

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Report by Director**

**The results of the consultation on the proposal to open a  
Gaelic Medium base at Grange Academy, Kilmarnock**

**Appendix A - The Consultative Document**

**Appendix B - Summary of Responses**

**Written submissions from interested parties on the consultative process are available for inspection in the Members library.**

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES****The results of the consultation on the proposal to open a Gaelic Medium base at Grange Academy, Kilmarnock****Report by Director****1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** On 17 September 2002, the Education Committee approved the issue of a consultation document which made a proposal to establish a facility for Gaelic medium education at Grange Academy, Kilmarnock. A copy of the consultative document is attached as Appendix A.

**1.2** The main issues raised in the consultative document were:

- the requirement for the Council to achieve economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources
- the success of the present primary provision at Onthank Primary School
- the need to make continuity of provision to the secondary stages
- the desirability of limiting pupil travel to alternative facilities in other areas

**2. THE CONSULTATION**

**2.1** Written representations on the Committee's proposals were sought from interested parties in terms of the Education (Publication and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulations 1981 and Amendment Regulations 1987, 1988 and 1989.

**2.2** In accordance with statutory requirements, parents of the affected schools and the appropriate School Boards have been consulted. Copies of the consultation document were also made available to the staff of Grange Academy, and representatives of teacher and staff unions.

**2.3** The existence of the document was publicised in the press and copies were made available in the Education Offices and affected schools and in the local community.

**2.4** A meeting was arranged by the Director of Educational and Social Services in partnership with the Grange Academy School Board on 28 October 2002.

**3. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED**

**3.1** Some correspondence was received on the proposals outlined in the document. A summary of respondents is included as Appendix B.

**3.2** In general the responses to the document fell into 2 main groupings:

- those that actively supported the proposal
- those that raised particular issues

No comments were received that directly opposed the proposal

Detailed comments under each of these headings follow.

### **Those that actively supported the proposal**

- 3.3** The comments from the Grange Academy School Board, local elected member and the Gaelic Parents' Group all supported the proposal. The concept of a secondary provision was welcomed and the suggestion that it should be sited at Grange Academy was welcomed.
- 3.4** At the meeting held at Grange Academy the issues were fully discussed and the parents present stated that of the schools they had visited, Grange Academy presented the most favourable set of circumstances.

### **Those that raised particular issues**

- 3.6** The respondents who raised particular issues, offered comments in two main areas. One respondent questioned the need for Gaelic education on the grounds of its utility in the modern world. The Onthank Primary School Board sought clarification on a number of issues relating to Grange Academy being in a different learning partnership to the Onthank Gaelic Medium Unit. These issues included seeking clarification of the receiving secondary school's awareness of Gaelic issues.

## **4. COMMENTS ON THE VIEWS EXPRESSED**

- 4.1** The release of the consultative document raised some interest. The vast majority of respondents were unambiguously supportive of the proposal. The Gaelic Parents' Group are enthusiastic supporters of the concept of both secondary aged provision and its location at Grange Academy. The only view openly opposed was about the concept of Gaelic education, and not where or how it should be delivered. The views of the Onthank Primary School Board are about continuity of provision and children moving to a secondary school that is not in the learning partnership. This view deserves strong consideration.
- 4.2** The Gaelic parents have expressed a strong view in support of the Grange Academy base proposal. This view has been formed after having visited the other possible sites. It is also true that in terms of qualification by place of residence there is no natural "local" school for this provision since it covers the entire Authority area. In these circumstances, the support of the parents for a particular location is likely to be decisive to the success of the project. In this case there has been no opposition from parents, indeed there has only been support.

**4.3** However, this does not detract from the serious point that matters such as continuity in both Gaelic and English medium areas will require to be important features of both the primary and secondary aged facilities. Induction and transition arrangements will require to be well planned.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1** Having carefully considered the responses made during the consultation period, it is clear there is general support for the location of a Gaelic Medium provision at Grange Academy. This facility will require to have a well developed programme of liaison with the primary-aged Gaelic Medium Unit and transition arrangements will have to be well organised.

**5.2** To sum up, the conclusion reached is that taking forward this proposal would:

- provide modern, forward looking, secure and excellent educational facilities for all children
- achieve better economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of the Council's resources
- eliminate the need for children to travel to other areas
- provide a modern environment for Gaelic Medium education
- resources will be retained in East Ayrshire.

## **6. PROPOSAL**

**6.1** It is proposed, therefore, that a facility for Gaelic Medium education should be established at Grange Academy, Kilmarnock. The capacity of Grange Academy (1575 pupil places) would accommodate fully the needs of the estimated intake for the foreseeable future.

## **7. RECOMMENDATION**

**7.1** It is recommended that the Education Committee agree that:

- (i) a facility for Gaelic Medium Education should be established at Grange Academy, Kilmarnock from August 2003, or as soon as possible thereafter; and
- (ii) pupils transfer to the new base on its completion, taking account of the wishes of the parents and children concerned; and

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/GRS  
3 November 2002

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools, tel: (01563) 576089.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : GRAHAM SHORT**

Appendix A: Consultative Document

Appendix B: List of Respondents

**APPENDIX A**

**This is a Consultative Document**

**East Ayrshire Council**

**Department of Educational and Social Services**

**Report by Director**

**A PROPOSED CREATION OF THE PROVISION OF GAELIC MEDIUM EDUCATION  
IN GRANGE ACADEMY, KILMARNOCK**

**September 2002**

**This document has been issued by the Education Committee of East Ayrshire Council for consultation in terms of the Education (Publications and Consultation etc (Scotland) regulations 1981 and amendment Regulations 1987, 1988 and 1989.**

**East Ayrshire Council****Department of Educational and Social Services  
This is a Consultative Document****Report by Director****A PROPOSED CREATION OF THE PROVISION OF GAELIC MEDIUM EDUCATION  
IN GRANGE ACADEMY, KILMARNOCK****1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1** The Department of Educational and Social Services is committed to improving opportunities for all through quality, equality, access and partnership. In order to maintain this commitment it is necessary from time to time to systematically review the range and distribution of provision in given service areas.
- 1.2** The Local Government etc (Scotland) Act, 1994 places a duty on all Councils to exercise economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources. There is also a requirement under the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 to have regard to the priorities for education set by the Scottish Ministers. These include provision for Gaelic education.

**2. PRESENT POSITION**

- 2.1** Since it was established, East Ayrshire has been firmly committed to Gaelic Medium Education. There is presently provision of Gaelic Medium in Onthank Primary School at both the early years and primary stages. This provision has been well received.
- 2.2** The Authority is committed to continuity of provision. Its policy on the curriculum reflects this principle. When the Primary facility was opened by the then Minister for Education, Brian Wilson, a commitment was given at that stage to make specific provision for secondary aged children.
- 2.3** The Onthank Gaelic Medium Unit draws children from a wide geographic area that goes well beyond the primary school's catchment area. The age distribution of the pupils presently enrolled is shown in table 1:

**Table 1: Age distribution of pupils enrolled in the Onthank Primary School Gaelic Medium Education Unit**

Stage	Number of Pupils
P1	7
P2	4
P3	4
P4	7
P5	4
P6	5
P7	4

Children presently in P7 will progress to secondary school in August 2003.

### 3. GRANGE ACADEMY

- 3.1 Grange Academy is a non-denominational secondary school situated in the west of Kilmarnock serving the south and west of the town. A situational map is included at Appendix 1. The campus includes a community learning wing. The current roll of Grange Academy is 1187 and its capacity is 1575.

The breakdown of the current roll is:

S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	TOTAL
228	209	220	228	206	96	1187

The projected roll is

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Without the effect of housing	1177	1169	1173	1177	1163	1138	1110

Detailed roll projections are given at Appendix 2.

### 4. MAIN ISSUE

- 4.1 Currently children attending the Gaelic provision at Onthank Primary School will require to transfer to secondary school where there is a parental expectation that Gaelic medium education will continue. Currently, there is no secondary provision within East Ayrshire.

## **5. THE PROPOSAL**

- 5.1** At the end of P7, young people who wish to transfer to secondary Gaelic Medium education will move to suitable stage-related provision. Here a Gaelic-speaking teacher will offer courses in Gaelic and in other subjects including and Personal & Social Education through the medium of Gaelic. All other classes are offered through the medium of English. A teacher has been identified who is willing to deliver this curriculum which will include Gaelic in geography and modern studies.
- 5.2** The Gaelic teacher will encourage pupils to continue with their study of Gaelic beyond the first two years of their secondary education by providing a language environment which stimulates their imagination and their enjoyment of Gaelic language studies.
- 5.3** The school, in collaboration with the Quality Improvement Team and other Gaelic agencies, will raise the awareness of pupils studying Gaelic about the economic and academic benefits of bilingualism generally, and of the specific job opportunities for Gaelic speakers in a growing variety of sectors.
- 5.4** Close links will exist between primary and secondary Gaelic centres. Support will be provided to secondary Gaelic Medium education by the senior and middle management of the school involved, with resources being provided by the Stòrlann and staff development by Quality Improvement Officers, in cooperation with other local authorities. The Gaelic secondary teacher will be required to formulate a Gaelic language policy in accordance with the authority's Gaelic Policy and national guidance contained within 5-14 National Guidelines and Higher Still Guidance. The Head Teacher is also required to ensure that Gaelic staff formulate programmes of study which relate to national 5-14 Guidelines and to make this available for scrutiny by the authority when required.
- 5.5** A Gaelic Youth Club, Sradagan operates at Grange Academy financed by New Opportunities Funding.
- 5.6** Gaelic Medium provision is supported by the Scottish Executive through specific grant arrangements. In practice, this means that 75% of the costs are met from national resources. There is, however, the expectation that local authorities will include provision for established Gaelic resources within mainline budgets, 3 years after the start of a project.
- 5.7** Establishment of this type of provision will require dedicated accommodation for learning and teaching, the creation of a Gaelic speaking environment, and the storage of specialist resources. Access to video conferencing will allow the establishment of links with other Gaelic Medium young people elsewhere in Scotland.

## 6 REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

6.1 There will be a number of advantages from this proposal:

- a) It will make provision for an identified need.
- b) Gaelic education will be provided within East Ayrshire
- c) Surplus accommodation will be used in Grange Academy
- d) Children will not have to travel to other authorities.
- e) Support from central educational services such as Quality Improvement will be facilitated.
- f) This development will link to a Gaelic Youth Club.

## 7. IMPLICATIONS OF THIS PROPOSAL

7.1 The costs associated with Year 1 of the project are:

Staffing 1 teacher (including employment costs)	£39,000
Materials including ICT/software, hardware	£7,520
Adaptations	£4,600
Pupil transport	£7,000
Staff training	<u>£1,500</u>
TOTAL	£59,620

7.2 There will be no effect on community use of the school. Indeed the presence of Gaelic may be an encouragement to related activities.

7.3 The headteacher of Grange Academy has identified a teaching area in E-block of the school that is presently under-used and which would be suitable. Occupation of this space would have no adverse effect on the other school activities.

## 8. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL

8.1 Under this proposal a facility for Gaelic Medium Education would be established in Grange Academy, Kilmarnock. This development would be a significant contribution to the educational life of the school and community. It would meet an identified need. It would enable provision in Gaelic education for the complete age range to be met within East Ayrshire.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee agree to adopt the proposals that:

- (i) a facility for Gaelic Medium provision be established at Grange Academy, Kilmarnock; and
- (ii) the facility should be managed by the headteacher of Grange Academy;
- (iii) the facility should make provision for secondary aged children; and

- (iv) the facility should be established from August 2003, or as soon as possible thereafter.

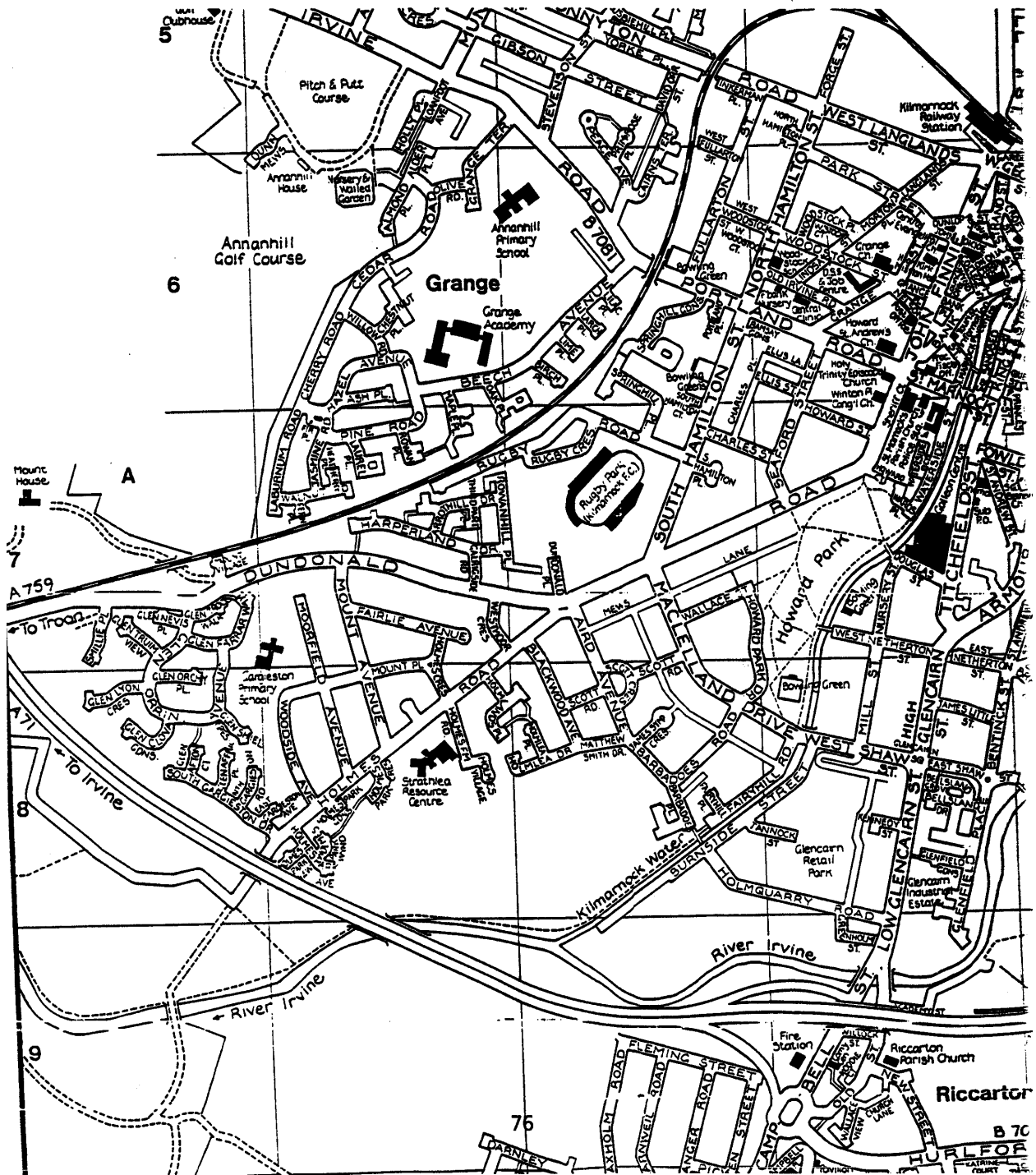
It is further recommended:

- (i) that this report be issued for consultation to all parties with an interest in this proposal, including parents, children, staff, headteachers and school boards;
- (ii) all interested parties including the relevant school board be invited to make written representation to John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock no later than Friday 1 November 2002; and
- (iii) the Director prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

**Written comments on this proposal should be sent to the  
Director of Educational and Social Services, London Road,  
Kilmarnock, KA3 7BU by 1 November 2002**

**Appendix 1: Map of Grange Academy**

Appendix 1: Map of Grange Academy



## Appendix 2: Roll Information for Grange Academy

Year	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	TOTAL
2002	228	209	220	228	206	96	1187
2003	218	228	209	220	193	109	1177
2004	227	218	228	209	187	100	1169
2005	226	227	218	228	177	97	1173
2006	221	226	227	218	193	92	1177
2007	204	221	226	227	185	100	1163
2008	199	204	221	226	192	96	1138
2009	195	199	204	221	192	99	1110

### Including Gaelic Unit

Year	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	TOTAL
2002	228	209	220	228	206	96	1187
2003	222	228	209	220	193	109	1181
2004	232	222	228	209	187	100	1178
2005	230	232	222	228	177	97	1186
2006	228	230	232	222	193	92	1197
2007	208	228	230	232	188	100	1186
2008	203	208	228	230	197	97	1163
2009	202	203	208	228	195	102	1138

Note: Placing requests do not have any significant effects on roll projections and have therefore been excluded from the analysis.

**CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT  
GRANGE ACADEMY GAELIC MEDIUM EDUCATIONAL PROVISION**

**LIST OF RESPONDENTS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>REPLIED TO BY</b>
Cllr Linton	HQ	Supporting	John Mulgrew
Margaret Jamieson MSP	Parliamentary Advice Centre	Supporting	Graham Short
Des Browne MP	Parliamentary Advice Centre	No Comment	Graham Short
Heather McDaid	6 Fair Isle Place, Kilmarnock	Not in Favour of	Graham Short
Tom Cook	Grange Academy	Supporting	Graham Short
Littlemill PS Board	Littlemill PS, Rankinston	Supporting	Graham Short
Drongan PS Board	4 Hamilton Pl, Coylton	Supporting	Graham Short
Marsaili Dow	E-mail, c/o Gaelic Unit	Supporting	Graham Short
Fiona Mckenzie	Grange Academy	Supporting	Graham Short
Onthank PS Board	Onthank PS	Points raised	Graham Short
Public Meeting	Grange Academy	Supporting	Graham Short
Alex Neil MSP	Scottish Parliament	Supporting	Graham Short

**AGENDA**