

Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Monday 24 January 2022

Present:

Councillors Perry (Convener), Dickie (Vice-Convener), Bird, Mary Campbell, Douglas, Griffiths, Key, Laidlaw, Rae (substituting for Councillor Burgess), Rust and Louise Young.

Religious Representative

Fiona Beveridge

Parent Representative (non-voting)

Alexander Ramage

1. Gaelic Medium Education (GME) Statutory Consultation

(a) Deputation - Comann nam Pàrant (Dùn Èideann & Lodainn).

The deputation raised the following key points:

- It was noted that current status of GME in Edinburgh is a result of the collaborative working relationships between the Council and the Gaelic community, however, there has been no significant informal consultation on the options presented in the statutory consultation today.
- The deputation requested the need to take time in developing a coherent plan for GME with realistic timescales that parents could have confidence in and support to deliver. These plans would ultimately benefit the Gaelic children attending the proposed new school.
- The deputation provided details of their own survey, which had asked Gaelic parents if the Council should proceed with the statutory consultation. 77% of respondents had said “no” and the deputation advised that the survey had also suggested that 86% of respondents had “little or no confidence” that the Council plans would meet the needs of the children.

- The deputation requested that the children and the GME community, who were at the heart of the decision, should be prioritised and urged the Committee to vote against the recommendation to proceed to a statutory consultation.

(References – written submission from Comann nam Pàrant (Dùn Èideann & Lodainn), submitted; video presentation from young people attending Taobh na Pàirce Primary School.

(b) Report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services

Approval was sought to progress to a statutory consultation on the future provision of Gaelic Medium Education (GME) in Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To continue consideration of the matter to the next meeting of the Committee on 1 March 2022 to allow for further discussions between the Council and the GME community.
- 2) To request officers to provide further additional information on the present sites and any other sites that would support the quality of education as set out in the educational benefits section in the appendix to the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services.

(References – Education, Children & Families Committee 7 December 2021 (item 8); report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)