

## **Aberdeen City Council**

### **GME Zoning Proposals 2021 - Collated Responses**

#### **Email Submissions**

##### **23.8.21 – Comment**

Good afternoon

I am writing to you regarding the proposed changes to the catchment areas for Gaelic Medium Education in Aberdeen City.

My biggest concern on reading the proposal document is for those young people who currently attend GME at Gilcomstoun, but live outwith the proposed secondary catchment for Hazlehead Academy GME provision. Due to the intention to change the catchment areas from 1 August 2022, there could reasonably be children in Primary 7 of GME provision at Gilcomstoun, who intend to go to Hazlehead next year to continue this education, who will no longer be able to do so because of not living in zone and not having siblings currently at Hazlehead.

I would appreciate it if I could be reassured that either 1) there are no children in the upper stages of primary school at Gilcomstoun GME who would fit this category or 2) you will do everything you can to ensure that the children who do fit in this category are guaranteed places at Hazlehead Academy GME provision.

Thank you for looking at these queries. I look forward to your response.

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##### **23.8.21 - Comment**

I have tried to submit my comment regarding Gaelic Consultations to be introduced in schools especially Hazlehead School.

Coming from a different country I know the importance of learning the native language. I had Latin in school up until primary 7 when it was taken out due to lack of interest from us the pupils.

With that in mind I would like to express my wish of not introducing Gaelic. I think a better language should be introduced such as Spanish, German, French, Mandarin that can actually serve the children in the future wherever their future will be.

Even though Gaelic is good for them to know, nowadays not many speak it or want to speak it that is if we ask our teenagers. Most of them want to learn a language that they can use abroad or help them in their future, in their cv's. Gaelic is for local use only it doesn't give you the opportunity to use it elsewhere.

I believe the comments should be made by children and their focus of interest rather than us parents who some of us are more traditional than others.

Hope my comment will be of interest.

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### **24.8.21 – Comment**

I want to confirm that I understand correctly... We currently live in a catchment area for Aberdeen Grammar, with a P2 primary pupil at Ashley Road. The only thing that changes with the new proposal is an optional additional choice of secondary school, if my child wishes to learn more Gaelic / be taught in Gaelic? It doesn't threaten his chance of a place at Aberdeen Grammar? I.e. the council aren't going to put Grammar catchment pupils into Hazlehead Academy to fulfil a Gaelic language quota, it is purely the choice of the students and parents?

If you could help clear up my confusion that would be helpful.

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### **25.8.21 – Response**

That's quite correct. The proposal relates only to the catchment areas for Gaelic medium education; it will not impact on the existing mainstream English medium education catchment areas in any way. So if councillors eventually decide to approve the proposal, primary school children living within the catchment area for Aberdeen Grammar School when they reach secondary school age will still be eligible for a place at Aberdeen Grammar School for English medium education, and they will also be eligible for a place at the Gaelic Medium provision at Hazlehead Academy, should they wish to be taught through the medium of Gaelic.

I hope this clarifies things but please let me know if I can help any further.

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### **26.8.21 – Comment from EIS**

Thank you for this. The EIS don't make comment or get into discussion over catchments and school zones.

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### **10.9.21 – Comment from Aberdeenshire Council**

Morning,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above proposal.

Having read the proposal it is noted that any primary or secondary aged children who live out with the proposed catchment area who wish to obtain a place within the GME provision at either Gilcomstoun School or Hazlehead Academy, will be required to submit a placing request.

The proposal does not present any changes to families residing within Aberdeenshire Council, therefore we support the proposal.

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## Questions Raised and Responses Given at Public Meeting – 14 September 2021

The following questions were raised by online participants at the public meeting held on 14 September 2021, to discuss Aberdeen City Council's proposals to introduce catchment areas for Gaelic Medium Education (GME) provision in the city.

As there was not sufficient time to discuss all of these questions during the meeting, officers' responses to each question have been provided here.

**Q:** How did you decide on these particular catchments proposed?

**A:** The proposed catchment areas are intended to ensure reasonable travel distances to school, which is a requirement of the statutory guidance.

**Q:** What is the situation with providing pupil transport to both schools? Thank you

**A:** Transport to the GME provision is not currently provided. However, anyone with financial difficulties can request assistance from the Council. In addition, from 31 January 2022, all children and young people in Scotland aged between 5 and 21 will be eligible for free bus travel.

**Q:** Will everyone who completes GME at Gilcomstoun be guaranteed a place at Hazelhead, wherever they live?

**A:** Pupils living outwith the proposed catchment area for the Hazelhead provision will be required to submit a placing request, if they wish to attend the provision. However based on current pupil numbers and available space, we are confident that placing requests can be accommodated.

**Q:** Why is the Hazlehead catchment not included in the primary catchment? Surely that reduces the chance of continuing on to secondary GME rather than increasing it?

**A:** The proposed GME primary catchment area is wholly contained within the proposed GME secondary catchment area, so if the proposals are accepted, any children living within the GME primary catchment area and therefore eligible to attend the primary provision, will also be living within the GME secondary catchment area and will also therefore be entitled to progress to the GME secondary provision.

**Q:** What are the positives, do you see in the creating of the catchment area proposed that haven't already been identified? If any.

**A:** The benefits of the proposals are fully explained in the proposal document, which is available to download from our Consultation Hub: <https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/education-and-childrens-services/gme-zoning-2021/>

**Q:** Under what circumstances will you keep the current catchment area?

**A:** Elected members will make the final decision on whether or not to implement the proposed new catchment areas, at the Education Operational Delivery Committee meeting on 26 January 2022.

**Q:** Why do you think there is a drop off between primary and secondary? Have you asked parents?

**A:** We have not formally asked parents about this.

**Q:** Are there any other children in the city who do not share smooth transitions with peers ie where primary catchments don't map onto secondary catchments?

**A:** Children attending one of the city's three Roman Catholic primary schools, will be eligible to attend different secondary schools after leaving P7, and may therefore not attend the same secondary school as all of their peers.

**Q:** What is driving the need for catchment areas vs staus quo?

**A:** There is national statutory guidance which requires us to set catchment areas.

**Q:** How can the Council justify using GME resource inequitably across the city?

**A:** The distribution of the resource has not changed.

- Q: What if a sibling can't be given a place through a placing request? There is a problem when there are not enough places and siblings have to attend different schools.
- A: Pupils living outwith the proposed zones for the GME provision will be required to submit a placing request. However based on current pupil numbers and available space, we are confident that placing requests can be accommodated.
- Q: Is the reason for the size of catchment so the council don't have to pay for transport for out of catchment kids?
- A: The catchment areas have been proposed in order to ensure a reasonable travel distance to school.
- Q: What exactly do mean about having the catchments within a suitable travel distance - this seems to be just at the cut-off for transport provision - is this the reason for the decision of catchment areas (to not have to provide the transport per ACC transport provision rules)? The non-provision of transport excludes families who are unable to make the journey or live within the catchment area
- A: We have interpreted reasonable travel distance as reasonable walking distance, and so the proposed catchment areas have been set accordingly.
- Q: How will Aberdeen city council further promote gaelic medium education? What plans do you have to do this? Can you give examples?
- A: We will continue to promote GME through the Council website and the Gaelic language plan.
- Q: Why did the council not decide to set a city wide catchment area, as seen in other local authorities? Surely if the issue was setting a catchment area it would be better to maintain the status quo and unofficial city wide catchment area to offer the benefits of GME to the whole population of Aberdeen city.
- A: This was to ensure reasonable travel distances to school.
- Q: Has there been a new Gaelic Development Officer appointed?
- A: The process has begun to appoint a replacement officer.
- Q: Will you now think of creating a catchment zone for the Music School in Dyce?
- A: This is not being considered at this time.
- Q: I think the Gaelic Language Plan expects equity of access for all children. Is that the Council's stance?
- A: Yes.
- Q: It makes little sense that someone in Newmachar can attend 'automatically' but someone in Bridge of Don or Dyce will not (*sic*)
- A: It is not the case that an Aberdeenshire pupil would attend automatically. They would be required to submit a placing request.
- Q: Can you propose a larger catchment area than what you have already?
- A: Elected members will make a decision in January whether or not to accept the proposed new catchment areas. If the proposals are not accepted then they may choose to instruct officers to consider / recommend alternative catchment areas.
- Q: Does this affect pupils from the shire now and in the future
- A: There would be no change for Aberdeenshire pupils.
- Q: Any thought on GME children's safety and mental well being? There are children within the city having to leave at 6.45am, taking several buses to get to school so they can get GME.
- A: The proposals will have no impact on this, as the location of the primary and secondary provisions is not changing.
- Q: How will you promote GME to parents outside the catchment?
- A: This will be promoted through the Council website and the Gaelic Language Plan.

Q: So are the council saying if someone in Hazlehead catchment aspires to GME for their child in secondary, they have NO entitlement to primary GME and if someone in Gilcomstoun catchment wants to pursue GME they will have no entitlement to secondary??

A: The proposed GME primary catchment area is wholly contained within the proposed GME secondary catchment area, so if the proposals are accepted, any children living within the GME primary catchment area and therefore eligible to attend the primary provision, will also be living within the GME secondary catchment area and will also therefore be entitled to progress to the GME secondary provision. Other pupils wishing to attend either provision will be able to submit a placing request.

Q: Will there be Safer Routes to Schools plans for pupils coming from outside the catchment areas?

A: No, it would not be possible to establish safer routes to these two schools from all areas of the city.

Q: I believe the question around the Music School catchment is regards to - if you're not creating a catchment for that specific education, why are you doing so for GME

A: The Music School is for pupils with proven aptitude for music, and is therefore not open to all students, whereas GME is open to all pupils, regardless of ability.

Q: Do you think GME should be better promoted in the city.

A: We continue to look at ways to further promote GME in the city.

Q: Within the proposal (either this one if accepted or another if this is rejected), will it be written in that there will be set periodic reviews (eg. every 2/5 years)

A: It is unlikely that there will be set periods for review, but any decision can be reviewed if circumstances change and it is considered necessary.

Q: Has the council looked at the average house price of the catchment areas and if this has an impact on availability of GME provision to ALL demographic groups including single parents families? I could not have placed my children in GME as a single parent mother and nhs worker, my children would not have benefitted as it would not have been financially viable to send them to Gilcomstoun from Hazlehead area

A: House prices are not a consideration when setting catchment areas for schools.

Q: Why was Gilcomstoun chosen to host the GME unit for Aberdeen? Was there any consideration to future zoning?

A: This is a historical decision which predates the officers currently in post, so we are unable to comment on this.

## Response from Bòrd na Gàidhlig

**Co-comhairleachadh Reachdail: Molaidhean airson Sgìrean-sgoile airson Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig ann am Baile Obar Dheathain.**

**Ceann-latha mu dheireadh: 8 Dàmhair 2021**

### Freagairt fhoirmeil bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig

#### **Aithris Thòiseachail**

Thug sinn seachad molaidhean a thaobh na co-chomhairle sgoile a bhathar a' moladh airson Seirbheis tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann am Baile Obar Dheathain agus bha e na bhriseadh dùil dhuinn gun deach a' cho-chomhairle air adhart mar a bhathar a' moladh an toiseach. Tha sinn den bheachd gu bheil na molaidhean a th' ann an-dràsta a' cur muinntir Obar Dheathain fo ana-cothrom. A bharrachd air seo, tha sinn den bheachd nach brosnach na h-ullachaidhean a thathar a' moladh iarrtas nas motha air Foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig anns a' bhaile. Tha seo na dhleastanas laghail air an Ùghdarras fon Stiùireadh Reachdail air a' Ghàidhlig. Tha sinn air na prìomh adhbharan a mhìneachadh san earrainn a leanas air carson a tha a' bhith sinn air co-dhùnadh nach bu chòir dhan Chomhairle na molaidhean làithreach aontachadh.

#### **Ceistean sònraichte**

1. Tha an t-seirbheis FtG air a thoirt seachad agus air a mhaoinachadh mar sheirbheis dhan a h-uile duine ann an Obar Dheathain agus mar sin tha a' bhith a' cruthachadh sgìrean-sgoile cumhang a' ciallachadh gu bheil a' mhòr-chuid de luchd-còmhnaidh Obar Dheathain air an dùnadh a-mach às an sgìre-sgoile agus mar sin tha bacadh orra ro bhith a' faighinn a-steach dhan t-seirbheis. Bhiodh e na chleachdadh àbhaisteach gu nàiseanta gum biodh Seirbheisean FtG aig Ùghdarras Ionadail fosgailte do luchd-còmhnaidh uile an ùghdarras ionadail mur a h-eil ann ach aon sheirbheis. Mar sin, 's e an rèiteachadh àbhaisteach, agus as cothromaiche a bhiodh ann, a bhith a' sònrachadh sgìre an Ùghdarras Ionadail air fad mar an sgìre-sgoile.
2. Tha cruthachadh sgìrean cumhang sa bhaile a' dùnadh a-mach a' mhòr-chuid de luchd-còmhnaidh a' bhaile, oir feumaidh iad a dhol tro shiostam iarrtais gus àite fhaighinn san t-seirbheis aig an Ùghdarras Ionadail aca fhèin. Faodaidh seo cuideachd buaidh a thoirt air co-dhùnidhean san àm ri teachd a thaobh rèiteachaidhean siubhail.
3. Tha an Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Foghlam Gàidhlig ag ràdh gu bheil dleastanas air Ùghdarrasan Ionadail gus Foghlam tro Meadhan na Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh agus ann a bhith a' comharrachadh sgìre-sgoile, gum bu chòir na leanas a bhith ann:

*“cothrom ann pàrantan a thàladh gu bhith cur an cuid chloinne gu FtG”*  
(Earrann 2.54 Stiùireadh Reachdail).

Is e ar beachd làidir nach tàladh sgìrean cumhang agus cleachdadh neo-riatanach de phròiseasan iarrtais pàrantan gu Seirbheis FtG an Ùghdarras Ionadail.

4. Tha am moladh a' cruthachadh diofar sgìrean-sgoile airson FtG san àrd-sgoil agus sa bhun-sgoil. Cruthaichidh seo barrachd troimh-chèile agus tha e na chnap-starra do phàrantan air nach eil feum. Bidh teaghlaichean ann, mar eisimpleir, a tha a' fuireach ann an sgìre na h-àrd-sgoile ach a tha thaobh a-muigh sgìre na bun-sgoile, agus bidh troimh-chèile agus biurocrasaidh a bharrachd ann an dà chuid aig ìre na bun-sgoile agus na h-àrd-sgoil ann am FtG. Tha seo cuideachd a' togail dhraghan a bharrachd nach eil an t-Ùghdarras Ionadail a' cur an Stiùireadh Reachdail air Gàidhlig an sàs, a tha ag ràdh na leanas:

*“Mar sin, tha e riatanach gum bi ùghdarrasan foghlaim a’ planadh airson leantail ann an ionnsachadh FtG, gu sònraichte aig amannan gluasaid mar eadar ... P7 agus ÀS1.”*

(Earrann 2.1 Stiùireadh Reachdail).

Tha am moladh a' dèanamh eadar-ghluasad eadar Bun-sgoil agus Àrd-sgoil ro thoinnte oir bidh pròiseasan iom-fhillte ann gus iarrtasan àite a dhèanamh aig an ìre ro-chudromaich seo.

5. Chan eil am moladh mar a tha e sa cho-chomhairle idir ceangailte ris an ìre iarrtais aig an àm seo no ris an ìre ro-mheasta airson an àm ri teachd. Tha e coltach nach eil smaoineachadh ro-innleachdail air a bhith ann a thaobh a bhith a' cur fàs air FtG anns a' Bhaile agus a' togail air na roghainnean a tha pàrantan Obar Dheathain air dèanamh.

#### **Co-dhùnadh.**

Mar a tha sinn air mìneachadh, tha am moladh mì-riarachail. Mholamaid gum biodh seirbheisean Ùghdarras Ionadail mar FtG rim faighinn dhan a h-uile duine anns an Ùghdarras Ionadail sin agus mar sin mholamaid gu làidir gun tèid na molaidhean a th' ann an-dràsta a dhiùltadh agus an àite sin gun tèid sgìre-sgoile a stèidheachadh airson a' bhaile air fad airson gach cuid FtG aig ìre na Bun-sgoile agus na h-Àrd-sgoile.

Bhìomaid glè thoilichte barrachd comhairle agus taic phroifeasanta a thoirt dhan Sgioba Foghlaim anns a' bhaile a thaobh sgìrean-sgoile agus ro-innleachdan airson fàs agus leasachadh ann am FtG mar stòras san t-solar foghlaim a bhios Baile Obar Dheathain a' toirt seachad.

Nach cuir sibh fios dhan Stiùiriche Foghlam Gàidhlig againn, a bhiodh ro-thoilichte taic agus comhairle a bharrachd a thoirt dhuibh.

Shona Nicllinnein  
Ceannard

Stiùiriche Foghlam Gàidhlig: Jim Whannel, [seumas@gaidhlig.scot](mailto:seumas@gaidhlig.scot)

Deit: 7mh là dhen Dàmhair 2021

## **Statutory Consultation: Proposed Catchment Zones for Gaelic-medium Provision in Aberdeen City.**

**Concluding: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

### **Formal Response from Bòrd na Gàidhlig**

#### **Introductory Comments**

We provided recommendations regarding the proposed school catchment consultation for the Gaelic-medium Service in Aberdeen City and were disappointed that the consultation has gone ahead as originally proposed. We think the current proposals disadvantage the people of Aberdeen. Moreover, it is our considered opinion that the proposed arrangements will not encourage greater uptake of Gaelic-medium Education (GME) in the city. This is a statutory duty of the Authority under the Statutory Guidance for Gaelic. We have set out the principal reasons for our conclusion, that the current proposals should not be agreed by the Council, in the next section.

#### **Specific Issues**

1. The GME service is provided and funded as a service for everyone in Aberdeen therefore the creation of narrow catchment areas results in most Aberdeen residents being excluded from the catchment and therefore their accessing the service is impeded. It would be normal national practice for Local Authority GME Services to be open to all residents of a local authority if there is one service only. The normal arrangement therefore, and the fairest would be to cite the whole of the Local Authority as the catchment.
2. The creation of narrow catchments within the city disenfranchises the overwhelming majority of residents, as they will have to engage in the placing request system to access a place in their own Local Authority service. This also of course impacts potentially on future decisions regarding travel arrangements.
3. The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education states that Local Authorities have a duty to promote Gaelic-medium Education and that in delineating catchment areas, the catchment should have

*“the potential to attract parents to choose GME provision for their children “*  
(Section 2.54 Statutory Guidance).

Our considered view is that the creation of narrow catchments and the unnecessary use of placing request processes will not attract families to the Local Authority GME Service.

4. The proposal creates different catchments for GME Secondary and Primary. This will create further confusion and is an unnecessary obstacle for parents. Families will find themselves, for example, in the secondary catchment but not the primary, resulting in confusion and additional bureaucracy in both primary and secondary GME.

This also raises further concerns that the Local Authority is not implementing the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic, which notes the following

*“it is therefore considered essential that education authorities plan for continuity and progression. key transition points such as moving .... between P7 and S1 ”*

(Section 2.1 Statutory Guidance).

The proposal unnecessarily complicates transitions between Primary and Secondary as it will result in complex placing request processes taking place at this crucial stage.

5. The proposal as contained in the consultation is totally unrelated to current or projected uptake. It appears to be the case that strategic thinking has not taken place regarding growing GME in the City and building on the choices being made by Aberdeen parents.

### **Conclusion.**

As we have outlined the current proposal is unsatisfactory. We would propose that Local Authority services such as GME are provided for everyone in a Local Authority and consequently we would advocate strongly that the current proposals are rejected in favour of a city-wide catchment area for both Primary and Secondary GME.

We will be very happy to provide further professional advice and support to the Education Team in the city regarding catchments and strategies to grow and develop GME as an asset to the educational provision provided by the City of Aberdeen.

Please contact our Director of Gaelic Education who will be very happy to provide additional support and advice.

Shona MacLennan  
CEO

Director of Gaelic Education: Jim Whannel  
seumas@gaidhlig.scot

Date: 7th October 2021

## **Response from Comann nam Pàrant**

### **Response to Aberdeen GME Zoning 2021 Consultation**

**Whilst we welcome the decision to establish catchment areas for both schools, we believe that the proposal in this paper, which limits GME to a very small area of Aberdeen, with no rationale behind the decision and no apparent educational benefit, is not compliant with Statutory Guidance.**

#### **Statutory Guidance**

The proposal is not compliant with Statutory Guidance.

Statutory Guidance on catchment areas states that “GME provision should normally cover an area in which the local authority thinks it is reasonable for pupils wishing to receive GME to travel to school”. Since GME was first established a reasonable distance has generally been interpreted, in all local authority areas, as up to 15 miles. Provision in Aberdeen, originally established by Grampian Council, has been city-wide with families supported to access GME in both Gilcomstoun Primary and Hazlehead Academy. Since the establishment of GME almost 30 years ago, parents from the entire local authority area have been encouraged to attend GME in Gilcomstoun and Hazlehead. We fail to understand why this should now change. Statutory Guidance refers to ‘reasonable distance’ and most parents would consider travelling distances within the city reasonable.

If Aberdeen City Council are interpreting ‘reasonable’ travelling distance as walking distance from school (as stated in this paper <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-09/Gaelic%20Medium%20Education%20%E2%80%93%20Catchment%20Area%20Proposals.pdf>), it must follow that they believe that all distances outwith walking distance are ‘unreasonable’ for pupils. If this is the case, the council should take action to address this and introduce GME to other schools within Aberdeen City. This would ensure that all pupils within the area are treated fairly and given access to GME that does not involve them travelling distances that the local authority consider unreasonable.

Statutory Guidance also states that the catchment area ‘should have the potential to attract parents to choose GME provision for their children’. This proposal will make GME an unattractive option for the majority of families in Aberdeen and exclude those who are unable, either physically or financially, to transport their children to school.

#### **Advice on Gaelic Education (Education Scotland)**

Establishing different catchments for primary and secondary does not promote a 3-18 curriculum in keeping with Education Scotland Advice.

The proposal states “Any children residing in the proposed primary catchment area will automatically be entitled to a place in the GME provision at Hazlehead Academy on transfer to

Secondary Education". It must therefore follow that any pupils residing outwith the two catchment areas will **not** be entitled to a place in Hazlehead Academy.

### **Specific Grant Funding for GME**

This funding, initially established in 1985 by the then Secretary of State for Scotland, George Younger, provides support towards any additional costs incurred by local authorities in delivery of GME. Specific Grant is paid to Aberdeen City Council to support delivery for all families within Aberdeen City who wish to access provision, not only families living in one small area.

### **Aberdeen Gaelic Language Plan**

The plan includes a commitment to *"ensure that where Gaelic is included as part of our operations and services, we will ensure they are of an equal standard and quality as those that we provide in English."*

As far as we are aware no pupils within Aberdeen City live outwith a catchment area for English medium education. The commitment regarding equal standard and quality should therefore result in no pupil in Aberdeen residing outwith a catchment for Gaelic medium education.

### **Other Equity Issues**

The proposal does not include information on the current situation in the school. We believe that the number of pupils currently in GME residing within the proposed zones to be very small and if this is correct and if this trend continues most families will have to come through the placing request system.

Although at this time there is space in the two schools for the number of pupils currently accessing GME there may come a time when this is not the case and placing requests could be refused.

In fact, the projected school rolls on the council's website indicate that Hazlehead Academy will be 110% capacity by next year and 125% capacity by 2026. The Gilcomstoun projected roll is consistently predicted as close to capacity. Despite these figures the consultation paper states, 'the Council is likely to have the capacity to accept placing requests submitted.'

The placing request system may deter families from enrolling in GME, especially families who find this kind of process and associated paperwork daunting. A more extensive city-wide catchment area would provide reassurance for all families that they are welcome in GME.

Such a small catchment unfairly prioritises families living near the school for a service that should be for all families living in Aberdeen City, irrespective of their home address or the location of the provision.

The lack of transport provision for families living outside the very proposed restricted catchment discriminates against families who are unable to provide transport for their children, for example, working parents, single parents, families on low income and families with no access to a car or public transport.

We have been unable to see the 'Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment' for the proposal as part of the consultation, but it is difficult not to anticipate that this assessment will demonstrate the inequity evident in the proposal.

## **Conclusion**

Aberdeen City Council have a duty to promote Gaelic medium education with the expectation that there will be growth in the sector. There is nothing in this proposal that will promote the growth of GME.

The proposal may in fact cause a reduction in pupil roles which will lead to reduced outcomes for young people and have implications for the quality of GME within Aberdeen.

The proposed catchments for primary and secondary are not aligned and this disconnect may result in more families moving away from GME at the end of primary school. This is not the 'Gold Route' that the council has said that it wishes to promote to parents and pupils and will not help address the issue of 'drop-out'.

The proposal will not result in any educational benefit and will not provide any clarity to parents.

**Our recommendation is that the current proposal be rejected in favour of city-wide catchments for both primary and secondary GME.**

Magaidh Wentworth  
Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)

8 Dàmhair 2021

Online Submissions

I am a: parent/carer of current primary pupil(s)	Primary School Name	I am a: parent/carer of current secondary pupil(s)	Please enter Secondary School Name	I am a: parent/carer of future pupil(s) (pre 5 child)	I am a: local resident	I am a: other	If other, please describe	What is the most positive part of the proposal (if any)? - Comments	What is/are your main concern(s) about the proposal? - Other Comments	What would you like the Council to know about the proposal? - Comments	Overall, do you support the proposal?	Any other comments? - Comments
Yes	Skene Square	No		Yes	No	No		None	GME is under valued in Aberdeen as it is without making parents feel it's only for certain areas, particularly when the proposed catchment area for primary are some of the most expensive housing in Aberdeen. GME should be available to all. The benefits are huge and to say it's only for people who can afford to live in the grammar school catchment is outrageous. The catchment must be city wide.	This proposal is discriminatory and goes against the government commitment to promote Gaelic through provision of GME to all who want it.	No	
Yes	Gilcomstoun GME	No		No	No	No		My main concern is that the proposed Catchment area for Gilcomstoun is so limited that it includes a minority of current pupils. (Considerably less than half). I fear that this will discourage future parents from applying to the school as they will have to apply for out of zone which can be a risk. I am also concerned that if the pupil numbers grow in accordance to the gaelic devolment plan that due to accommodation limitations out of zone children may be refused a place. This would be contrary to the intentions of the gaelic development plan.	I am also concerned that the limited area is not of educational benefit to current or future pupils.	I feel that the catchment zone for both schools should be a city wide catchment area given that there is only one secondary and one primary provision for the whole of Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire councils. This would also include the majority of current pupils	No	I support the installation of a catchment area but I feel like the limited catchment area is detrimental to the future of gaelic medium education in aberdeen city. The catchment area should be in line with the city boundaries.
No		Yes	Cults	No	No	No		I am guessing it is a money saving exercise for the council?	This is a grossly inequitable decision that denies GME to a large portion of the city. GME should be available to all city residents or none. There is no fair reason for it only to be available depending on address. I also note that while secondary education depends on wider catchments, the primary education seems focused principally around Aberdeen Grammar catchment - which will over the course of years effectively reduce secondary provision to this zone too.		No	
Yes	Heathryburn	No		No	Yes	No		I feel like as Scottish people we have lost so much of our heritage and its really important we preserve it for the future generations	My biggest concern is that it becomes a post code lottery and only some children are blessed with this amazing opportunity to learn more of their heritage and preserve the Scottish language or Gaelic	I think it's fantastic but should be offered to all schools	Yes	Thank you for allowing me to have an opinion
Yes	Heathryburn	No		No	No	No		Seems straightforward zoning.	N/A	It feels a little like they would be thrown in the deep end with no background in the language.	Yes	N/A
Yes	Mill End School	No		No	No	No		It is not entirely clear from the proposal but the most positive aspect would be to provide GME as an option i.e. let the parents decide whether this is something we consider suitable for our children education.	The main concern would be not having the option of choosing whether GEM is good or not for our children's education regardless of this proposal's approval. Again I am not sure if GEM is proposed as mandatory starting 2022 or if english will continue to be extendedly used in Primary which is our preference as parents. Gaelic is probably one of the Scottish culture hallmarks and it is important to keep it alive and passed on to the new generations. However I think that replacing english with gaelic in Primary would be more important for the gaelic language than for the future of my children. Indeed I consider english the language of the world and therefore the language of the future. We speak three languages at home, english, french and spanish. We never had to speak gaelic to make ourselves understandable. That is why I do not consider the implementation of GEM as a necessity for my children education. My view is that this is more a political steer rather than an educational driver. So to sum up: I agree if GEM means an option for children to take gaelic lessons for instance 1h/week. But if GEM means replacing english in the day to day activities and teachings in the school I would have to look forward to get this proposal rejected.		No	If implementation of GEM is explained to me i.e. how my kids school life and learning will be affected I am willing to review my "vote" if required.
Yes	Kittybrewster	Yes	St machar	No	Yes	No		Good to see scottish language still practised in school	Does it affect my schools at all?		Yes	
Yes	Gilcomstoun	No		No	No	No			Having a catchment zone means you will likely exclude people from GME by being 'unable' to offer them a place.	I don't think having a catchment area for GME is a good idea. If people are willing to travel a considerable distance just to obtain this then they should be allowed to.	No	Yet again you are targeting GME & penalising those of us who wish to be involved in it. I find GME extremely important & would be absolutely furious if future students were prevented from attending due to a catchment zone. Perhaps you ought to consider a small school that provides nothing but GME education?
No		No		No	Yes	No		None	I have always thought that I would send my children to have a Gaelic medium education. I am very concerned that these catchment zones would mean that my child would not be able to attend these schools for a Gaelic medium education because of where they live. Perhaps this is not correct but I do not think it is clear how this would affect me living in Bridge of Don, would my children be disadvantaged?	It is unclear. It makes it look like only children who live in this catchment will be able to access/ will get priority to a Gaelic medium education. This cannot be correct I am sure but it is concerning.	No	
Yes	Airyhall School	No		No	No	No		Additional pupils being zoned for Hazlehead Academy who don't live in the catchment or even in the city, increasing the pupil numbers, and impacting on those children that attend a primary school zoned for Hazlehead.	I think you need a 'simple English' list of bullets to really make clear what it is this proposal is asking/suggesting.		No	
Yes	Ashley Road Primary	Yes	Aberdeen Grammar	No	Yes	No		I think it is good that GME is being offered to a greater number of pupils SHOULD they / their parents wish to go down that route.  It is good that pupils are not being forced to undertake GME - it is just an option	I think I understand - but am not 100% clear.  I do not want my children to be forced into taking Gaelic lessons if they do not wish too. They are already being brought up bi-lingual and we would rather they focus on these languages rather than learning another.	Dont understand the question - why do they not know about all the proposal?	Yes	Good to offer and encourage opportunities for those who wish to learn Gaelic, but should not be compulsory. Would be good to see more language learning support from ACC.
No		No		No	Yes	No		Absolutely no positivity whatsoever, Unsure who has proposed this as they are completely wasting time & money on a non essential education subject. Like Latin it is not required	wasting money on irrelevant language - a bit like Latin/German/French all a waste of teachers & students time	How irrelevant it actually is	No	forget this proposal & move on, lets try teaching Sign Language ,which is a lot more beneficial to all students
No		Yes	Cults Academy	No	No	No		There is no positive part.	Why take the time to teach a 'dying' language when our children have missed 18 months of attending school (in person) It is vastly more important to take the time, money and resources to educate our children in subjects that is important for them and any further education.	The council needs to listen and adhere to the feedback being given (whether on here, or on social media). The vast majority of people are quite rightly saying, there is no point in teaching the language.	No	
Yes	Mill End Primary	No		No	No	No		None that I can see.	see no need for the provision of Gaelic instruction whatsoever.	As above.	No	
Yes	Loirston primary scho	No		No	No	No		It would be nice to see this taught in more schools in Aberdeen			Yes	
Yes	Ferryhill	No		Yes	No	No		None, it is a waste of money which could be spent on literally anything else.	That this is a total waste of money.	That other than a handful of loud campaigners, Aberdeen folk do not want this provision.	No	
No					Yes	No		experience of the consequences of this over the longer term. As happened in Wales, is this a first concession towards making teaching and learning Gaelic compulsory? Then it follows that children our are eventually immersed in the Gaelic language (another step down the road) through teaching all subjects through the Gaelic medium. (Then English becomes a foreign / second language to them)			No	
No					Yes	No		Some potential negative effects of language immersion. 1. The children of Scots Gaelic speaking parents may struggle with the English Language due to lack of use / experience. The children will speak Gaelic at home and at school.  2. When the immersed children go to University or work outside of Scotland then they may face ridicule for their perceived pidgen English. (This may put the children of Scots Gaelic speaking families at a disadvantage both in the UK and overseas)			No	
No					Yes	No		What is aim / end goal of this? Is it to make a majority of Scots (and the rest of the world) speak Gaelic because it is good for Scotland or is it just to preserve the language in a smaller way. (for more sentimental reasons)			No	
No					Yes	No		Could this in the future be seen by children that they were deliberately disadvantaged by policies encouraging them to keep an ancient language going that will never become mainstream,  Prime examples are the Welsh, Irish and French in particular who are encouraged by government not to speak English and this is to the detriment of ALL French people.			No	
No					Yes	No		It promotes an old traditional Scots Gaelic language which otherwise may disappear completely over time and also helps differentiate Scotland from England.	This should be considered carefully due to the potential effect on Scotland PLC of being perceived to be parochial / insular / unwelcoming / self serving in todays shrinking world.  Take a look at the proposal from a long term global perspective / impact taking into account future AI opportunities. E.g. Consider to spend the money on working with google and other software houses to give auto translations.	My main concerns	No	What is the end goal / aim of this policy?
No					Yes	No		Whilst there may currently be enough space to grant spaces to children from outside of the proposed catchment areas, there is no guarantee that this will always be the case (which is presumably why the council is proposing this change). A child's access to educational opportunities should not be dependent on their post code.		Access to Gaelic education should remain open to pupils from across the city. If the council is intent on introducing catchment areas then they should be large enough or numerous enough to cover the entire council area.	No	
No					Yes	No		Lack of provision for Doric. We should be promoting our own language and culture over a language that is not native to the NE of Scotland.		Lack of provision for Doric. We should be promoting our own language and culture over a language that is not native to the NE of Scotland.	No	
Yes		Yes		No	No	No		Clarity about provision	We need to educate children for the 21st century. The current language provision - as set by the Scottish Govt - is not implemented yet in schools. As an example, my youngest is only now getting regular French lessons - P6. He is supposed to be getting an additional language by now.  Rather than using scarce resources to teach Gaelic in an area of Scotland with no historic connection to the language, resources should be focused on implementing the language provision laid out, with languages provision relevant to the area. Norwegian, Dutch or Mandarin would make a lot more sense in Aberdeen, or at least Spanish or German.	I'd like Councils to make strong representation to the SG that rather than chasing ideology, a more pragmatic approach to supporting raising standards in education and implementing a robust curriculum would be welcomed. Otherwise education standards - already in decline over the past 10 years - will continue and our kids will be increasingly disadvantaged.	Yes	
No		No		No	Yes	No		Ferryhill catchment not included		Families living in the zone for Ferryhill Primary are excluded. They are within reasonable distance to travel and should therefore be included.	No	
Yes	Gilcomstoun GME	No		No	No	No		It outlines in the proposal that my child who is currently p6 in gme will not be automatically entitled to continue to hazlehead to continue with their gaelic medium education. This proposal alienates current pupils who do not live in either of the very limited catchment zones of which there are many. The current proposal is dependent on numbers in gme remaining stable. It is not providing any room for growth. I would like to know what would happen if a current out of zone Gilcomstoun gme pupil applied to hazlehead and the school was fully subscribed with english medium pupils? Where would current GME pupils come on the priority list of placements? The catchment zones should include all current city dwelling pupils so as not to discriminate against current pupils who live further from school. All pupils currently in Gilcomstoun should be indiscriminately eligible to continue their gaelic medium education through to secondary school.		The catchment zones should be city wide. This current proposal does not automatically allow a large number of current pupils to continue gme from primary to secondary	No	Please reassess this proposal to include all current city dwelling pupils.

No		No	No	No	Yes	No	concerned about Gaelic learning in City and Shire	that Gaelic medium education is available	There is no educational benefit. It does provide not continuity between Primary and secondary. It is not fair to families who live outside the very small catchment – no equity. It discriminates against families who are unable to provide transport for their children, for example working parents, single parents, families on low income, families with no access to car or public transport. It is not in keeping with Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education which places a duty on the council to promote and support GME. At the time there is space in the named schools for all pupils there may come a time when placing requests could be refused. This proposal unfairly prioritises families living in the close proximity to the two schools over other families for what is city wide provision	Transport was available for families and this provision, supported by Scottish Government Specific Grant for Gaelic, remained in place until the removal of transport in 2019 for families living out with the catchments of the two schools hosting GME. The decision to change transport entitlement was taken by council with no consultation with parents or other bodies. If the council establish such a small catchment, parents in other areas will be able to submit a request for Gaelic medium education under the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 in their own areas. The council may find itself with a number of smaller Gaelic classes in other areas of Aberdeen which will no doubt be challenging to staff. It makes more sense with the number as they currently are to have one primary school and one secondary school for GME. Every other local authority in Scotland with single provision has whole area catchments.	No	
No		No	No	No	No	Yes	concerned about Gaelic learning in City and Shire	that Gaelic medium education is available	that access to Gaelic medium education is dependent on where in city a family lives. and if no transport available (and why not a bus pass to show on regular bus routes?) the limits access to those who can afford extra travel costs		No	
No		No	No	No	Yes	No		ACC has a commitment to providing GME	A smaller catchment area will result in families in other areas in Aberdeen having to go through the placing request system. This prioritises some families over others. GME was set up as a service for all of Aberdeen. This also involves greater procedural intervention		No	
No		No	No	Yes	Yes	Grandfather of future pupil		Extension of catchment	Statutory Guidance asks local authorities to "plan for continuity and progression throughout GME". Having different catchment areas for primary and secondary provision does not provide continuity in education.		No	GME should be as flexible and as easy to access as possible with as few procedural interventions as can be achieved
No		No	No	Yes	No			Establishment of a catchment - although the actual catchment proposed is most definitely NOT positive.	Resources possibly		Yes	
No		No	No	Yes	No			Establishment of a catchment - although the actual catchment proposed is most definitely NOT positive.	Establishing a small catchment for GME is creating inequality within the Council area - some families would be automatically entitled to GME while others would not. The proposal could be a deterrent to those outwith the catchment in considering GME. When Gilcomston/Hazelhead were established as the GME facilities for Aberdeen, it was intended to be provision for the whole area, not for specific parts and as such the catchment should cover the whole Council area. I have to suspect that the proposal is intended to give the council a reason to refuse to pay transport costs for pupils to attend GME, which would then be discriminatory against families with working parents, disabled children or parents, those on low incomes and others for whom transporting children is an issue. It is my understanding that councils should be promoting and supporting access to GME and this is most definitely contrary to that aim.	As the sole providers of GME in Aberdeen, the GME units at Gilcomston and Hazelhead need to be available to and accessible equally by all residents of Aberdeen City. There should not be a two-tier system of those entitled to automatic entry and, where applicable, transport and those who have to apply for any spare places, without transport entitlement.	No	
Yes	Gilcomston	No	No	No	No			The establishment of a catchment zone is positive however the proposed zone is too restrictive and excludes the majority of current pupils, therefore is likely to negatively affect the uptake of gme in future which is contrary to the gaelic language plan.	My concern is that there will be no continuity of education from primary to secondary. The proposal states that the proposal aims to reduce drop off from primary to secondary however the plan itself directly contradicts this. In the very first cohort to apply for secondary after it would be implemented not one of the children in this group are automatically entitled to a place in secondary as they meet neither of the requirements outlined in sections 4.3 and 4.5 of the proposal. The proposed Catchment area is so limited that it includes only 37% of current pupils. In order to maintain numbers and indeed increase numbers as per the gaelic plan, the geographical this catchment zone covers should reflect 100% of the city and therefore 100% of the current school roll.	As a child of a pupil in senior primary, this really concerns me for my child's mental health. There is already currently comments made from the english medium pupils towards the senior gaelic medium pupils about how they shouldn't be at the school because they don't live there. This would only compound these comments and having to go through a placing request for secondary and potentially being rejected would further add to this. I do not feel that the current pupils or families have been considered in this and definitely not the psychological effect this could have on the children.	No	I urge you to reconsider the boundaries of this proposal to include the whole of the city. Please consider the effect it will have on the 11/12 year olds who want to continue to secondary but are potentially told there isn't a place for them. Not only is this proposal of no educational benefit, as it is now, it is in fact detrimental to the continuation of the gaelic education of current pupils and will be detrimental to the growth of gaelic in Aberdeen. A provision that has been in the city for 30 years and even since before the establishment of the Scottish government.
Yes	Gilcomston	No	No	No	No			Having an established catchment is a good thing as it provides clarity for families BUT as there is only one primary school and one secondary school with Gaelic provision in Aberdeen City the catchment should cover the whole of the local authority area. Otherwise, there is nothing positive about this proposal.	Equality: All children living in Aberdeen City should have equal access to GME irrespective of where they live. Such a small catchment area will result in families in other areas in Aberdeen having to go through the placing request system. This prioritises some families over others. GME was set up as a service for all of Aberdeen not for families attending Gilcomston School. GME was situated in the school because it had capacity, no other reason. Inclusiveness: Families in Aberdeen who wished to access GME living out with the catchment would have to have the means to transport their children to school. This immediately excludes many working parents, parents who do not own a car or are able to access public transport and parents with a disability. Promotion and growth of GME: Any catchment area should have the potential to attract parents to choose GME provision for their children. This proposition clearly will result in GME becoming less attractive to many families in Aberdeen. How can GME be promoted to families if there is no support to access provision? Educational Benefit: There is no educational benefit from this proposal. Statutory Guidance asks local authorities to "plan for continuity and progression throughout GME". Having different catchment areas for primary and secondary provision does not provide continuity in education.	GME was initially formally established in Aberdeen in 1991 by Grampian Regional Council and based at Gilcomston Primary School, and thereafter at Hazelhead Academy for GME provision in the Grampian area. Transport was available for families and this provision, supported by Scottish Government Specific Grant for Gaelic, remained in place until the removal of transport in 2019 for families living out with the catchments of the two schools hosting GME. The decision to change transport entitlement was taken by council with no consultation with parents or other bodies. If the council establish such a small catchment, parents in other areas will be able to submit a request for Gaelic medium education under the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 in their own areas. The council may find itself with a number of smaller Gaelic classes in other areas of Aberdeen which will no doubt be challenging to staff. It makes more sense with the number as they currently are to have one primary school and one secondary school for GME.	No	Statutory Guidance on catchment areas states that "GME provision should normally cover an area in which the local authority thinks it is reasonable for pupils wishing to receive GME to travel to school" Guidance also states that the catchment area 'should have the potential to attract parents to choose GME provision for their children'. This proposal will make GME an unattractive option for the majority of families in Aberdeen and exclude those who are unable, either physically or financially, to transport their children to school.
Yes	Bun-sgoil Gàidhlig Baile A' Ghobhainn	No	No	No	No			I cannot see any positives in this proposal. All other local authorities providing GME do so for all of their areas. This proposal creates a two tier system where out of catchment families might not have the same access to GME as families in the new catchment.	This proposal creates a two tier system where out of catchment families might not have the same access to GME as families in the new catchment. It puts a bar to access to GME and as such contravenes legislation that places a duty on the council to provide	If the council wish to change the catchment area of a school they are required to show an educational benefit for doing so. No educational benefit has been demonstrated. In fact by taking families who currently or in the future wish to choose GME for their children out of the GME catchment they are demonstrating an educational disadvantage for those families. The council will be in position to allow only discretionary access to those families if space is available. The council will not have to provide access to some families to early years GME. This is a crucial phase of language acquisition.	No	The catchment for GME in Aberdeen should cover the entire local authority area. The only reason for dividing the catchment should be in the event of opening new GME provision. The council is failing in its duty to properly provide GME where there is strong evidence of demand. The council is failing in its duty to promote GME as a viable education option open to all who choose it. The council is failing in its obligation to provide transport to children who do not live in walking distance of their school.
No		No	No	No	Yes	Parent/carer of a child in GME in another local authority area		Establishing a catchment is a good step as it places GME on a par with EME schools. It ticks a box in terms of adherence to the guidance, however this could be achieved in a better way. I can see how it can be used to drive investment into expanding GME through establishing a developer contribution zone to aid the expansion of GME schools to other parts of the city, providing more equitable.	The zone is far too restrictive, and somewhat arbitrary in its. No data has been presented which adequately describes the necessity to establish the zone in such a tight manner. GME Schools are provided by the local authority and should offer equitable access to all of the children in that authority. All families are council tax payers and presenting the zoning in this manner threatens their right to access GME if that is their wish.	Please withdraw this consultation and replace with a catchment zone for primary and secondary which covers the entire local authority administrative boundary. Only when further GME schools are opened at primary should any consideration to sub-divide the catchment be proposed.	No	
Yes		No	No	No	No			The fact you are looking for feedback from parents is good	GME is a right that all children in Scotland should be entitled to. This proposal limits GME to children in a very small catchment area and excludes others. There is no need to restrict access in this way and it is bad for GME nationally. I respectfully request you scrap this proposal and consider something more inclusive.	As I have just said, GME is a right that all children in Scotland should be entitled to. This proposal limits GME to children in a very small catchment area and excludes others. There is no need to restrict access in this way and it is bad for GME nationally. I respectfully request you scrap this proposal and consider something more inclusive.	No	Please think about making GME actually accessible to all. Thank you.
No		Yes	Hazelhead	No	No			Good to assign a catchment to give clarity to future parents considering GME	Catchment is not large enough and separates each school so there is no guarantee that if your child completes primary GME they will get a place at secondary GME. Goes against statutory guidance to promote Gaelic in the area and makes it less inclusive. As there is only one primary and one secondary in the whole of Aberdeen and the Shire it should be a bigger catchment to include both the schools and the city. This will also stop the chance of 5 families in, for example, Bridge of Don, requesting Gaelic provision which would then be an obligation to provide. It was stated at the meeting that it was the intention of Aberdeen City Council to support and promote GME in Aberdeen City. That being the case then why a proposal to set up a limited catchment area potentially limiting the number of primary and secondary pupils eligible to apply for GME education in Aberdeen. Surely the obvious plan would be to maintain the current situation of no catchment area in Aberdeen or indeed the Shire for GME.	It's short sighted and makes no logical sense. It has no educational benefit, and opens the possibility of future requests for Gaelic provision in specific areas of the city, which would have much bigger cost and recruitment issues than are already in play	No	
No		No	No	No	Yes	No		None	Surely the obvious plan would be to maintain the current situation of no catchment area in Aberdeen or indeed the Shire for GME.	It is not obvious what benefits this proposal brings other than some hidden agenda the council may have for the future of GME in Aberdeen or some other cost cutting measure.	No	I think Aberdeen City Council could drastically improve the way primary and secondary GME is advertised and promoted in Aberdeen.
No		No	No	No	No			Having an established catchment is a good thing as it provides clarity for families BUT as there is only one primary school and one secondary school with Gaelic provision in Aberdeen City the catchment should cover the whole of the local authority area. Otherwise, there is nothing positive about this proposal.	There is no educational benefit. It does provide not continuity between Primary and secondary. It is not fair to families who live outside the very small catchment – no equity. It discriminates against families who are unable to provide transport for their children, for example working parents, single parents, families on low income, families with no access to car or public transport. It is not in keeping with Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education which places a duty on the council to promote and support GME. At the time there is space in the named schools for all pupils there may come a time when placing requests could be refused. This proposal unfairly prioritises families living in the close proximity to the two schools over other families for what is city wide provision.	GME was initially formally established in Aberdeen in 1991 by Grampian Regional Council and based at Gilcomston Primary School, and thereafter at Hazelhead Academy for GME provision in the Grampian area. Transport was available for families and this provision, supported by Scottish Government Specific Grant for Gaelic, remained in place until the removal of transport in 2019 for families living out with the catchments of the two schools hosting GME. The decision to change transport entitlement was taken by council with no consultation with parents or other bodies. If the council establish such a small catchment, parents in other areas will be able to submit a request for Gaelic medium education under the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 in their own areas. The council may find itself with a number of smaller Gaelic classes in other areas of Aberdeen which will no doubt be challenging to staff. It makes more sense with the number as they currently are to have one primary school and one secondary school for GME. Every other local authority in Scotland with single provision has whole area catchments.	No	
No		No	No	No	Yes	Gaelic medium practitioner outside the authority	N/a	N/a	This will effectively restrict GME access based on postcode and potentially have the knock on effect of restricting by socioeconomic background. This also goes against the grain in a situation where efforts are required to grow GME and access to it nationwide as well as locally		No	

								<p>reasonable for pupils wishing to receive GME to travel to school". In the recent consultation meeting it was acknowledged by council officers that the chosen catchments were primarily decided based on the same travel distances as English medium schools which unfortunately can not be justified due to there only being one provision in the city for each level of education in GME.</p> <p>Having consulted with others involved with the promotion of Gaelic language, every area of Aberdeen falls within what would be classed as a reasonable travelling distance to access GME provision, with current pupils living in some of the furthest communities geographically away from Gilcomstoun and Hazlehead the travel time to access GME ranges between 10-30 minutes. This is more than reasonable.</p> <p>2) Guidance also states that the catchment area 'should have the potential to attract parents to choose GME provision for their children'. This proposal will make GME an unattractive option for the majority of families in Aberdeen and exclude those who are unable, either physically or financially, to transport their children to school. Placing requests will also discourage families as there is no guarantee of a place for their child throughout their education.</p> <p>3) The curriculum for Excellence states "As part of their learner journey, all children and young people in Scotland are entitled to experience a coherent curriculum from 3 to 18, in order that they have opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to adapt, think critically and flourish in today's world."</p> <p>Unfortunately this proposal goes completely against this by not guaranteeing a child a place in GME at every stage of their educational journey and therefore does not offer any educational benefit or security to families that their children will receive GME unless they live within these very constrained areas of the City. Although at this time there is space in the named schools for all pupils there may come a time when placing requests could be refused (this has happened in other authorities) due to schools reaching capacity or staffing issues. At the recent consultation meeting when asked if all children will be guaranteed a space if they wish to receive GME the answer was, if our predictions are correct. There was also no clear plan of how placing requests would be prioritised especially at Hazlehead who also have the SFA performance school. This is all very concerning to people both already in GME or those considering it.</p> <p>4) Having different catchment areas for primary and secondary provision also does not provide continuity in education or clarity for parents to encourage them to choose GME.</p> <p>Other local authorities in a similar situation to Aberdeen with sole provision cover their whole local authority area, for example Edinburgh <a href="https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/school-places/gaelic-schools-1/1">https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/school-places/gaelic-schools-1/1</a>. Local authorities with multiple GME settings have generally interpreted</p>				
Yes	Gilcomstoun	No	No	No	No	No	<p>That a catchment area is being consulted as per guidance.</p> <p>Apart from that there is no positive part of the proposal as instead of encouraging GME as per the development plan this proposal limits it.</p> <p>Whilst we welcome the decision to consult on catchment areas for both schools, we believe that the proposal in this paper, which limits GME to a very small area of Aberdeen, with no rationale behind the decision and no apparent educational benefit, is not in keeping with Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education.</p>	<p>That the proposal actually proposes a negative outcome for GME in the City and serves no educational or social benefit to children within Aberdeen.</p> <p>While it is a positive step introducing a catchment area, the catchment area should be for Aberdeen City not just a selected area of the city who happen to live in the area where the schools happen to be located (based on availability of space at the time they were introduced). All children across the city should have equal entitlement to access GME provision.</p> <p>At the beginning of the consultation meeting a slide was displayed titled "Benefits of the proposal". The points on it show the benefits of GME not of this proposal. The third point in regards to drop out rate must also be considered carefully as historically the drop out between primary and secondary has been to do with lack of GME provision in secondary, distance between the primary and secondary school and transport, not because people did not wish their child to receive a Gaelic medium education. The implementation of this plan will not help to eliminate these barriers, only a continual progression from nursery to secondary will and unfortunately this proposal does not offer that security for any family.</p>	No		<p>On a personal note my daughter has thrived in GME despite our family being non speakers and to think that she and others would be unable to access this education purely because of a postcode lottery is heartbreaking. The benefits of a bilingual education (greater awareness of how language works, enhanced problem solving abilities, heightened creative potential) show that instead of limiting the amount of children automatically entitled to access this education we should ensure it is accessible to all.</p> <p>According to the local authority's website "Aberdeen City Council uses an integrated assessment process to capture equality, human rights, children's rights and socio-economic disadvantage information and evidence." Can it be confirmed if an impact assessment has been carried out for the proposal and made available.</p>	
No		No	No	No	Yes	Family member of GME pupil	<p>It does not provide a continuous path of education for children from 3-18 unless a child happens to reside in the proposed catchment areas. It should be noted that the majority of current pupils don't live within the proposed catchment zones and there is no indication that this will change.</p> <p>It is unfair to guarantee this provision to only a small area of the city when all children in the local authority are entitled to benefit from this education no matter where they live.</p> <p>It will actually reduce the number of people in GME going against the Gaelic Development Plan as there is no guarantee of a space for every child at each stage of their education, providing no continuity.</p> <p>No answer was given to how placing requests would be prioritised for GME and the consultation meeting response of going by predictions of space rather than a guaranteed space was extremely unsettling. The response at the meeting in regards to passing the consultation and then dealing with the finer details later also filled me with little confidence.</p> <p>All other local authorities in Scotland with one provision for each education stage have set the largest possible catchment whereas Aberdeen wants to do the total opposite, creating inequality based on your postcode to access GME.</p>	<p>The only logical way forward in order to provide equality for all children in the City is to disregard this proposal and implement a city wide catchment area.</p>	No			
No		No	No	No	Yes	Academic specialising in Gaelic-medium education choice. Former of Aberdeen resident.	<p>The proposal should not limit the catchment area of GME to anything less than LA boundaries. LA-wide catchment is what much bigger LAs have done for GME for years and these LA have developed GME to a far greater extent and have much higher demand on places - City of Edinburgh being a very good example. This proposal would make Aberdeen an outlier in GME provision in urban centres in Scotland. The LA do not have to reduce the catchment area. They might need to specify it but they have not made a coherent argument against it being city-wide.</p> <p>Considering what is a reasonable distance to travel to school is not a decision required to be made by Education Committee within small, concentrated LA areas. This is either a known red herring or a misunderstanding of education choice alongside an urban-centric view of education provision. Much of Scotland's population lives in rural areas where all education is provided at a distance greater than any address within Aberdeen City is from GME in Aberdeen. The LA is not being asked to decide on what constitutes a reasonable distance to travel in this case. Distance to school is a consideration for parents to make, given their own individual circumstances. Research on school choice in Scotland shows that location is important in education choice but that it is not only distance from home that families consider, but distance from other locations such as parents work, childcare or other family members. Home address is insufficient, in and of itself, to conclude on behalf of parents what is reasonable distance for their child/family circumstances.</p>	<p>This is an entirely backward step for the provision of GME in Aberdeen and surrounding areas. Making something harder to access is "promotion". It shows great disrespect to Gaelic speakers, learners, and those involved in GME in Aberdeen that their LA are actively creating more barriers to GME while stating that we should not worry because there is information on a website. Active promotion is required through the reduction of barriers in Aberdeen more so than in many other areas in Scotland. In contrast with other LAs, Aberdeen has failed to develop GME in any significant way over the past 30 years. The actual offer to parents is almost entirely the same as the outset. This is not what parents in other areas are being offered. Gaelic-speakers are familiar with how GME has developed or not, across Scotland, with standalone schools and increased subject provisional secondary in nearly all other main urban centres in Scotland. As it stands, it is not surprising that Aberdeen has recruitment issues when Gaelic teachers can look to other LA areas with much more developed provision and choose to work there. Widespread coverage of this proposal in Gaelic media will not help improve your image of the 'reluctant' council.</p> <p>I have to conclude that it is not surprising that this LA would consult on such a retrograde step, against parental wishes and what would be best for the Gaelic language. It is clear that a city-wide catchment area is the only proposal that should have been put forward and would be the only proposal that would constitute promoting/supporting the Gaelic language to anyone actually invested in doing so.</p>	No			
No		No	No	No	Yes	Gaelic speaker - Lived in Aberdeen at three periods during my working life.	<p>As I understand it, the de facto catchment of Aberdeen City Council's Gaelic Medium Units has historically been the whole of the City plus parts of Aberdeen-shire.</p> <p>As a matter of principle the catchment area for Gaelic Medium Education must cover the whole geographic area for which the Education authority is responsible. The proposal destroys this.</p> <p>This is the case in law for English Medium Education and it is a failure to deliver services in the spirit of "equal respect for Gaelic" enshrined in the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 if the same standard is not applied to Gaelic Medium Provision.</p> <p>If it is the case that the Aberdeen City Council's Area is too large to be served by only two Gaelic Medium Units, then rather than exclude some parts of the City from Gaelic Medium catchments then additional units must be provided.</p>	<p>It is not acceptable that residents of some areas of the City are deprived access to Gaelic Medium Education if they wish to have it for their children. There is historical and ongoing real discrimination against the Gaidheal, in access to council services and this should end.</p>	No	<p>In my early career I spent several years working in Aberdeen.</p> <p>Aberdeen and other Scottish cities, draw in young people from the Gaidhealtachd both as students and in the early years of their working lives. This was evident when I was a Research Assistant at RGTI in the 1980's and remains the case today.</p> <p>Typically Gaidheals, like everyone else, start their families when they are in their twenties. At this age, early in their working lives, they have both career potential and economic vulnerability.</p> <p>Scotland's cities must support their Gaelic communities - recognising that failure to do so impacts vernacular Gaelic communities across the Highlands as people move between the two at different stages of their life's journey.</p> <p>An essential support to the modern Gaelic community is ready access to Gaelic medium Education from pre-school to S6. In respect of secondary education, Gaelic as a subject alone is not GME. The absolute minimum standard that can be considered as partial secondary GME, is Gaelic, plus one Science Subject and One other subject from the humanities/arts curriculum available at all levels up to National 5 and Higher.</p>		
Yes	Gilcomstoun Primary	No	Yes	No	No		<p>There is no educational benefit to this proposal, it will reduce the numbers of families applying for GME as it will no longer be seen as a right of all living in Aberdeen. The Curriculum is designed for a continued development from aged 3-18, this proposal with different zones for the Primary and Secondary makes no sense. There will be no security for parents choosing GME at primary that they will be able to continue into secondary. If you are going to create a zone then the primary should be a zoned school for the secondary. I can't think of another school in Aberdeen where the primary feeds into a secondary in a different cluster of schools.</p> <p>Statutory guidance for Gaelic says "A catchment area should have the potential to attract parents to choose GME provision for their children". This proposal does the opposite of this. The removal of school transport and creating these smaller catchment area puts barriers in the way of people choosing this option, discriminating against those who do not drive, are on low incomes and those with disabilities who may not be able to get their child to these schools.</p> <p>And although we are told there is plenty of room in the schools there may be a time that this is not true and placing requests may be refused.</p>	<p>Transport was available for families and this provision, supported by Scottish Government Specific Grant for Gaelic, remained in place until the removal of transport in 2019 for families living out with the catchments of the two schools hosting GME.</p> <p>The decision to change transport entitlement was taken by council with no consultation with parents or other bodies and with the removal of the grant the council saves very little by having made this decision which has certainly seen numbers reduce in the school.</p> <p>If the council establish such a small catchment, parents in other areas will be able to submit a request for Gaelic medium education under the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 in their own areas. The council may find itself with a number of smaller Gaelic classes in other areas of Aberdeen which will no doubt be challenging to staff. It makes more sense with the number as they currently are to have one primary school and one secondary school for GME, every other local authority in Scotland with single provision has whole area catchments.</p> <p>GME is not about learning a language in 40mins a week. This is about fully immersive Gaelic in the early years. My children have no Gaelic at home and my P2 and P3 (despite lockdowns) are now helping me and my husband with our Gaelic learning. This is something we as a city should be proud about, Aberdeen City Council should be shouting from the rooftops about this, learning one language makes it easier to learn many more and we should be encouraging all parents and children who want to make this choice to do it. Please think very carefully before you push this through, go and visit the schools and speak to the children, I fully believe that implementing this change with lead us down the path for this valuable resource to disappear in the future.</p>	No			
No		No	No	No	Yes	Grandparent primary pupil	<p>Such a small catchment area will result in families in other areas of Aberdeen having to go through a placing request system. This prioritises some families over others and does not provide equal access to the provision. GME was set up as a service for all of Aberdeen not for families attending Gilcomstoun or Hazlehead school. GME was situated in the school purely because of capacity at the time, no other reason.</p> <p>Any catchment area should have the potential to attract parents to choose GME provision for their children. This proposition clearly will result in GME becoming less attractive. There is no guarantee of places for children in the schools and therefore even though the curriculum of excellence states that all children are entitled to "experience a coherent curriculum from 3 to 18" this proposal goes completely against this as there would be 3 points of application that would require a successful placing request.</p> <p>This is of great concern with the transition from primary to secondary where the figures as stated on ACC's website in regards to school roll forecasts state that by 2026 Hazlehead's total roll/effect overall capx will be 125%. How can GME pupils be secure in their educational journey when a placing request will be required?</p> <p>Statutory guidance also asks local authorities to "plan for continuity and progression throughout GME", both the placing request system and having different catchment areas for primary and secondary provision does not provide continuity in education.</p> <p>To provide equality all children living in Aberdeen City should have equal access to GME irrespective of where they live, as is the case in every other local authority in Scotland.</p>	<p>Money is allocated to Aberdeen City Council for Gaelic plans, with these plans supposed to develop and expand Gaelic, not curtail and decrease its development.</p> <p>This proposal goes against ACC's own Gaelic Development plan which was recently consulted upon. It shows a narrow vision on Gaelic Medium education provision in the city at a time when cities like Glasgow and Edinburgh are forging ahead with GME establishing more and more schools.</p> <p>If the council establish such a small catchment, parents in other areas will be able to submit a request for GME under the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 in their own areas. The council may find itself with a number of smaller Gaelic classes in other areas of Aberdeen which will no doubt be challenging to staff. It makes more sense with the numbers as they currently are to have one primary school and one secondary school for GME with access for all. Every other local authority in Scotland with single provision has whole area catchments.</p>	No			



Yes	Gilcomstoun	No	No	No	No	No	A catchment area is being consulted on, however that is the only positive part of this proposal	Catchment does not benefit the city equally and therefore does not allow every child the same access to GME Provision. It is unfair to all families living in the city are not within these extremely limited catchment areas. The curriculum of excellence states that children should be at the heart, this proposal goes against this as they clearly are not as it offers no guarantee of GME education from 3-18. With only one primary school and one secondary school in the City (and Shire for that matter) the catchment area should be city wide without question.  Another concern is from the council's own school role figures both GME schools will be oversubscribed within the next few years. This gives families currently in GME and those currently deciding on their children's future very little hope of accessing the provision. The consultation offers no guarantee and the answer from the meeting of there's space at the moment does not make this any clearer as there are numerous reasons why this could not be the case at crucial transition periods in our children's educations. These children's educational entitlement as per the curriculum of excellence is currently being based purely on guess work.  There is no educational benefit to the proposal whatsoever and in fact minimizing the catchment provides the opposite as it is denying children this educational pathway which is so valuable in terms of brain development, language development and in the case of our child wellbeing and character development.	It should be relooked at immediately and follow every other local authority in Scotland as Aberdeen City Council seem to be only ones wanting to reduce GME rather than expand it as per the Gaelic Language Plan.	No	My child is currently thriving in her education and that is down to their access to GME. This proposal excludes them from a guaranteed place in GME purely on a post code lottery as we are out with the catchment area. The catchment area is far too small to promote GME and every address in Aberdeen should be equally entitled to a place.
Yes	Gilcomstoun	Yes	Hazelhead	No	No	No	The fact that a catchment area is being propped.	I am concerned about the small area being proposed for the catchment area considering that there is only one school at each level which provide GME within the council boundary. I feel that this is purely to not provide school transport for those who wish the have there children educated through GME. as that catchment areas seems to be just at the cut-off for when the council would be liable to provide transport provision to allow children to attend.	I don't support the area being proposed as the catchment area in this provision although I do support the set up of a Catchment Area for GME within Aberdeen. I feel it should be more in line with other council's GME catchment areas which are the council boundary when there is only one school providing GME provision at each level like is the case in Aberdeen.	No	
No		No		No	Yes	No	People need clarity on whether they are entitled to send their children to a school that provides Gaelic.	Two different catchment areas for each school providing Gaelic is confusing. So children may be able to attend primary but not the secondary and vice versa.  Placing requests will make it a lengthy experience.  Numbers are quite low especially in regards to nursery and children continuing Gaelic at secondary. Surely if find are already being spent on teachers it makes sense to get as many children enrolled as possible and keep them enrolled.  Low income/vulnerable families may not be able to access the Gaelic classes.	Poorly decided proposal that needs to be rethought. It's confusing to understand and it offers no insight on how placing requests could possible benefit the system.	No	
Yes	Gilcomstoun Primary	No	No	No	No	No	Other than that, I struggle to see anything positive about this catchment proposal	The Statutory Guidance for Gaelic Education places a duty on local authorities to establish catchment areas: • Catchment area for GME provision should be an area in which the education authority thinks it is reasonable for pupils wishing to receive GME provision to travel to school • Catchment area should have the potential to attract parents to choose GME provision for their children • Catchment areas for GME provision will normally overlay a number of school catchment areas.  The proposed catchment area does none of the above - see comments below.  Educational Benefit: There is no educational benefit for the proposed catchment area.  Equality: All children within the local authority area should have equal access to GME (as they do EME) irrespective of where they live. A limited catchment area would result in families from other parts of Aberdeen having to go through the placing request system, which prioritises some families over others. When the GME provision was established at Gilcomstoun, it was a service set up for the whole of Aberdeen, not those local to Gilcomstoun (just so happened the school had capacity at the time).  Inclusiveness: Families wishing to access GME who live outwith the catchment area would have to have means of transport to get their children to school. This immediately excludes/discriminates against those who may not have their own transport/car, parents with disabilities, working parents/single parents who are unavailable around the school drop off and pick up times and low income households. To live within the catchment area may also not be an option for families, depending on property prices (given that it is also Aberdeen Grammar City, the logical catchment should cover the whole local authority area). The catchment area being just under the 2 mile radius that would entitle those further than 2 miles to council-provided transportation, makes this seem like the choice of catchment areas is based on this, rather than something that would benefit the children.  Promotion and Growth of GME:	GME was initially formally established in Aberdeen in 1991 by Grampian Regional Council and based at Gilcomstoun Primary School, and thereafter at Hazelhead Academy for GME provision in the Grampian area.  Transport was available for families and this provision, supported by Scottish Government Specific Grant for Gaelic, remained in place until the removal of transport in 2019 for families living out with the catchments of the two schools hosting GME. The decision to change transport entitlement was taken by council with no consultation with parents or other bodies.  If the council establish such a small catchment, parents in other areas will be able to submit a request for Gaelic medium education under the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 in their own areas. The council may find itself with a number of smaller Gaelic classes in other areas of Aberdeen which will no doubt be challenging to staff. It makes more sense with the number as they currently are to have one primary school and one secondary school for GME (catchment area being local authority wide).  Other local authorities in a similar situation to Aberdeen with sole provision cover their whole local authority area, for example Edinburgh ( <a href="https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/school-places/gaelic-schools-1/1">https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/school-places/gaelic-schools-1/1</a> ). Local authorities with multiple GME settings have generally interpreted reasonable distance as up to 15 miles although there are variations within that. This should be the 'reasonable travel' per the statutory guidance, not under 2 miles.	No	questions raised was very disappointing, and has just raised further questions/comments:  Primarily, the lack of actual answers was not helpful [eg Question 1: how were the catchment areas decided; Answer: intended to ensure reasonable travel distances - who decides what is reasonable, when other local authorities in similar position have whole of local authority catchments or look at 15 miles - not 2 miles per ACC proposal]. Further why has ACC interpreted "reasonable distance" as reasonable walking distance (per question & answer 13), and not as other local authorities have in wider catchment areas? Is this with regards to not having to provide transport, should the catchment be made more than 2 miles?  Knowing that there is a drop off of pupils continuing with Gaelic education, why is ACC not as part of this and the Gaelic language plan trying to engage more with parents to understand why this is happening?  Question & answer 22 (safety and child mental health and wellbeing) and 25 (safer routes to school) - given that children's safety and wellbeing should be a priority, why have these not been taken into consideration as part of this proposal, and further why are they being disregarded. The points raised were that children are already having to have long days to be in GME, with several bus changes/extended travelling time etc, and that there isn't a safe route to school even being considered (for those outside the proposed catchment) - this is not a good enough response. If ACC is going to impose a small catchment area, surely those travelling for GME should be AT LEAST entitled to consideration and help with these areas.  Question & answer 28 (periodic review) - it was mentioned during the meeting that the decision on catchment would be subject to periodic review - why would this not be a defined term? To be fair to those involved now/in the future it would make sense to have this done on a set periodic basis.
No		No	Yes	No	No	No	I can't see much positive about it.	That it will restrict access to GME for kids living outside the proposed catchment area.	That myself and many other parents think that the proposal is a step backward, and the restriction in access of GME will negatively impact the growth of Gaelic language in Aberdeen and Shire. Which is very sad.	No	No
Yes	Gilcomstoun	No	No	No	No	Psychiatrist	I don't see any advantages.	It goes against the SG language plan. An Uni Ted consequence will be to limit access to bilingual education which flies in the face of all the evidence that bilingual education has many benefits.	The mismatch of catchments creates inequity across the city. It is likely to act as a disincentive for parents to choose bilingual education for their children. It will further remove Scottish culture from education. There are many, many bilingual children in Aberdeen who achieve the biological, neurological, linguistic, behavioural and educational advantages of an English education eg Eastern European or Asian children with native home tongues. Native, local, English speaking families miss out on this opportunity.	No	The Scottish Government provide a ring-fenced budget to offer GME for the area. Different zones for primary and secondary is likely to mean that, given current and projected demographics, role numbers may prevent out of zone children being accepted. This, in turn means inequitable access to the funding and opportunity intended. It is widely known that 'inequity' is a major determinant of many outcomes in life. As a psychiatrist, I am acutely aware of the benefits of bilingualism for health, neuroplasticity, social skills (especially empathy) and future linguistic ability and resilience. This is an opportunity that should be promoted and extended, not restricted and limited!
Yes	Gilcomstoun	No	No	No	No	No	That it will restrict access to GME for those of us who live outside the catchment area.	That along with many other parents, I believe that these restrictions will have a negative impact on the future of GME in Aberdeen and then the general use of Gaelic in the area!	That along with many other parents, I believe that these restrictions will have a negative impact on the future of GME in Aberdeen and then the general use of Gaelic in the area!	No	
Yes	GME Gilcomstoun	No	No	No	No	No	Having joined in to listen to the public meeting on September I was very disappointed to hear what ACC considered to be benefits. From the Council's point of view they can draw satisfaction from progressing a statutory process of consultation to satisfy a requirement to set catchment zones for the 2 schools. However from the point of view of the parents, and the children they represent, there are no positives. Those presented at the meeting were largely weakly presented and unsubstantiated. The argument presented that parents and children will have more confidence and certainty when this catchment is set, compared to the status quo is highly unlikely to be the case, and in fact quite the contrary.	Put simply parents that put their children through GME are largely doing so to see a resurgence in the language.  Barriers have existed for many years, and reducing the zone to a smaller geographic area within the city, is just making things even harder for future children attending GME in Aberdeen. The uncertainty of being on a waiting list is just going to be an added difficulty when parents are making the often difficult decision, to commit to GME.	It was a great relief and motivating factor to know that I could be living anywhere within the boundary of the City and know that I was just as entitled to get a place for my child whether I lived in for example Kincorth, Torry, or Seaton. This knowledge was especially comforting given that making the decision to put your child through GME often involves further deliberation on top of what can already be a big and challenging decision for many parents.  Restricting the catchment zone to a reduced area within the city is putting up a rather large barrier against the Gaelic language flourishing, rather than removing them.  Please reconsider this proposed zone and revert back to making the zone city wide (which it has been informally for many years now) as well as continuing the agreement that there presently is with Aberdeenshire Council.	No	In my experience, consultations work best when it can be demonstrated that various options have been considered and the pro's and con's clearly explained.  There was a little demonstration or explanation of options considered in the presentation given.  I think the atmosphere of "them and us" at the public meeting demonstrated the lack of earlier engagement with those who will be mainly affected. A frustrated audience could perhaps have been avoided had you had more detailed explanation of options considered, and rationale behind your final proposed zones.
Yes	Gilcomstoun	No	No	No	No	No	None	My main concern about the proposal is that it will restrict the growth of the Gaelic units at both Gilcomstoun and Hazelhead. Prior to the removal of transport there had been significant growth in numbers of pupils. It had a noticeable effect on the uptake numbers moving from playgroup to Primary one, as can currently be seen. I feel this proposal will have the same damning effect on the numbers. It also opens up the possibility of pockets of Gaelic units if there was a group of five pupils in the same year group outwith the catchment area, they would be in their right to request provision. This would have a negative effect on the current provision. Finally, we as a family would feel nervous and reluctant to move house for fear of future children not being allowed to access provision. We could not afford a family house suitable within the proposed catchment area and we will it is restrictive to a large proportion of working families.  Not having an overlapping catchment area for the two settings is short sighted and will reduce even further transitional numbers from Gilcomstoun to Hazelhead.	I would like to understand why the council has not proposed a city wide catchment area for Gilcomstoun and Hazelhead. There is a significant Gaelic community that are focused on growing the numbers at Gilcomstoun and increasing access to the bilingual benefits that GME brings to the residents of Aberdeen. I would like to know how the council would work with these organisations and parents to help grow the unit at Gilcomstoun.	No	I would like to see the council support a city wide catchment area for GME in Aberdeen. This would allow the council to apply for numerous financial grants to the benefit of the GME pupils, the schools and council by reducing costs instead of this limited catchment area which will have a negative effect on the pupils, families, attainment and culture of the citizens.