



**Short Life Gaelic Working Group  
Committee Room, City Chambers  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 at 2pm**

**Present:** Councillor Chris Cunningham (Chair)  
Councillor Richard Bell  
Councillor Jon Molyneux  
Councillor Soryia Siddique  
D K MacPhee, GCC  
Douglas Morrison, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu Parent Council  
Fiona Carter, Comann nam Pàrant  
Emma Anderson, Sgoil-Àraich Lyoncross Parent  
Catriona MacIsaac, Sgoil-Àraich Rowena Parent  
Donna Bowman, Acting Headteacher, Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail  
Donalda McComb, Headteacher, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu  
David McEwan, GCC, Education Estates Manager  
David Robb, Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Ghleann Dail Parent Council  
Jim Wilson, GCC, Head of Service  
Fiona Ross, GCC, Senior Comms Officer  
Susan Aitchison, GCC, Education Services (in attendance)

**Apologies:** Councillor Soryia Siddique  
Jim Wilson, GCC, Head of Service  
Catherine Kelly, Headteacher, Rowena Nursery  
Gillian Campbell-Thow, GCC, Education Services

**1. Note of previous meeting and matters arising**

The note of the meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 was discussed and the following amendments/additions were agreed:

- Change attendee list to Gaelic spelling;
- Item 1, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph 1: “vast cost of finance required” to be amended to “significant cost of finance required”;
- Item 2: action point to be added – Jim Wilson to seek legal advice in relation to the wording of letters to parents.

**2. Comparator between physical aspects of Gowanbank & Ladywell buildings**

Councillor Cunningham expressed disappointment that comparator information was unavailable and stated that he was reluctant to move forward without the report which would help inform decision and enable engagement and discussion with parents on both options using an appropriate baseline. It was agreed that schedules of accommodation would be circulated to members before the next meeting but it was noted that comparisons on “pupils’ educational experience” could not be provided at this stage.

## 2.

A further meeting will be arranged for 7<sup>th</sup> February to discuss this information which will assist in more knowledgeable engagement with parents and aid arrival at common points.

### 3. **Options for populating annexe accommodation**

There was wide-ranging discussion on population figures and options, eg P1–P5 pupils in the new annexe; pupils placed in annexe geographically; pupils placed by catchment area; Berkeley Street as a stand-alone secondary; modular accommodation being added. Councillor Bell asked if attendees had an idea if parents would be willing to move their children to another building. It was generally felt that on the figures provided by GCC, parents would not be encouraged to move. However, in the pre-5 sector, although children already in the system would be unhappy to move, parents with children who do not have a place would be happy to attend another building providing GME. Councillor Cunningham stated that having a 10 year plan is important to aid discussion on ambition and aspiration for the future whilst looking at realistic constraints. For example, if Berkeley Street was to be considered as a stand-alone secondary, what would need to be done at primary level to populate it and how would we grow the primary and pre-5 estates across the city too? Teacher capacity would also be a challenge. This shows that a 10 year plan needs to be developed alongside a short-term plan which can be shared with parents. Berkeley Street originally had a capacity of 1200 but, with modifications over the years, this is now approximately 800 capacity

### 4. **August 2018 intake**

Discussion was unable to take place as information on the wording of the letter to parents was unavailable due to Jim Wilson's absence. The letter will be discussed at the next meeting.

### 5. **GME 10 year vision**

Councillor Bell stated that, regardless of vision, there was a huge issue around finance as there was little chance of convincing the Council to commit finance for a 10 year plan unless this was based on firm figures. Models of options, capacities and when these would be exceeded would be needed.

**3.**

**6. Action Points**

- Additional meeting to be arranged for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm;
- Wording of letter to parents to be discussed at next meeting (*J Wilson*);
- Schedules of accommodation for Ladywell and Gowanbank buildings to be circulated before next meeting (*D McEwan*).

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place in a Committee Room, City Chambers at 2pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

CC/SLA  
5.2.18