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| <b>Report To:</b>       | <b>Education &amp; Communities Committee</b>  | <b>Date:</b>       | <b>23 January 2024</b> |
| <b>Report By:</b>       | <b>Corporate Director<br/>Education, Communities &amp;<br/>Organisational Development</b>                                   | <b>Report No:</b>  | <b>EDUCOM/01/24/MR</b> |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b> | <b>Michael Roach<br/>Head of Education</b>  | <b>Contact No:</b> | <b>01475 712828</b>    |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | <b>Secondary Gaelic Education in Inverclyde – Establishment of a Catchment Area for GME Provision at Inverclyde Academy</b> |                    |                        |

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## 1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting

1.2 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 secondary Gaelic provision at Inverclyde Academy for the academic year beginning August 2024.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to:
- approve that a secondary catchment area is established for Gaelic education at Inverclyde Academy for the academic year beginning August 2024.

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

### **3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Whinhill Primary school has a very strong and well-respected Gaelic primary provision and nursery class. Pupils from the school wishing to continue Gaelic into secondary education currently put a placing request into Glasgow Gaelic school.
- 3.2 There is no requirement to carry out a statutory consultation to establish a GME secondary provision within Inverclyde Academy, however there is a requirement to carry out a statutory consultation for the delineation of a catchment area for this provision.
- 3.3 Initially, for the academic year 2020/21 Glasgow Gaelic School turned down the placing requests from Inverclyde, although subsequently the council accepted them. For academic years 2021/22 and 2022/23 Glasgow Gaelic School accepted all placing requests. As Glasgow Gaelic school continues to expand it is highly likely that the school will not be able to accommodate placing requests in the future.
- 3.4 Whilst there is no statutory requirement for a local authority to provide secondary Gaelic, Inverclyde Education services are keen for the pupils to continue their education in Gaelic and to continue that provision in Inverclyde.
- 3.5 In November 2021 the Education and Communities Committee agreed that officers continue to explore options for Gaelic medium secondary education for pupils currently attending Whinhill Primary School in the immediate future, medium and longer term. This was in response to the Glasgow Gaelic school reaching capacity and being unlikely to accept pupils from Inverclyde in the future.
- 3.6 In January 2022 the Education and Communities Committee agreed that officers undertake a statutory consultation on the identification of a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision. The Committee also approved the immediate creation of a Gaelic Advisory Group in relation to considering options for medium and longer-term Gaelic provision but did not approve the option for secondary education in Inverclyde for the immediate term.
- 3.7 In March 2023 at a special meeting of the Education committee, a report was tabled that outlined the outcome of an options appraisals process that had been carried out and the subsequent recommendations from the Advisory Group, which was to progress with a Secondary GME provision at Inverclyde Academy from 2024.
- 3.8 There has been no need to establish any GME provision from August 2023 as both P7 pupils at Whinhill GME were granted placing requests to the Glasgow Gaelic School. No other requests or admission applications for secondary GME have been received for any other pupils at this stage.
- 3.9 The Education and Communities Committee, at their meeting on 5 September 2023 agreed that officers undertake a statutory consultation to establish a catchment area for secondary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde Academy

### **4.0 PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 The consultation in terms of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010 was carried out over the period Tuesday 2 October to Friday 10 November 2023 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.

- 4.2 When the consultation period closed in November 2023 Education Scotland was provided with a summary of all relevant written responses and oral representations made during the consultation period. Most the respondents were in favour of the proposal and more detailed analysis of the answers is attached as part of the appended outcome paper.
- 4.3 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 Inverclyde Academy. HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has potential to result in educational benefits. The proposal is well-received for its potential to strengthen the Gaelic community within the Inverclyde area further.
- 4.4 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 secondary Gaelic provision at Inverclyde Academy.
- 4.5 If an Inverclyde wide catchment area is created then all secondary pupils within Inverclyde will be entitled to transport if they live further than two miles from the secondary school in accordance with Inverclyde Council Transport Policy.
- 4.6 Inverclyde Academy is a non-denominational secondary school and pupils who attend will be deemed to have chosen a non-denominational education.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

| <b>SUBJECT</b>  | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
|---|------------|-----------|
| Financial   | X          |           |
| Legal/Risk  |            | X         |
| Human Resources   | X          |           |
| Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)                                     | X          |           |
| Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing | X          |           |
| Environmental & Sustainability  |            | X         |
| Data Protection   |            | X         |

## 5.2 Finance

The cost of one class teacher has been factored into the current staffing model ie a post has been ringfenced.

If the catchment is delineated as above, then the council will incur transport costs for pupils who currently attend Whinhill GME and indicate they wish to continue to S1 GME at Inverclyde Academy. Given that this is an unknown number and doesn’t account for any pupils who apply to take up a GME secondary place who are not currently attending Whinhill, the figures below are based on current pupils attending Whinhill when the transport policy is applied to their current home addresses.

The Gaelic Specific Grant which we apply for annually is offered under the Gaelic Language Education (Scotland) Regulations 1986. Through the scheme, funding is available for up to 75% of the cost towards delivery of Gaelic education. If successful in our grant bid, it is expected that Inverclyde Education Services would plan for mainstreaming of these costs into central budgets no later than five years from commencement of funding.

### 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  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Teaching staff, admin costs | Various         | Aug 24           | £75,000           |                               | These are the initial costs of secondary Gaelic provision based on one teacher, resources and admin costs. This will be funded from within the Secondary Education budget i.e. a teaching post has been ringfenced for GME beginning in Aug 24 and potentially through grant income as above. |
| Transport Y1                | Transport Costs | Aug 24           | £3,990            |                               | Less than 5 pupils  |
| Transport Y2                | Transport Costs | Aug 25           | £7,980            |                               | Less than 5 pupils  |
| Transport Y3                | Transport Costs | Aug 26           | £15,960           |                               | Less than 5 pupils  |

### 5.3 Legal/Risk

N/A.

### 5.4 Human Resources

As above a new teacher for the GME provision will need to be recruited for August 2024. Ongoing support for the Senior Leadership team to support this teacher into post as well as establishing the initial set up of the provision will be provided from the GME team at Whinhill as well as Education Scotland and Bord na Gaidhlig.

### 5.5 Strategic

This report helps deliver Council Plan Theme 1 Outcome: People – Our young people have the best start in life through high quality support and education. As well as this the provision outlined in the consultation documentation advances and support the council 22-27 Gaelic Plan.

### 5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

#### (a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| X | YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.<br><a href="#">Equality Impact Assessments - Inverclyde Council</a>  |
|   | 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, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. |

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| X | YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed, a copy of which will be made available on the Council's website:<br><a href="#">Equality Impact Assessments - Inverclyde Council</a> |
|   | NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty.   |

(c) Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

|   |   |
|---|---|
| X | YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required, a copy of which will be made available on the Council's website:<br><a href="#">Equality Impact Assessments - Inverclyde Council</a>  |
|   | NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights. |

**5.7 Environmental/Sustainability**

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.  |
| X | NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented. |

**5.8 Data Protection**

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.                                    |
| X | NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals. |

**6.0 CONSULTATION**

6.1 As in Appendix 1 a formal consultation has been undertaken under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended.

**7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 N/A.

**Education Services**

***Seirbheis an Fhoghlaim***

**Establishment of a catchment area for secondary Gaelic provision in  
Inverclyde Academy in Inverclyde**

***A' stèidheachadh sgìre-sgoile airson foghlam àrd-sgoile tro mheadhan na  
Gàidhlig aig Acadamaidh Inbhir Chluaidh ann an Inbhir Chluaidh.***

**Consultation Outcome Document**

***Sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh***

**January 2024**

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 23 January 2024.

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 with consultation response form

Report 2. Comments from consultation response form submissions

Report 3. Comments from public meetings

Report 4. 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 secondary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde Academy 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 5 September 2023 to consult on the proposal below to establish a catchment area for secondary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde Academy in Inverclyde.

2.1.2 The proposal is to create a catchment area that covers the whole of the Inverclyde Council area for Gaelic secondary provision in Inverclyde Academy. This means that every pupil who chooses Gaelic medium education for secondary school who lives within the Inverclyde boundary but further than two miles from Inverclyde Academy will be entitled to free transport in accordance with the Inverclyde Council Transport Policy.

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 02 October 2023 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 02 October – 10 November 2023 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 25 October 2024 in Inverclyde Academy and 1 November in Notre Dame High School. A summary of the oral representations made at the meetings is in Appendix 3a and b of this paper.

2.7 As required, in November 2023 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 December 2023. A summary of this report is included in section 4 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 23 January 2024.



### **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 8. Below is a summary of the responses to the questions posed:

- Most (87.5%) agreed with the proposal to establish a catchment area for secondary Gaelic Medium Education provision in Inverclyde.
- Most (87.5%) agreed that the whole of the local authority should be the catchment area for Gaelic Medium Education in Inverclyde Academy.
- Most (75%) agreed that children should be provided with free transport if they reside further than two miles by an acceptable walking route.

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

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

4.2 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 Inverclyde Academy. HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has potential to result in educational benefits. The proposal is well-received for its potential to strengthen the Gaelic community within the Inverclyde area further.

#### **4.3 Council response**

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

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

5.1 Education Services Senior Management Team has considered the original proposal and reflected upon the responses received.

5.2 It is recommended that a secondary catchment area is established for Gaelic education at Inverclyde Academy. The catchment area will cover the whole of Inverclyde.

### **6. Resource, risk and policy implementation**

#### **6.1 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 2024/25.

#### **6.2 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.

#### **6.3 Policy Implications**

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

## Education Services

### *Seirbheis an Fhoghlaim*

#### Establishment of a catchment area for secondary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde Academy in Inverclyde

#### *A' stèidheachadh sgìre-sgoile airson foghlam àrd-sgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig Acadamaidh Inbhir Chluaidh 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 secondary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde. Currently primary Gaelic medium is offered at Whinhill Primary School, with a clearly defined catchment area. However as of yet there is no secondary GME provision with an established catchment area for Gaelic and pupils attend by means of a placing request.

The proposal is to establish a delineated catchment area that covers the whole of the Inverclyde Council area for Gaelic secondary provision in Inverclyde Academy due to open in August 2024. This means that every pupil who chooses Gaelic medium education for secondary school who lives within the Inverclyde boundary but further than two miles from Inverclyde Academy will be entitled to free transport. This proposal is only for secondary education. A catchment area and related transport policy already exists for primary GME provision at Whinhill Primary School but does not apply to early years education.

*Tha sinn a' sireadh ur beachdan air sgìre-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson solar foghlaim àrd-sgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an Inbhir Chluaidh. An-dràsta tha sinn a' tabhann foghlam bun-sgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig Bun-sgoil Chnoc a' Chonaisg, far a bheil sinn air sgìre-sgoile a stèidheachadh mar tha. Chan eil sinn a' tabhann foghlam àrd-sgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig fhathast, agus chan eil sinn air sgìre-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson seo nas motha. Bidh sgoilearan a' frithealadh foghlam àrd-sgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a-rèir iartasan sgoile.*

*Tha sinn a' moladh sgìre-sgoile a ghabhas a-steach sgìre Inbhir Chluaidh air fad airson foghlam àrd-sgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig Acadamaidh Inbhir Chluaidh, a thòisicheas san Lùnastal 2024. Tha seo a' ciallachadh gum faigh a h-uile sgoilear a thaghas foghlam àrd-sgoile tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig, a tha a' fuireach còir is dà mhìle air falbh bho Acadamaidh Inbhir Chluaidh, còmh-dail saor an-asgaidh. 'S ann airson foghlam àrd-sgoile a tha seo a-mhàin. Tha sgìre-sgoile agus poileasaidh còmh-dail stèidhichte mar tha airson foghlam bun-sgoile tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig aig Bun-sgoil Chnoc a' Chonaisg, chan eil seo a' buntainn idir dha foghlam aig ìre nan tràth-bhliadhnaichean.*

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

**5pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

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

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Inverclyde Academy, 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.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 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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### **Appendices (Pgs 9 – 12)**

**1. Consultation response form**

## **1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL**

- 1.1 The Education and Communities Committee meeting of 27 March 2023 approved that officers develop a proposal for establishing an offer of Gaelic Secondary Education provision for the academic year beginning August 2024 within Inverclyde Academy and bring the final proposal for statutory consultation back to the Education and Communities Committee.

A statutory consultation is not required to establish a GME provision such as that being proposed at Inverclyde Academy however a statutory consultation is required to delineate the catchment area for this provision.

## **2.0 PROPOSED CHANGES**

- 2.1 The proposal is that a catchment area is established for Gaelic medium secondary 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 Inverclyde Academy would live in the catchment area if they live in Inverclyde. If they live over 2 miles from the school they will be entitled to transport in accordance with Inverclyde Council Transport Policy.
- 2.3 Inverclyde Academy is a non-denominational secondary school and pupils who attend will be deemed to have chosen a non-denominational education.

## **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 Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and will end on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Written representations must be received by this date in order to be taken into account.
- 3.2 All secondary schools will be affected by this proposal.

### **3.3 Public Meeting**

There will be 2 public meetings held on:

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Inverclyde Academy, 6:30 pm

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 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
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig
- 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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### **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

Pupil consultation will take place through representatives of Pupil Councils.

## **4.0 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.

## **5.0 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.

## **6.0 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.

## **7.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE FOR THE PROPOSAL**

7.1 It is expected that the proposal, if accepted, would be implemented from the start of term August 2024.

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

8.1 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.

8.2 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 2023/28. 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.

- 8.3 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 secondary 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.
- 8.4 Inverclyde Council has well established Gaelic Medium Education provision within Whinhill Primary. There is primary provision and a nursery class. Currently pupils who wish to continue Gaelic in secondary education make a placing request to the Glasgow Gaelic School. There is a high demand for places within the Glasgow Gaelic School, due to the expansion of Gaelic Medium provision within the city. As a result, placing requests may not be granted in the future, as was initially the case for the academic year 2020/21.
- 8.5 The Council undertook a statutory consultation in 2022 to establish the catchment area for the Primary Gaelic Medium provision in Whinhill Primary; this is now the whole of Inverclyde Council. Transport is provided in line with the Council's School Transport Policy for children, who are eligible. This ensures equality of access to Gaelic Medium Education for all children in Inverclyde. This may result in an increase in the number of children attending the Primary GME provision within Whinhill Primary as this option becomes more widely known and accessible to parents.
- 8.6 The approved Gaelic Plan for Inverclyde Council 2023-28 has the high-level aim of Increasing Learning in Gaelic; in relation to Secondary Gaelic Provision, it states: *Explore opportunities, in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and with neighbouring authorities, within the first 18 months of the plan and make appropriate recommendations and if necessary, take applicable steps to develop Gaelic Medium Education provision at secondary level within the Inverclyde Council area.*
- 8.7 The provision of secondary Gaelic Medium Education has been developed over time. GME provision within a secondary school is the most common provision of Gaelic Medium Education in the secondary sector in Central Scotland.
- 8.8 As is the case within other GME provisions located in a secondary school, only some subjects are delivered through the medium of Gaelic. Pupils will be able to progress and develop their Gaelic language skills. The Gaelic Medium provision will provide the opportunity to promote and develop the Gaelic Language across and out with the school.
- 8.9 Pupils will be able to progress and develop their Gaelic language skills, with the aim being to deliver a sufficient proportion of the curriculum through the medium of Gaelic at the secondary stages to enable young people to continue to develop their fluency in Gaelic through immersion. The exact curriculum delivery model will only be determined once a suitable teaching candidate has been appointed to post. This is due to not knowing if a suitable candidate will be able to teach Gaelic as well as a second or even third subject. However, it has to be sufficiently substantial to impact on young people's fluency.



- 8.10 Establishing Secondary GME provision within Inverclyde Academy would provide opportunities for collaboration across and out with the West Partnership to develop the provision in the short, medium and long term. Provision of professional learning for staff, through a collaborative approach, would develop the knowledge and skills of staff, including senior leaders, to understand and fully develop an inclusive ethos to ensure that Gaelic has equal status with English in the school environment.
- 8.11 Establishing Secondary GME provision within Inverclyde Academy would comply with the legislative requirements, which places a duty on authorities to promote and support Gaelic Medium Education, as far as is reasonably practicable.

## **9.0 RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL**

- 9.1 Section 3 of this document provides details on how to access a copy of the proposal document.
- 9.2 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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023.



## Education Services

### Establishment of catchment areas for 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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**.

**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 secondary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde. Currently primary Gaelic medium is offered at Whinhill Primary School, with a clearly defined catchment area. However as of yet there is no secondary GME provision with an established catchment area for Gaelic and pupils attend by means of a placing request.

The proposal is to establish a delineated catchment area that covers the whole of the Inverclyde Council area for Gaelic secondary provision in Inverclyde Academy due to open in August 2024. This means that every pupil who chooses Gaelic medium education for secondary school who lives within the Inverclyde boundary but further than 2 miles from Inverclyde Academy will be entitled to free transport. This proposal is only for secondary education. A catchment area and related transport policy already exists for primary GME provision at Whinhill Primary School but does not apply to early years education.

**Q1 Do you agree with the establishment of a catchment area for secondary 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 Inverclyde Academy 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 two miles 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"/> |
| Bòrd na Gàidhlig                            | <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:**

## Appendix 2

# Gaelic Medium Education - Secondary Gaelic Provision

## 2. Page 2



| 1. Do you agree with the establishment of a catchment area for secondary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde? |   |   |                  |                |
|--|---|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Choices   |   |   | Response Percent | Response Total |
| 1  | Yes                                     |   | 87.50%           | 7              |
| 2  | No                                      |    | 12.50%           | 1              |
| 3  | Undecided                               |   | 0.00%            | 0              |
|  |   |   | answered         | 8              |
|  |   |   | skipped          | 0              |
| This box gives an opportunity to explain the reason for your response: (6)                               |   |   |                  |                |
| 1  | 02/10/2023<br>18:26 PM<br>ID: 227940658 | There are other priorities within our area that could be put to better use. For instance the further education of the stigma attached to young adults with mental health issues and the lack of services that are available to them. I also think that more emphasis needs to be put on the dangers of drugs withing out community and teach our children about the real dangers of drugs. This is the type of priorities that should be getting set up. Not an agenda made from the Scottish government who are clearly trying to implement their priority over the needs of our young people. |                  |                |
| 2  | 03/10/2023<br>11:18 AM<br>ID: 227978384 | The whole of Inverclyde should have access to the language.   |                  |                |
| 3  | 03/10/2023<br>18:14 PM<br>ID: 228025192 | I believe it is a great opportunity for Inverclyde to show case the need for secondary Gaelic education as part of our Scottish culture   |                  |                |
| 4  | 04/10/2023<br>17:35 PM<br>ID: 228127720 | There is provision for GME delivered at nursery in primary level within Inverclyde so it makes sense for children to continue this education within Inverclyde.   |                  |                |
| 5  | 05/10/2023<br>09:52 AM<br>ID: 228167859 | Gaelic language has been developed so well in primary school by Whinhill Primary School and is something that children should be allowed to continue to develop as they move to secondary school. This establishment of this catchment area will allow for this, without children having to travel to and from Glasgow on a daily basis. Parent and families should be supported with this in terms of transport if they meet the criteria.   |                  |                |
| 6  | 21/10/2023<br>10:08 AM<br>ID: 229600528 | A great opportunity to make GME in the secondary school more accessible to pupils.  |                  |                |

| 2. Do you agree that the catchment area for Gaelic medium for Inverclyde Academy should be the whole of the local authority area? |           |  |                  |                |
|---|-----------|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Choices  |           |  | Response Percent | Response Total |
| 1   | Yes       |  | 87.50%           | 7              |
| 2   | No        |   | 12.50%           | 1              |
| 3   | Undecided |  | 0.00%            | 0              |
|   |           |  | answered         | 8              |
|   |           |  | skipped          | 0              |
| This box gives an opportunity to explain the reason for your response: (2)  |           |  |                  |                |

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

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 03/10/2023<br>11:18 AM<br>ID: 227978384 | It's is a large central school and is the feeder school for Whinhill Primary who provide Gaelic medium education from nursery upwards.   |
| 2 | 05/10/2023<br>09:52 AM<br>ID: 228167859 | As Whinhill is a feeder school for Inverclyde Academy it would be the perfect location to provide Gaelic Medium Education as it will allow for working between establishments and the children will be able to maintain relationships from primary school. |

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

| Answer Choices |           |  | Response Percent | Response Total |
|----------------|-----------|--|------------------|----------------|
| 1              | Yes       |  | 75.00%           | 6              |
| 2              | No        |   | 25.00%           | 2              |
| 3              | Undecided |  | 0.00%            | 0              |
|                |           |  | answered         | 8              |
|                |           |  | skipped          | 0              |

This box gives an opportunity to explain the reason for your response: (4)

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 02/10/2023<br>18:26 PM<br>ID: 227940658 | All those who attend Inverclyde Academy area should be entitled to free bus travel to and from school regardless of how far away from the school you are.  |
| 2 | 03/10/2023<br>18:14 PM<br>ID: 228025192 | As this would help to give all children the opportunity to have Gaelic as part of their education and not just fir children who's parents can afford to drive them there   |
| 3 | 04/10/2023<br>17:35 PM<br>ID: 228127720 | Transport is currently provided for those travelling to Glasgow gaelic school so the council will still be making a saving.  |
| 4 | 04/10/2023<br>19:30 PM<br>ID: 228136212 | I think with the current burden on local authority funds exploration into alternative routes for transport provision - funded by Scottish Government (this should be of interest in terms of preserving and promoting the language in my opinion) or facilitated through the already free bus travel for under 18s should be explored if parents aren't able to facilitate the transport themselves. I feel this should be applicable to all schools (with exception to SEN schools) though and not just for those seeking specific provision, such as GME |

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

|   | Yes           | Response Total |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Yes</b>                                  |               |                |
| Parent/carer of a child at primary school   | 100.0%<br>(2) | 2              |
| Parent/carer of a child at secondary school | 100.0%<br>(2) | 2              |
| Parent/carer of a child in nursery          | 0.0%<br>(0)   | 0              |
| Parent Council member (primary school)      | 100.0%<br>(2) | 2              |
| Parent Council member (secondary school)    | 0.0%<br>(0)   | 0              |
| Member of staff at primary school           | 100.0%<br>(7) | 7              |

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

|                                     | Yes           | Response Total |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Member of staff at secondary school | 0.0%<br>(0)   | 0              |
| Church representative               | 0.0%<br>(0)   | 0              |
| Elected Member                      | 0.0%<br>(0)   | 0              |
| Trade Union                         | 100.0%<br>(1) | 1              |
| Member of the public                | 100.0%<br>(5) | 5              |
| Member of Community Council         | 0.0%<br>(0)   | 0              |
| Bòrd na Gàidhlig                    | 0.0%<br>(0)   | 0              |
|                                     | answered      | 8              |
|                                     | skipped       | 0              |

6. 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%          | 2              |
| 1              | 03/10/2023<br>11:18 AM<br>ID: 227978384 | It would be ideal to have this native language available locally as part of the high school curriculum as well as an actual unit which can grow over time.<br>It would help put Inverclyde on the map for providing the (and continuing) the Gaelic language and may also encourage parents to start at nursery level knowing they can guarantee their Gaelic education without placing requests with other councils. |                  |                |
| 2              | 03/10/2023<br>18:14 PM<br>ID: 228025192 | As a parent of a child that attended GME first in Greenock and then having to travel to Glasgow for his secondary education. A local school would have benefited my child rather than him having to get up at 6.30am and then having to travel to Glasgow.  |                  |                |
|                |   |   | answered         | 2              |
|                |   |   | skipped          | 6              |



## Appendix 3a

### Consultation – Establishment of a catchment area for secondary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde Academy

Wednesday 25 October 2023- Inverclyde Academy

#### Note of meeting

Separate register taken.

M Roach welcomed everyone.

Introductions.

M Roach 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 02 October 2023 and will close on 10 November 2023
- 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.
- If taken forward the proposed changes will take effect from August 2023.

M Roach shared why we are making changes and what they are:

- There is currently no identified catchment area for the proposed Gaelic Secondary provision in Inverclyde.
- The change is that the catchment area for Inverclyde Academy Gaelic provision will be the whole of Inverclyde Council.
- Pupils who wish to attend Gaelic medium education in Inverclyde will not need to submit a placing request and will be entitled to transport in line with the Inverclyde transport policy for schools.

M Roach provided details of the commitment to the new provision, outlining:

- Appointment of staff
- Delivery of GME

Opportunity for questions as noted below.

No questions raised regarding the establishment of a catchment area for secondary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde Academy.

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

M Roach thanked everyone for coming along. Another meeting will be held next week in Notre Dame High School at 6:30pm on 1 November. Report will be shared with Education Scotland as soon as possible after 10 November 2023.

## Appendix 3b

**Consultation – Establishment of a catchment area for secondary Gaelic provision  
in Inverclyde Academy  
Wednesday 1 November 2023- Notre Dame High School  
Note of meeting**

Separate register taken.

R Binks welcomed S Ross, Education Scotland.

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 02 October 2023 and will close on 10 November 2023
- 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.
- If taken forward the proposed changes will take effect from August 2023.

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

- There is currently no identified catchment area for the proposed Gaelic Secondary provision in Inverclyde.
- The change is that the catchment area for Inverclyde Academy Gaelic provision will be the whole of Inverclyde Council.
- Pupils who wish to attend Gaelic medium education in Inverclyde will not need to submit a placing request and will be entitled to transport in line with the Inverclyde transport policy for schools.

R Binks provided details of the commitment to the new provision, outlining:

- Appointment of staff
- Delivery of GME

Opportunity for questions as noted below.

No questions raised regarding the establishment of a catchment area for secondary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde Academy.

No members of the public were present to agree or disagree with the proposal regarding the secondary Gaelic provision catchment area.

R Binks thanked S Ross for coming along. Report will be shared with Education Scotland as soon as possible after 10 November 2023.

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

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by Inverclyde Council to establish a catchment area for secondary Gaelic provision in Inverclyde Academy.**

November 2023

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by His 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 Gaelic provision for secondary in Inverclyde Academy. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees.

Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the 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 school; 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:

- attendance at the public meeting held on 1 November 2023 in connection with the council's proposals;
- 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
- visits to the site of Bun-sgoil Chnoc a' Chonaig - Whinhill Primary School and Inverclyde Academy, including discussion 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](#).

2.2 The formal consultation process ran from 2 October to 10 November 2023. The proposal paper was made available 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 eight responses were received. Most respondents (87.5%) agreed with the proposal to establish a catchment area for Gaelic Medium Secondary Education. They also agreed with the proposal that the whole local authority should be the catchment area. Most respondents (75%) agreed that children should be provided with free transport if they live within Inverclyde but further than two miles from the school.

2.3 The council held two public meetings on 25 October 2023 and 1 November 2023 to enable further consultation on the proposal. One person attended the meeting on 25 October 2023. One person attended these meetings. The meeting attendees supported the creation of a catchment area for Gaelic Medium Secondary Education.

2.4 Bòrd na Gàidhlig responded to the consultation and welcome the proposal. The proposal supports Inverclyde Council in addressing requirements of Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education (2017) to establish catchment areas. This will enable families in Inverclyde Council to access provision locally and do so without requiring application through the placing request system. There is also potential for the building of the infrastructure required to offer residents of Inverclyde the same services available in other local authorities.

### 3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 HM Inspectors agree with the educational benefits detailed in the proposal. HM Inspectors consulted senior leaders, staff, parents and children and young people to gather views and discuss the educational benefits that may result from the proposal. We evidenced strong support for the proposed catchment area. Children, parents, and school staff welcome the proposal. They feel that the proposal has potential to increase the numbers of those learning through Gaelic. Stakeholders were positive about the availability of free transport for those who live further than two miles by an acceptable walking route. The proposal, if progressed, improves local access to Gaelic Medium Education at the secondary stages. It would provide some continuity in Gaelic Medium Education for children and young people from 3-18 within Inverclyde, and would remove the potential uncertainty created by the need for a placing request. The proposal would provide clarity with the same catchment areas established for primary and secondary Gaelic Medium Education. The primary school also has provision for Sgoil-àraich, (early learning and childcare provision), for Gaelic Medium Education. Parents appreciate the already established catchment for Gaelic Medium Education at Bun-sgoil Chnoc a' Chonaisg - Whinhill Primary School. They view the proposal as a natural progression, given Inverclyde Academy is already the associated secondary school for Bun-sgoil Chnoc a' Chonaisg - Whinhill Primary School. Parents recognise that the proposal would reduce potential barriers to continuing to access Gaelic Medium Secondary Education. These include financial considerations and considerable travel times to access provision out with the Inverclyde Council area. While parents welcome the commitment to Gaelic Medium Education demonstrated by the proposal, they have some anxieties about committing to a provision that is not yet established. Parents also recognise that the proposal replaces access to an all Gaelic school, with its resultant impact on fluency and attainment. It will be important that Inverclyde Council continue to work with all stakeholders in the development of Gaelic Medium Education at Inverclyde Academy. Children welcome the benefits of moving to secondary school with their peer group and the reduced travel times. They feel this would allow for increased time for after-school clubs and other activities.

3.2 The council asked a question in the consultation report about whether transport should be provided for young people who live within Inverclyde but further than two miles by acceptable walking route from the school. HM Inspectors recommend that young people in Gaelic Medium Education are treated with equity and equality and have access to free transport, within Scottish Government guidelines.

3.3 The proposal, if agreed, supports Inverclyde Council in their promotion of Gaelic and will help meet the objectives of their Gaelic Language Plan. Within Inverclyde Academy there is a well-established appreciation of, and respect for, different languages. There is enthusiasm about the proposal to provide secondary Gaelic Medium Education for young people of Inverclyde. Staff and young people welcome the opportunities this could bring, including exploring learning the language themselves.

#### 4. Summary

Inverclyde Council are fulfilling their statutory duties when establishing a catchment area for Gaelic Medium Secondary Education. Almost all stakeholders who met with HM Inspectors support the proposal and recognise how it could strengthen the educational benefits of Gaelic Medium Education in Inverclyde. HM Inspectors agree that the proposal has potential to result in educational benefits. At the primary stages in Gaelic Medium Education, children, their families, and staff have a strong pride in learning and using Gaelic and recognise the importance of bilingualism. The proposal has the potential to strengthen the Gaelic community within the Inverclyde area further. In the schools involved in the proposal, both at the primary and secondary stages, there is respect for the language and an enthusiasm to further develop provision.

Inverclyde Council should continue to work with all stakeholders to develop a high-quality curriculum offer delivered in immersive environments that builds on children's learning at the primary stages. The council should meet the expectations set out in the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education, 2017 to maximise the educational benefits from their proposal.