeting attendees supported the proposal. They used the meeting to clarify a few points with the local authority. HM Inspectors consulted senior leaders, staff, parents and children to elicit views and discuss the educational benefits that would result from the proposal, should it be enacted. We evidenced strong consensus for the proposed catchment area. Stakeholders were positive about the availability of free transport for those who resided further than a mile by an acceptable walking route. Parents had a few concerns that included the council having a progressive strategy for Gaelic Medium Education to provide continuous 3-18 learning opportunities. Bòrd na Gàidhlig did not respond to the consultation. However, they are working with the council on their long-term strategy for Gaelic. Currently, Renfrewshire Council use the council's Gaelic Medium services. They have not responded to the consultation.

### 3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The proposal from the council, if agreed, improves access to Gaelic Medium Education at the primary stages. This supports equity, equality and inclusion outcomes at the primary stages through the medium of Gaelic. This has potential to help the council meet the objectives of their Gaelic Language Plan. Parents feel that the proposal has potential to increase the numbers learning through Gaelic. They also felt that the service could be better promoted. This is a legislative requirement.

3.2 Parents value that this proposal would reduce barriers for them in accessing Gaelic Medium Education. These reduced barriers are financial, security of travel, being better able to balance commitments to their employment and their children's access to Gaelic Medium Education. Importantly, the more streamlined process for enrolment into P1 Gaelic Medium Education, without having to make a placing request to the council, provided better parity with the English medium sector. Parents felt that the proposal was part of the strategic approach required to provide progressive 3-18 Gaelic Medium Education.

### 4. Summary

HM Inspectors evaluated Inverclyde Council's proposal to establish a council-wide catchment area for Gaelic Medium Education at Whinhill Primary School. HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has potential to result in educational benefits. The proposal is well-received for its potential to strengthen the educational benefits associated with Gaelic Medium Education. HM Inspectors recommend that educational benefits would be enhanced further with clarity on secondary provision within the proposed catchment area.

**HM Inspectors**  
**March 2022**