Gaelic medium education 2023 – Update noted etc – Request to Executive Director of Education Services.

7 With reference to the minutes of 22nd April 2021 (Print 1, page 32) requesting further updates on Gaelic medium education (GME), there was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Education Services, advising

(1) of the Council's GME provision along with the number of pupils enrolled in each of the establishments;

(2) that following a consultation during 2019/20, Govan Annexe had been established as a school in its own right to support the growing demand for GME in the south of the city;

(3) that as part of the consultation, a fourth GME primary school in the north east of the city was to be developed and that the chosen establishment would be ready at the start of the 2025/26 session, with interim arrangements having been created to support the demand until the new school had been completed;

(4) of the developments that had been made in secondary school GME provision, as detailed in the report;

(5) of the challenges that had been encountered in the recruitment of gaelic speaking teachers, and the efforts made in developing existing staff to allow them to undertake leadership roles;

(6) that the growth of GME across the city had led to planning decisions around gaelic medium primary education and the overall primary estate to ensure that there was guaranteed provision and progression to secondary without further admission issues;

(7) of statistical information in relation to deprivation and race for each of the current GME establishments across the city; and

(8) that the Council continued to engage with key stakeholders to ensure that GME continued to be promoted and supported through the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living challenges.

After consideration, the committee

(a) noted the challenges in relation to head teacher recruitment;

(b) agreed that further discussions were required with the appropriate parent groups to discuss issues they had raised and possible alternatives particularly around GME provision in Govan; and

(c) requested the Executive Director of Education Services, along with relevant officers, to make the necessary arrangements.