

MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL held ON A HYBRID BASIS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD AND BY MICROSOFT TEAMS on THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

13. ALL GAELIC SCHOOL CONSULTATION FINDINGS

The Council gave consideration to a report setting out the findings of the 10 week consultation that was carried out between 22 April and 30 June 2024 in fulfilment of action 2.11 of the Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

Decision

The Council –

1. acknowledged and thanked everyone who took the time to engage with and respond to the consultation;
2. recognised the role Gaelic had played in the history of Argyll and Bute and the continued efforts to promote the language and its culture to our communities;
3. commended the Education Service for the continued delivery and growth of Gaelic Medium Education and Gaelic Learner Education across the authority;
4. reaffirmed commitment to ensuring that the Council complies with its duties under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, including delivery of the Gaelic Language Plan;
5. noted that of the 673 respondents to the survey, 55% were not in favour, while 45% were in favour of pursuing an all Gaelic School in Argyll and Bute; and
6. agreed that, against a backdrop of reducing budgets and competing priorities, the Council was not in a position to pursue this matter any further at this time, and would continue to pursue a more equitable approach of provision of Gaelic in existing schools across the wider area, thereby ensuring more pupils had access.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Education dated 2 September 2024, submitted; and Motion by Councillor Audrey Forrest, seconded by Councillor Jim Lynch, submitted))