



cnpduneideann@gmail.com  
By email

18 02 2022

Alison is Iain còire

**Re: forthcoming Additional Meeting: Education Children and Families Committee**

With less than one week until the forthcoming Additional Meeting: Education Children and Families Committee, we write to you to express our concern that the papers are not yet available. The meeting is scheduled for the morning of 24 January 2022. Given the significance of the meeting, i.e. the Committee voting on whether to proceed to statutory consultation on 31 January, we would expect that there be sufficient time for GME families and Comann nam Pàrant to be able to read and consider the proposals.

In response to previous proposals, we raised concerns that, as it stood, proceeding to statutory consultation did not offer the following:

- Adequate time for the Council to fully explore potential financial support from Scottish Government in meeting their manifesto commitment of a 'central, stand-alone school'
- The opportunity for an informal consultation with families on any new information, such as the additional proposed site at Craigmillar, or to answer parents' concerns and queries on educational benefit and curriculum
- Sufficient planning for the recruitment of staff for the new school

As elected representatives and officials involved in this process have themselves repeatedly stated, parental engagement is of paramount importance. We have consistently highlighted that parents feel they have not been given sufficient information from the Council. In addition, the Council's intention 'to carry out further informal engagement with school communities on the education implications of these options during the remainder of December 2021' did not take place. Without sharing the papers in advance, the Council is again preventing those most affected by the proposals from participating fully in the process.

At the last meeting of the Gaelic Implementation Group (on 11 January), the Council noted that they would aim for papers to be released on 19 January. Given that the Committee is being asked to vote on proceeding to statutory consultation on 24 January and that

Committee members will need to confer with their colleagues in advance of this, we believe this publication date is unreasonable as it does not allow sufficient time for:

(i) committee members to properly digest the most up to date iteration of the proposals for GME secondary provision and confer with ward councillor colleagues on these

(ii) parents to review the information and participate in the process by contacting their ward councillors and/or Education spokespeople, and/or Comann nam Pàrant to express any concerns they may have about the proposals.

We therefore suggest the meeting is postponed.

Comann nam Pàrant values the relationship we have built with the Council over recent years, one based on respect and acting in good faith. We urge the Council to undertake proceedings in a way which is fair to those who are most affected by the proposals.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd  
Comann nam Pàrant  
(Dùn Èideann is Lodainn)