

Gaelic Medium Education Short-Life Working Group – Parents’ Summary

Introduction

In preparation for the convening of the short-life working group, Glasgow Gaelic Medium Education (GME) parent representatives have met three times since November 2017. Representatives from all of Glasgow’s GME settings have been involved; a full list is provided in Appendix 1. Parents have concentrated on examining three key issues:

1. Demand modelling for GME over the next ten years;
2. Potential sites for GME provision on this timescale;
3. Workable solutions to ensure that children are not turned away from GME in 2018.

A set of files has been provided together with this note, containing data and analysis; these files are noted throughout the text where appropriate.

Demand Modelling

The total number of P1 GME pupils in Glasgow over the past ten years is plotted below in Figure 1. The figure shows the most accurate regression to fit this data, the polynomial regression, and also figures for a linear regression. Even using the linear regression, it is predicted that **eight** streams of GME will be needed in Glasgow by 2025. If the Berkeley Street campus will need to revert to a secondary-only site to accommodate this demand as it transmits up the system, this implies that **at least three new GME primary schools** are needed in Glasgow in this time frame (assuming two 2.5 stream schools, and one 2 stream school).

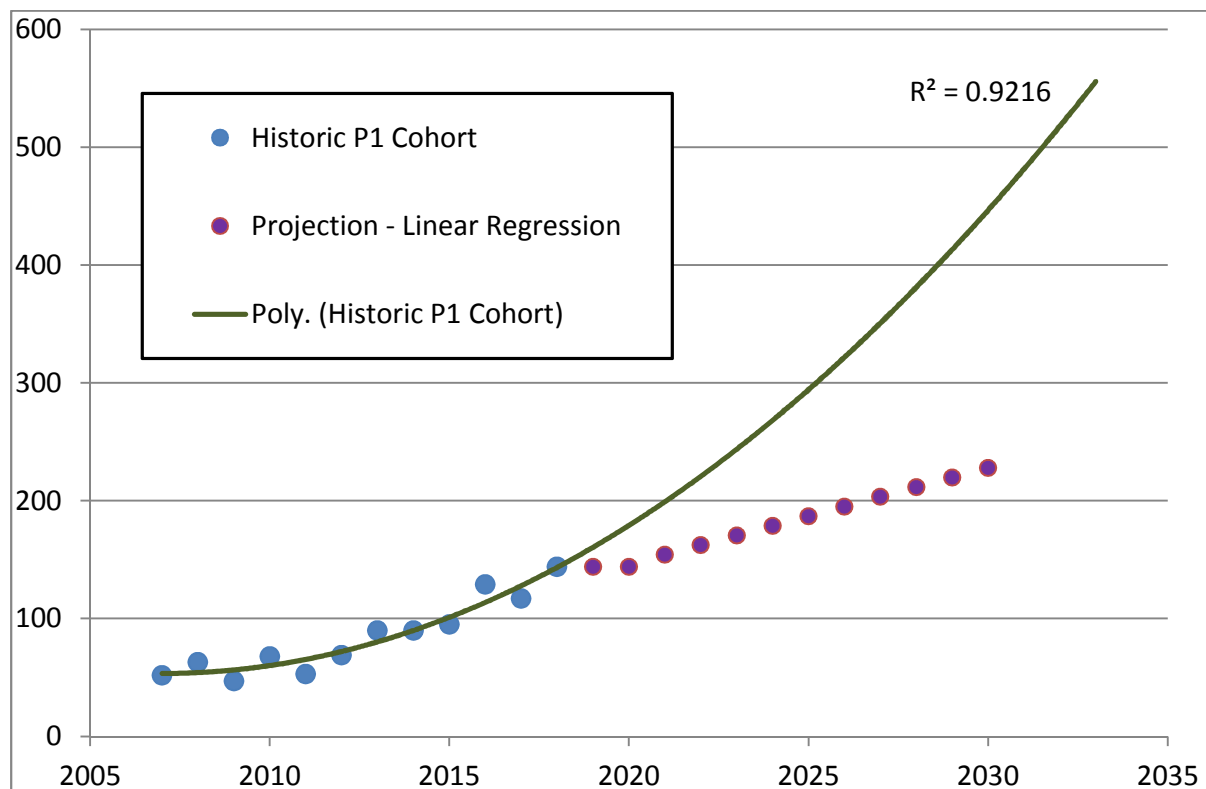


Figure 1, Total GME P1 Cohort 2007 – 2027

Potential Sites for GME Provision in the Strategic Period

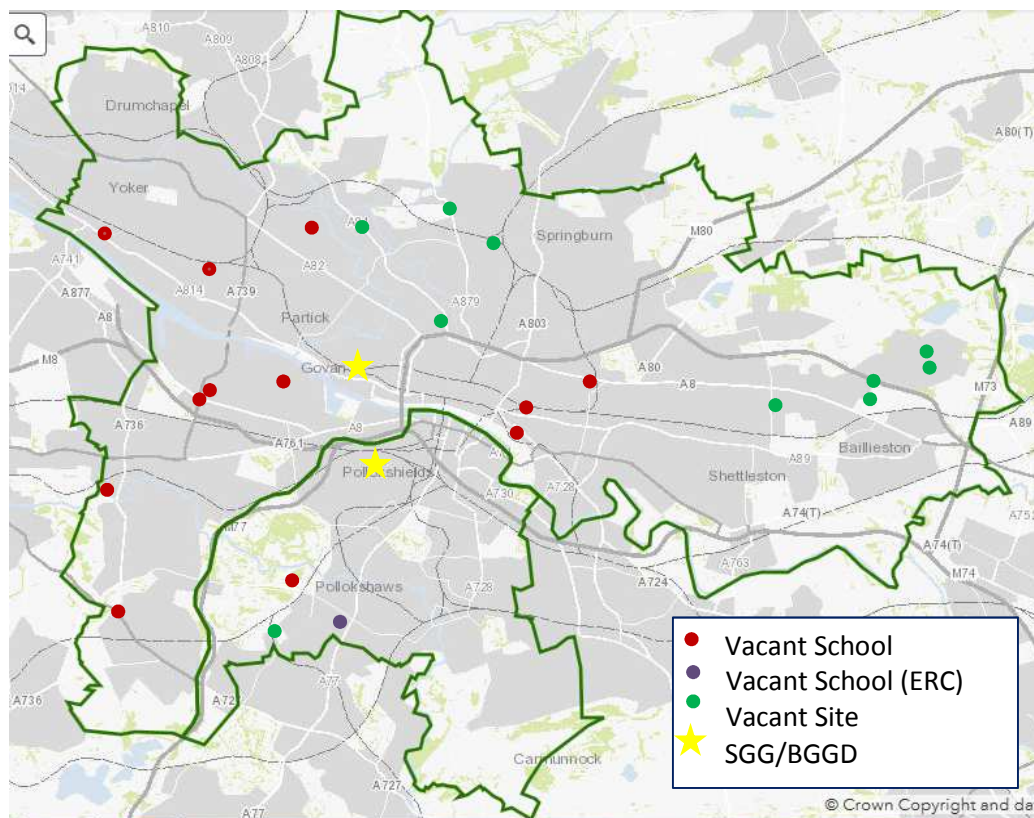
Education Services provided parents with information about vacated sites within the ES estate in November 2017 (*File One: Vacant Schools Estate.xls*), from which a selection of potential sites for GME

provision have been noted. Details of these are given in *File 2: Existing School Estate Options.pptx*, and a summary map is shown in Figure 2.

Whilst summarised on the basis only of publicly available information, the map and site details are a useful starting point for consideration of a strategy to develop the GME estate. In the GME system, where families already accept an unusually high degree of inconvenience to ensure access to the immersion experience, and where many dedicate huge amounts of their time and energy to learn Gaelic, the articulation of a clear strategy for provision is vital to ensure buy-in from the community for the changes necessary to deliver upon it.

File 3: Role Projections & Long Term Options Modelling describes a number of potential pathways for the strategic period, based on the sites in Figure 2.

Figure 2, Existing School Estate Options



To meet demand for the immersion Gaelic Medium model over the strategic period, sufficient, and sufficiently qualified GME staff are also required. Whilst an issue that must be tackled in collaboration with partner agencies at national level, any strategic planning for GME in Glasgow should take this directly into account. *File 3: Role Projections & Long Term Options Modelling* details the overall primary GME teaching cohort associated with each of the options explored, but does not extend this forecasting over the whole strategic period; this forecasting should be explicitly included in strategic planning.

Solutions for 2018

There is broad support amongst the community to see solutions implemented in 2018 to avoid families being turned away from GME. Notwithstanding other suggestions that Education Services may have, the parent representatives discussed five potential options:

1. Ladywell School opens as an annex to SGG
2. Parents' concerns are addressed and Gowanbank is opened as a temporary or permanent site
3. The Technical Resource Service is removed from the Berkeley Street campus

4. The BGGD P7 returns to Berkeley Street a year early
5. Temporary accommodation is provided at SGG and BGGD

The opportunities and constraints associated with these options are detailed in *File 4: Summary of 2018 Options*, but parental representatives agreed that Options 1 and 2 were most deserving of further discussion.

File 5: Possible Class Configurations for 2018 Options provides potential class numbers for each iteration of these options.

Key Questions

In discussing options for 2018 in particular, parental representatives have raised the following key questions:

- Taking as read the assumption that we wish to reach solutions that parents can buy into, what is the legal position regarding the following:
 - Moving children to an annex of an existing school?
 - Specifically, moving children in the 2017 P1 cohort, whose placing letters contained distinct wording around the potential for movement?
 - Creating Gowanbank as a permanent new school without further consultation?

Appendix 1 Parental Representatives

- Comhraile nam Pàrant Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail (BGGD Parent Council)
- Comhraile nam Pàrant Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu (SGG Parent Council)
- Comann nam Pàrant Ghlaschu (An independent organisation, working to represent all GME parents)
- Sgoil Àraich, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu (SGG Nursery)
- Sgoil Àraich Rowena (Rowena GME Nursery, Knightswood)
- Sgoil Àraich Lyoncross (Lyoncross GME Nursery,)
- Sgoil Àraich Seudan Beaga (Seudan Beaga Nursery, Langside)