Full assessment of a parental request for Gaelic Medium Primary Education in Glasgow – Update noted etc.

2 There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Education Services providing an update on the outcome of the full assessment for Gaelic Medium Primary Education (GMPE) following a parental request, advising

(1) that the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 placed a duty on education authorities to promote and support Gaelic Medium Education (GME) and Gaelic Learner Education (GLE) and establish a process by which parents can request Gaelic Medium Primary Education (GMPE) from their education authority;

(2) that under the legislation, parents of children under school age and who had not yet started primary school had the right to request an assessment of the need for GMPE from the education authority in which the family resided, that this request must be accompanied by evidence of demand for GMPE from parents of other children resident in the same education authority who would began primary school in the same year as the specified child, that the initial assessment of demand must be completed within 6 weeks of receipt of the request and a full assessment within 10 weeks following the outcome decision of the initial assessment, and the local authority must produce a report on the exercise and communicate the findings of their report appropriately;

(3) of the findings of an initial assessment which had been carried out by Education Services following receipt of such a request from a parent resident in Glasgow, and which had prompted the decision to carry out a full assessment of the need for GMPE on 8th April 2022;

(4) of the current demand for GMPE education for August 2022, along with the existing provision of GME education, as detailed in the report;

(5) of the mandatory factors which were considered throughout the process, along with a summary of the statutory consultees responses, as detailed in the report;

(6) that as a result of the challenges currently faced in both lack of space in the secondary provision and in the recruitment and retention of staff, particularly Gaelic speakers into promoted posts, that it was unreasonable at this juncture for this Council to provide any additional provision beyond that which it had already committed to in its long-term planning, and that meeting the demand of its current GMPE provision would remain the priority as it continued to present significant challenges both from a statutory responsibility and from Education Services' key position of maintaining high quality service delivery; and

(7) of the next steps to be considered in the future planning of delivering GME education in Glasgow, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the committee noted

(a) the report; and

(b) the outcome of the statutory assessment for GME.