

COPY OF DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Cover Note

DP No.	455	
School(s)	Bunscoil an luír (504-6597)	
Proposal	The establishment of a grant-aided 26 part-time IM nursery unit at Bunscoil an luír with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.	
Minister's Decision	Not Approved	
Date of Decision	17 August 2016	
Minister's Comments	Agree with all the recommendations taking all factors into account, including all statutory obligations, I believe that pupils are best served by current arrangements. I therefore don't approve DP 455.	
Additional notes	N/A	
Information redacted	Some information and personal data may have been removed in line with the principles of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Act.	
	Key	Details
	■	redaction
	*	refers to less than five cases where data is considered sensitive
	#	means figure has been suppressed to prevent disclosure of sensitive information under rules of disclosure

From: DORINA EDGAR
Area Planning Policy Team

TRIM Ref: DE1/16/83698

Date: 10 August 2016

To: Peter Weir MLA

Copy distribution below

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL (DP) NO 455 – ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRANT-AIDED IRISH-MEDIUM (IM) NURSERY UNIT AT BUNSCOIL AN IÚIR, NEWRY

Issue:	<p>To decide on Development Proposal (DP) 455 published by the Education Authority (EA) on behalf of the Board of Governors of Bunscoil an Iúir to establish a grant-aided IM nursery unit at Bunscoil an Iúir (Newry) with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.</p> <p>The nursery unit will provide part-time pre-school education through the medium of Irish for 26 children and will replace the existing voluntary Naíscóil an Iúir which provides part-time pre-school provision for 16 children.</p>
Timescale:	<p>Routine. The proposed implementation date of the proposal is 1 September 2016 however this is likely to be unachievable.</p>
Financial / Resource Implications:	<p>A nursery teacher and nursery assistant would be required for the part-time session at a total cost of approximately £30K which will be funded from within the school's budget.</p> <p>Should the proposed statutory provision be established, funding would transfer to the Aggregated Schools Budget. As such, the cost of the nursery class for 26 part-time nursery places would be approximately £50,000.</p> <p>Construction costs for the relocation of Naíscóil an Iúir are approx £300K. Site works costs cannot be estimated at this stage.</p>
FOI Implications:	<p>The content of this submission is likely to be fully disclosable.</p>
Statutory Duty Implications:	<p>Article 89 of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 <i>to encourage and facilitate the development of Irish-medium education.</i></p>
Presentational Issues:	<p>It is likely that there will be local media interest in your decision. A draft press release will be provided by Press Office for your approval following your</p>

	decision. Should any queries arise Communications Team can refer to this submission and liaise with officials. (Cleared with Communications Team).
Recommendation:	It is recommended that you: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Do not approve DP No 455 to establish a grant-aided IM nursery unit at Bunscoil an Iúir (Newry) with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.2. Agree that this submission (with any appropriate redactions) can be published on the Department's website once the school, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (CnaG) and the EA have been informed of your decision and the press release issued.3. Note that officials are available to discuss this submission should you wish.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Contextual information on current policy and processes for planning pre-school provision and the development proposal process

Appendix B: DP 455 – Copy of published DP 455

Appendix C: Case for Change

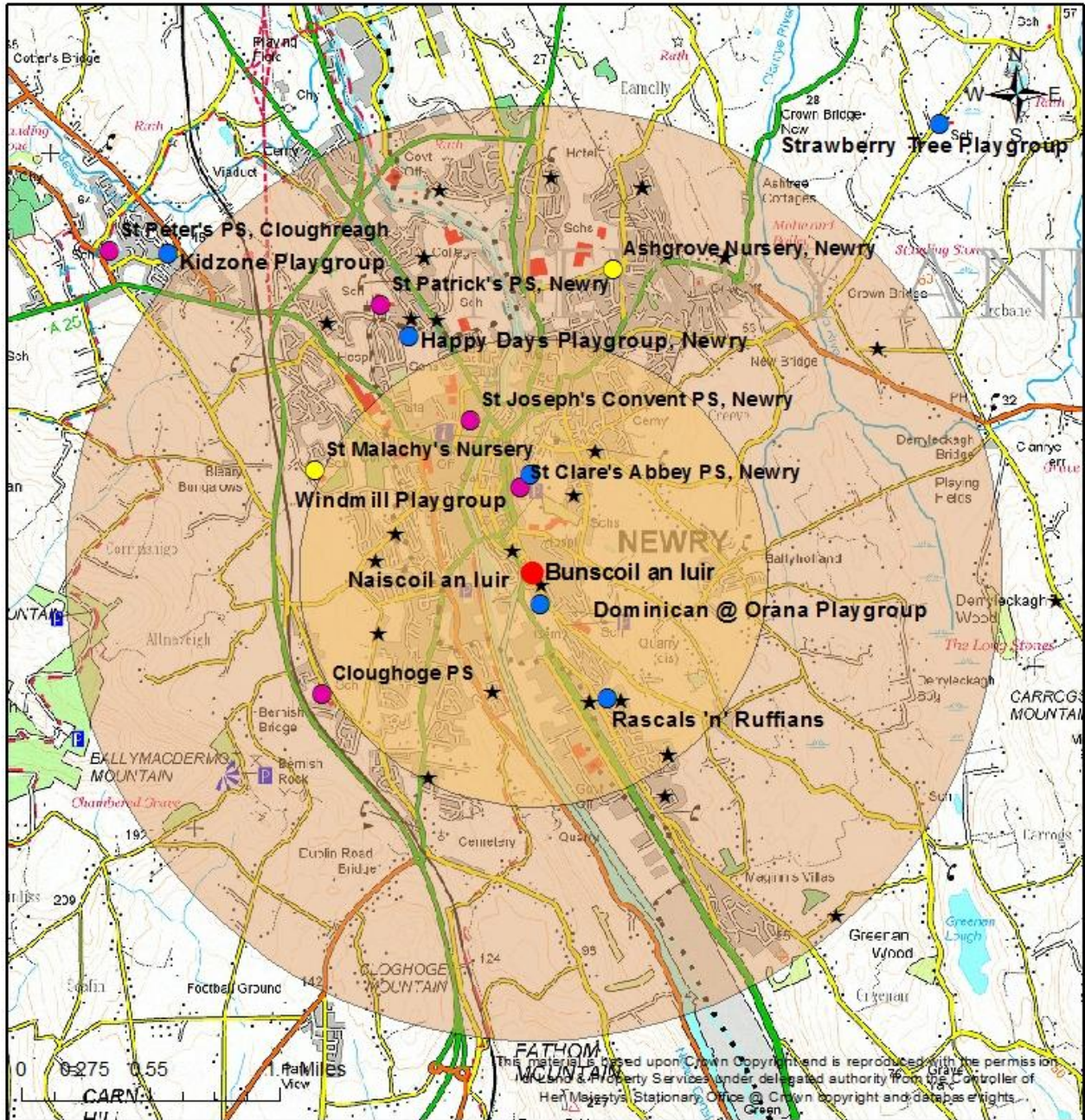
Appendix D: Consultation Summary

Appendix E: ETI Comments

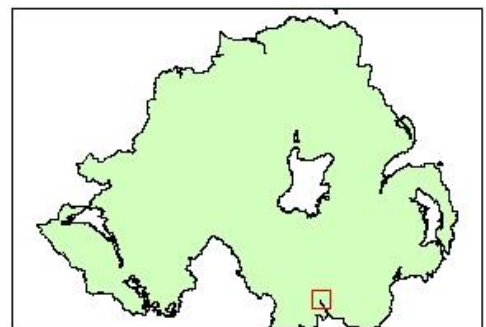
Appendix F: DE Comments

Appendix F: Annual Area Profile

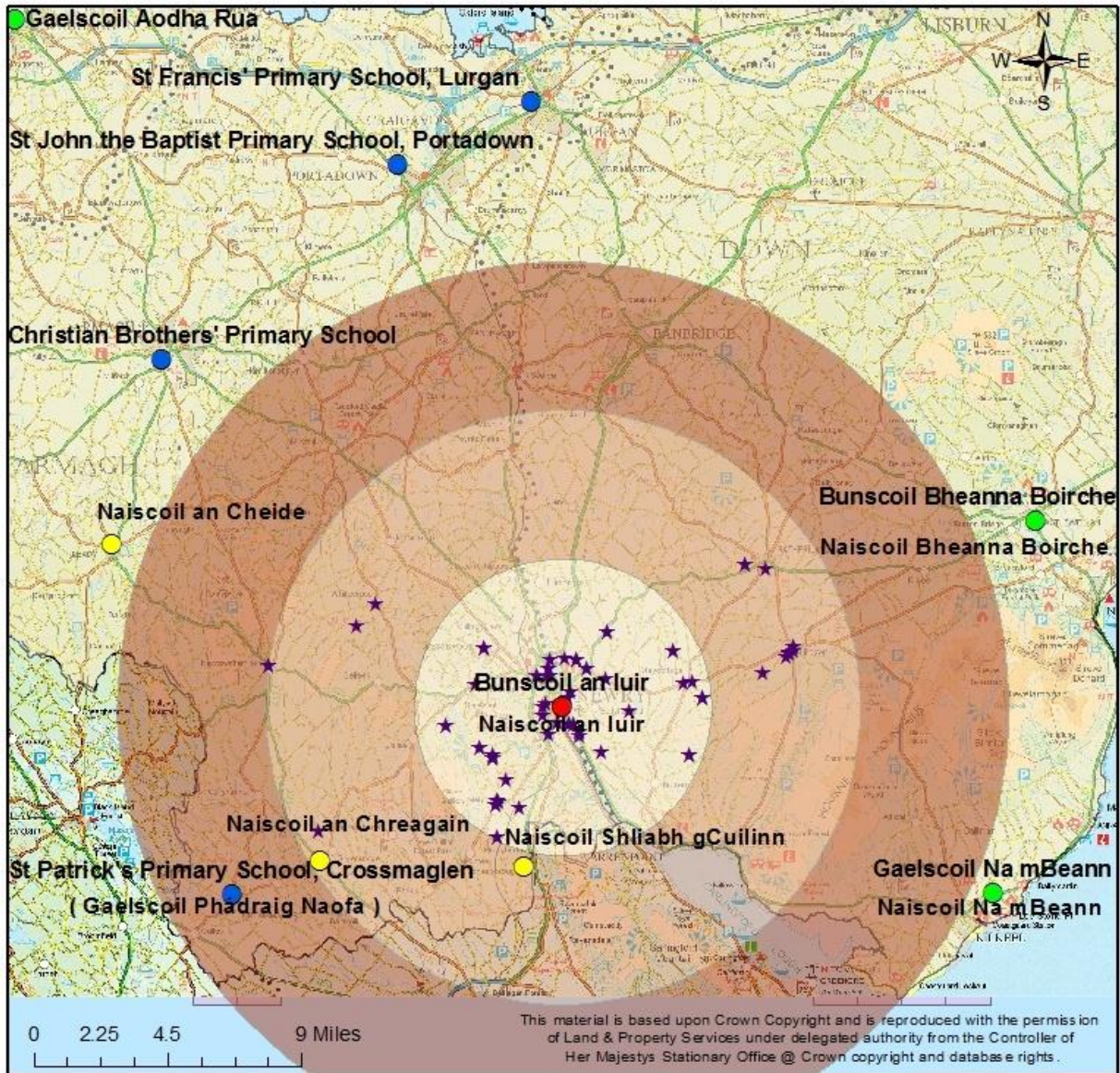
Bunscoil an Iúir - Alternative Provision



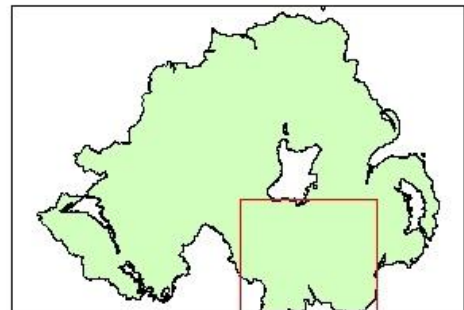
- Bunscoil an Iúir
- Pre-schools
- Nursery Schools
- Primary with Nursery Units
- ★ Pupil Location
- 1 Mile Buffer
- 2 Mile Buffer



Bunscoil an Iúir - Alternative Irish-Medium Provision within 15 Miles



- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| ● Bunscoil an Iúir | Buffer Distance |
| ● Irish Medium Pre-schools | 0.00 - 5.00 |
| ● Irish Medium Primary Schools | 5.00 - 10.00 |
| ● PS with Irish Medium Units | 10.00 - 15.00 |
| ★ Pupil Location | |



INTRODUCTION

1. A DP is the statutory mechanism to bring about a change to a school including the establishment of a nursery unit. Appendix A provides detailed background information on the policy to date, processes for Irish-medium (IM) pre-school provision in line with the duty to encourage and facilitate the development of IM education and the DP process which will set the context for your consideration of this proposal.
2. On 22 March 2016 the Education Authority (EA) published DP 455 on behalf of the Board of Governors of Bunscoil an Iúir. The proposal aims to establish a grant-aided 26 part-time IM nursery unit at Bunscoil an Iúir with effect from 1 September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.
3. The statutory two-month objection period ended on 24 May 2016. A copy of the published Development Proposal (DP) is attached at Appendix B and the Proposer's Case for Change is attached at Appendix C.
4. If approved, the consequences of the establishment of a statutory unit at Bunscoil an Iúir would be the closure of the associated non-statutory pre-school Naíscoil an Iúir.

BACKGROUND

Naíscoil an Iúir

5. Naíscoil an Iúir is a non-statutory IM pre-school which was established together with Bunscoil an Iúir on the same site. The Case for Change states that it is the feeder pre-school for Bunscoil an Iúir with an enrolment of 16 pupils in 2015/16.

Table 1 - Naíscoil an Iúir – Pre-school Enrolments

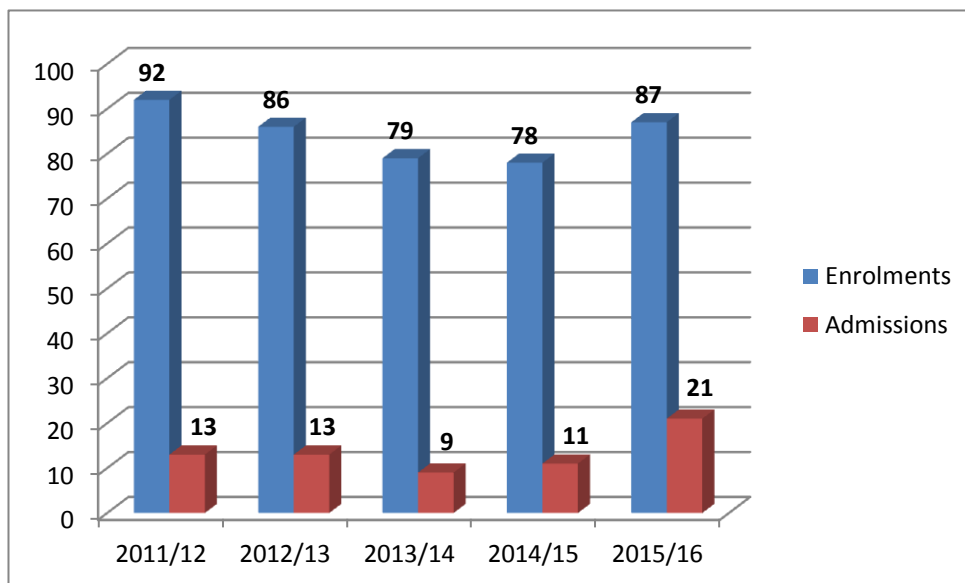
2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16	
Funded	Overall	Funded	Overall	Funded	Overall	Funded	Overall	Funded	Overall
14	15	9	12	14	16	16	16	16	16

6. The enrolments at Naíscoil an Iúir remained constant between 2013/14 and 2015/16 with the pre-school operating at full capacity during this period of time as shown in Table 1 above. All 16 children enrolled in 2015/16 are in their immediate pre-school year. The pre-school has received 11 applications for September 2016.

Bunscoil an Iúir

7. Bunscoil an Iúir is an other maintained co-educational, IM primary school. It is located on Kilmorey Street in Newry. The school was founded in 1989, was awarded grant aided status in 1997/98 with capital funding since 2000. It is the sole provider of IM primary education within the Newry area.
8. Table 2 below sets out the historical admission and enrolment numbers for Bunscoil an Iúir. For the 2015/16 year the school had an approved admission of 18 pupils and an approved enrolment of 129 pupils. The school's overall enrolment was 87 pupils. This is below the Sustainable Schools policy threshold of 105 for a rural primary school. The school has received 13 applications for September 2016.

Table 2 - Bunscoil an Iúir – Historical Admissions and Enrolments



Area Profile

9. On the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 the St Mary's area (in which Bunscoil an Iúir is situated) is placed 199 out of 890 (1 being most deprived and 890 being least deprived). In 2015/16, 35.6% of the school's pupils were entitled to Free School Meals.

10. The NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) local birth rates and population predictions provide information on potential future population trends in the area.

- Birth statistics by academic year for all wards which fall at least partially within a 5-mile radius of Naíscoil an Iúir indicate a slight decrease of 3.8% of children in the pre-school cohort between September 2016 and September 2018 admissions. (965 for 2016, 928 for 2018).
- Population projections for 3 year olds for the Newry and Mourne Council area predict a steady decrease of 29 (1.8%) children from 1,611 to 1,582 between 2017 and 2031 and then a steady increase of 49 (3.1%) children from 1582 to 1631 between 2031 and 2039.

(Note: These figures can, however, only be indicators of the future pre-school population and do not fully take into account population migration and other factors. On that basis they are not an exact predictor of demand.)

IM Primary Provision

11. Map 2 above provides details of the location of Bunscoil an Iúir and the nearest alternative IM provision.

12. As stated in the Case for Change, this shows that the school is the sole provider of IM primary education within the Newry area. The map confirms that Gaelscoil Phádraig Naofa is the nearest alternative IM primary provision. This is an IM Unit attached to St Patrick's PS, Crossmaglen and is approximately 16.3 miles away (by road).

13. Historical Enrolments at the school and Unit are detailed in the tables below:

Table 3: St Patrick’s PS, Crossmaglen (503-1148) – Historical Admissions and Enrolments - (Approved admission 50, approved enrolment 350)

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Admissions	33	54	55	53	57
Enrolments	273	297	310	324	350

Table 4: Gaelscoil Phádraig Naofa - Historical Admissions and Enrolments

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Admissions	13	13	17	25	22
Enrolments	99	102	105	111	122

14. The next closest IM primary provision is at Gaelscoil na mBeann in Kilkeel at approximately 20.2 miles away (by road). Historical admissions and enrolments for this school are set out in the table below:

Table 5: Gaelscoil na mBeann – Historical Admissions and Enrolments

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Admissions	*	12	11	12	8
Enrolments	8	20	28	40	46

15. Enrolments at both St Patrick’s PS Crossmaglen and at Gaelscoil Phádraig Naofa are above the enrolment threshold of 105 as set out in the Sustainable Schools Policy. However, Table 5 shows that the enrolment at Gaelscoil na mBeann is significantly below the enrolment threshold.

16. On 28 April 2016, the EA published DP 466 on behalf of the Board of Governors of Gaelscoil na mBeann. This proposal also aims to establish a grant-aided IM nursery unit at Gaelscoil na mBeann (Kilkeel) catering for 26 children on a part-time basis with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. The statutory two-month objection period ended on 28 June 2016. This is currently being progressed and will be forwarded to you separately for your consideration.

IM Pre-school Provision

17. The nearest alternative IM pre-school provision is at Naíscoil Shliabh gCuilinn, Jonesborough. Indeed, the Case for Change states that Bunscoil an lúir consulted with other IM pre-school settings within the surrounding areas to ascertain their views and the Management Committee of Naíscoil Shliabh gCuilinn was consulted. Naíscoil Shliabh gCuilinn is a non-statutory pre-school which is just outside the five-mile radius of Bunscoil and lúir.

18. Further non-statutory IM pre-school provision, although just outside the 10 mile radius is at Naíscoil an Chreagáin, Silverbridge and at over a 15 mile radius at Naíscoil na mBeann in Kilkeel. Enrolments at these pre-schools are detailed in the table below:

Table 6: Alternative IM Pre-school Provision - Historical Enrolments

	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16	
	Funded	Overall	Funded	Overall	Funded	Overall	Funded	Overall	Funded	Overall
Naíscoil Shliabh gCuilinn	10	16	10	16	12	16	23	24	20	24
Naíscoil an Chreagáin	16	16	15	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Naíscoil na mBeann	11	16	19	22	14	18	15	16	11	14

19. All alternative English-medium pre-school provision is detailed on Map 1.

Temporary Flexibility

20. No IM pre-school providers in the area made a request for Temporary Flexibility in either of the last two years as none were oversubscribed.

Provision Levels

21. In determining need, the Department generally assumes a level of provision at 95% of target age children, predicated on the application rate for pre-school places which is approximately 92%; however the level of provision within local areas may be higher or lower based on historic patterns of demand and assessment of ongoing need.

22. When the numbers of pre-school places and associated percentages are measured against the Year One enrolments for 2014/15 and 2015/16, this shows that in 2014/15 in both the two and five mile radii of Bunscoil an Iúir, the levels of IM pre-school provision were significantly above the planning figure of 95%. However, due to the larger intake in September 2015 (21 pupils), this was not the case, but the projected intake for 2016 shows a return to the consistent pattern of intakes in previous years.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Statutory Duty to Encourage and Facilitate IM Education

23. The Department has a statutory duty under Article 89 of the Education (NI) Order 1998 to *encourage and facilitate the development of Irish-medium education*.

24. The statutory duty does not equate to a duty to grant every proposal brought forward on behalf of an IM school and the Department must be mindful of its statutory duty under Article 44 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986 and under Managing Public Money to ensure effective and efficient use of public funds.

25. The Department has, and continues to respond to parental demand for IM education and funds IM schools that are robust and do not involve unreasonable public expenditure.

Early Years

26. The Department aims to ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it. The policy position to date is set out in 'Learning to Learn – A Framework for Early Years Education and Learning' which was published on 7 October 2013. Among its key actions is placing a moratorium on any new or additional full-

time provision or conversion from part-time to full-time (defined as over 4.5 hours) in advance of a review of the current levels of full-time provision, existing research and the needs of children being served by it. This proposal is compatible with the moratorium.

27. In light of the statutory duty to encourage and facilitate IM Education and in recognition of the benefits of an immersion experience at pre-school for those pupils wishing to access IM primary provision, the Department considers the need for IM pre-school provision in the context of Recommendation 2 of the IM Review (2009): that IM providers with sufficient children should be allowed to enter the existing funding programme, even where unfilled English-medium provision is available in the area.

28. It is the Department's practice not to displace good quality pre-school provision already in existence with pre-school provision in an alternative setting. This includes not ceasing funding for an existing Pre-School Education Programme (PSEP) funded playgroup and establishing statutory nursery provision as an alternative.

CASE FOR CHANGE

29. The Case for Change for DP 455 for the establishment of a grant-aided IM nursery unit at Bunscoil an Iúir is attached in full at Appendix C. The rationale for the proposal is as follows:

- This DP is in line with the Early Years (0-6) strategy proposals which aim to;
 - i. Improve access to IM pre-school provision; and
 - ii. maintain part-time provision within the statutory pre-school sector.
- The Programme for Government (PfG) 2011-15 included a commitment to ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it.
- This DP also falls in line with:
 - i. recommendation No 2 from the Review of IM Education Report (2008);
 - ii. obligations arising from the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages; and
 - iii. the statutory duty to encourage and facilitate IM Education (Article 89 Education NI Order 1998).
- At present, Naíscoil an Iúir is at full capacity which is restricted due to the physical constraints of the building.
- Statutory provision would provide benefits that the voluntary provision could not. The most tangible benefit is the employment of a qualified teacher which would result in higher quality provision and improve the ability of the provision to identify and cater for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN).
- Under the statutory provision the nursery unit would be able to avail of additional support services from the Education Authority (EA).
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (CnaG) advises that parents should send their children to a nursery setting for two years (the equivalent of one year full-time) to give them the best opportunity for linguistic development.

- The possible relocation of Bunscoil an Lúir and the symbiotic relationship between it and the naíscoil, along with the change in status of the naíscoil from voluntary to statutory, would make it an integral part of the bunscoil. This in turn would enable the bunscoil to become a sustainable and vibrant entity.
- If the proposal were approved a greater link between the naíscoil and bunscoil would result in even greater enrolment. This would not only enable the school to reach the rural threshold of 105 pupils but to surpass it and continue to develop and grow.
- The Board of Governors of the bunscoil state that they are very confident, in light of the outreach work and community engagement being done, that they can sustain enrolment trends into the future for the 26 places in the nursery.
- The bunscoil is the sole IME provider in the area and as such this change of status would not impact on any other IME provision.
- The long-term benefits of this proposal would be recognised across three levels of provision, ie, improved nursery provision will increase the enrolment at Bunscoil an Lúir; the strength of the primary provision is essential in maintaining the viability and increasing the capacity of the recently established post-primary provision at St Malachy's High School.
- The statutory provision would be seen as an opportunity to increase and improve provision within the Newry and South Armagh area.
- The curriculum would cease to be delivered in the manner it has been to date – on a limited and curtailed basis but it would enable staff to deliver it in the holistic manner it was intended.

CONSULTATION

Pre-publication Consultation

30. The Case for Change confirms that consultation was carried out with the Board of Governors, staff and parents of Bunscoil an Lúir. It also states that CnaG, in conjunction with the Principal and the Board of Governors of Bunscoil an Lúir, had consulted with the other IM pre-school settings within the surrounding area to ascertain their views and to seek their support for the proposal. Among those consulted were the Management Committees of Naíscoil Shliabh gCuilinn, Ardglass and Naíscoil an Lúir.

31. It confirms that the proposal also supports CnaG's vision which recommends realistic, innovative and creative solutions to the IME sector within the context of area planning.

Education Authority

32. The EA has provided evidence of consultation with schools likely to be affected by the proposal. The EA received 20 responses, none of which were supportive of the DP.

Two-month Objection Period

33. The EA published DP No 455 on 22 March 2016. The statutory 2-month objection period ended on 24 May 2016. The Department received 26 letters of support and 3 letters of objection. Three further letters were received outside of the objection period.

34. Chris Hazzard MLA and Justin McNulty MLA wrote supporting the proposal although Mr McNulty's correspondence was one of the responses received outside of the objection period but the same issues were included.

New Management Committee of Naíscoil an Lúir

35. The new Management Committee of Naíscoil an Lúir wrote to the Department on 27 April setting out their objections to the proposal. They consider that the best option for the Naíscoil is for it to remain as a non-statutory pre-school and for them to continue their working relationship with Bunscoil an Lúir.

36. On 20 May further correspondence was received from the Committee regarding their concerns on the intense lobbying of parents to support the application for a statutory naíscoil as they believed parents were not being fully informed on the implications of the proposal.

Outgoing Management Committee of Naíscoil an Lúir

37. The outgoing Management Committee of Naíscoil an Lúir wrote to the Department and the EA on 24 May to support the Board of Governors (BOGs) of Bunscoil an Lúir on their proposal to establish a grant-aided Irish-medium nursery unit.

Bunscoil an Lúir

38. Correspondence was received from the Board of Governors (BOGs) and teaching staff at Bunscoil an Lúir in support of the development proposal.

Further details of the responses submitted to the Department are included in Appendix D.

Freedom of Information Request by Naíscoil an Lúir

39. A Naíscoil an Lúir representative contacted the Department during the statutory objection period requesting sight of responses to the development proposal. The Department responded citing Exemption 35 under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) (Formulation of Government Policy).

40. Further correspondence was received from Naíscoil an Lúir on 25 May 2016 advising that the Chair of Bunscoil an Lúir had circulated a letter to parents on the merits of supporting the development proposal and seeking their support.

41. Naíscoil an Lúir submitted an FOI request on 31 May 2016 asking to view all correspondence submitted to the Department during the statutory objection period.

42. The Department responded on 10 June citing exemptions under Sections 22 and 35 of the FOI Act, ie, information by public authority with intention of future publication and formulation or development of government policy.

Education Authority View

43. In providing their view of the proposal, the EA identified the following issues:-

- The response to the consultation from Naíscoil an Lúir outlined a comprehensive rebuttal of the Case for Change which the EA cannot disagree with.

- Early Years Policy is not to displace good quality provision as an inspection report in 2005 stated that needs of children were being met very effectively and a recent inspection report in May 2014 was very good.
- The numbers in the Irish-medium playgroup and in Primary 1 in Bunscoil an Iúir do not point to a need for 26 places therefore the potential for enrolment of underage children.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Quality Education Experience

In relation to primary provision, the SSP indicators highlight KS2 attainment levels, no more than two composite classes, a minimum of 4 teachers, the ability of the school to cater for Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils, availability of curricular and extracurricular activities, quality of the physical environment for learning and quality of pastoral care arrangements.

44. The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Bunscoil an Iúir in October 2010 and found that improvement was required to raise standards achieved by all of the children. In most areas inspected the quality of education provided was deemed 'inadequate'. The school entered the Formal Intervention Programme on 3 November 2010. However, a follow-up inspection in April 2012 assessed the quality of education provided by the school as 'good' and the school exited the Formal Intervention Programme on 26 June 2012.

Staffing

45. Bunscoil an Iúir has a headcount of 5 teachers and a full-time equivalent teacher number of 4.8 based on a working week of 32.4 hours (2014/15).

46. The school operates four classes with years P2-P7 divided into three composite classes, as set out below:-

- P1 only – 21 pupils
- P2/3 composite – 11 and 10 pupils respectively
- P4/5 composite – 13 and 11 pupils respectively
- P6/7 composite – 9 and 12 pupils respectively

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

47. The follow-up inspection in April 2012 confirmed that the provision for SEN was reviewed and is now 'very good'.

Curricular and Extra-curricular Activities

48. The ETI Inspection Report dated October 2010 advises that there is an IM mini-club which is available to children in years 1-3 each day after school. In addition an after-school homework club caters for children from across both key stages. The school provides extended provision for sporting, musical and cultural activities which enhances the children's experiences.

Stable Enrolment Trends

The SSP adopts the enrolment thresholds as recommended in the Bain Report. These are minimum thresholds and apply to grant-aided schools in all sectors. A rural primary school's minimum enrolment threshold is 105 pupils. Ideally a primary school should have 7 classrooms (1 per year group). If this is not possible then it should have composite classes with no more than 2 year groups.

49. The approved admissions for Bunscoil an Iúir is 18 to a maximum of 22 pupils provided this does not exceed their approved enrolment number of 129. In 2015/16 the school admitted 21 pupils to Year 1 and enrolled a total of 87 pupils, leaving the school with 43 surplus places. **Table 7** below sets out the school's historical enrolment for the last five years.

Table 7 - Bunscoil an Iúir – Historical Enrolments

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
92	86	79	78	87

50. The table shows that these enrolment levels are considerably below the threshold as set out in the Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP) of 105 pupils for schools in rural areas.

51. **Table 8** sets out the historical P1 intakes from 2011/12 to 2015/16. The admission levels from 2011-2014 have been below the threshold recommended in the SSP of 15 pupils for Year 1 except for 2015/16 when they rose to 21 pupils.

Table 8- Bunscoil an Iúir - P1 intakes

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
13	13	9	11	21

52. **Table 9** below shows that enrolments at the school in P1-P3 have fluctuated in the last five years with a more significant increase in 2015/16. In this year, there are more pupils in P1-P3 than in P5-P7 – 13 pupils left P7 at the end of 2014/15 but 21 joined in 2015/16. This can indicate that the school is growing but in the previous three years, this was not the case.

Table 9 - Bunscoil an Iúir - P1-P3 intakes and P4-P7 intakes

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
P1	13	13	9	11	21
P2	11	12	15	9	11
P3	13	9	11	13	10
Total P1-P3	37	34	35	33	42
P4	19	13	9	11	13
P5	10	15	12	9	11
P6	14	10	13	12	9
P7	12	14	10	13	12
Total P5-P7	36	39	35	34	32
Grand Total	92	86	79	78	87

First Preference Applications

53. Bunscoil an Iúir has received thirteen first preference applications for 2016/17 which is more in keeping with the levels in previous years.

Sound Financial Position

The SSP recommends that a school's annual finance indicates that it can live within its delegated budget and will be able to continue to do so. Where there is a deficit, the school's 3-year plan should indicate that it can be reduced or recovered.

54. At 31 March 2015, Bunscoil an Iúir held a cumulative surplus of £69,351. As per the EA Final MEMR at March 2016 the 2015-16 budget allocation was £304,799 and the EA have reported a closing surplus of £60,484 for 31 March 2016.

Strong Leadership and Management by Boards of Governors and Principals

The SSP highlights a number of indicators in relation to the BoG, staff and pupils. These include: BoG - views, skills and experience of the BoG. Staff - management (both curricular and organisational) attendance, turnover, morale. Pupils – behaviour, attendance and involvement in school management. A school development plan must be in place (and monitored).

55. In the ETI follow-up inspection on 24 April 2014 the ETI reported that one of the most important actions which had been taken since the original inspection was that the Board of Governors had been re-constituted and governor training had been instigated. One of the most important improvements which had been made was that:

'the Principal provides structured and strategic direction to the work of the school focusing more on the core business of raising standards in literacy and numeracy'.

Accessibility

The SSP highlights the need for reasonable distance and travel time to school and also suitable transport arrangements. It highlights travel times of less than 30 minutes for primary pupils.

56. Bunscoil and Naíscoil an Iúir are the only IM provision in the Newry area. The nearest IM provider within the southern region is Gaelscoil Phádraig Naofa in Crossmaglen, which is approximately 16.2 miles away by road. Map 2 indicates that the majority of the pupils who attend Bunscoil an Iúir live within 5 miles travelling distance. The school is therefore accessible to its pupils within the 30 minutes maximum travel time as set out in the SSP.

Strong Links with the Community

The SSP refers to the degree and quality of parental involvement, contribution of the school to the community, presence of other features (nursery or specialist provision) and use of school buildings outside formal education.

57. The Case for Change confirms that both Bunscoil and Naíscoil an Iúir have working relationships with Glór na nGael, Feis an Dúin, an organisation which supports and promotes the Irish Language in the family, business and community. They also have links with Comhaltas Ceolteoirí na hÉireann an organisation which is involved in the preservation and promotion of Irish music. The school has also developed close links with Thomas Davis GAC, a Gaelic Football Club, who have indicated their commitment to make a parcel of their

land available for the future development of IME in the Newry and South Armagh area. It is envisaged that this will provide extra- curricular sporting activities for pupils.

58. The follow-up inspection stated that one of the most important actions since the original inspection was that parents are involved more in the life and the work of the school.

Summary

59. Although Bunscoil an lúir was in Formal Intervention in 2010 it exited from the programme in 2012 as the quality of education provided by the school was then rated as 'good'.

60. From 2011/12, Bunscoil an lúir has shown little growth in its enrolment numbers although in 2015/16 there was a marked increase in its admission number. However, with 87 pupils in 2015/16 it remains considerably below the enrolment threshold as set out in the SSP of 105 pupils for schools in rural areas.

61. Bunscoil an lúir's budget position was a closing surplus of just over £60,000 for 2015/16. Although this shows the school can live within its dedicated budget, this is well in excess of the current limit {+ or - 5% (or £75k whichever is the lesser), of the school's available delegated budget}. The Board of Governors has been reconstituted and comments in the 2012 inspection report state that the principal provides structured and strategic direction.

62. Bunscoil an lúir has strong links with the community through Irish cultural associations and with links to sporting organisations. The majority of the pupils who attend Bunscoil an lúir live within 5 miles of the school.

63. In conclusion, Bunscoil an lúir's enrolment numbers fall below the recommended threshold of 105 for a rural area and the school's budget surplus is in excess of the 5% limit. The school is not therefore meeting all of the SSP criteria.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Quality of Education at Naíscoil an lúir

64. The ETI inspection report of Naíscoil an lúir in May 2014 indicated that its overall performance was found to be 'very good'. In its key findings under achievements and standards, provision and leadership and management these areas were each rated as 'very good'. There are 3 part-time members of staff including the leader each holding a recognised child care qualification.

65. Naíscoil an lúir is supported by Altram which is a regional support group for IM early years projects and was set up to:

- support Irish-medium early years providers;
- improve the standard of provision in the sector; and
- promote the importance of the early years in Irish-medium education.

66. The inspection report states that an early years' specialist from Altram has worked with the staff to improve the processes for observing, recording and assessing the children's progress and on developing the outdoor play provision at Naíscoil an lúir.

67. It was also indicated in the inspection report that Naíscoil an Iúir has very good pastoral and curricular links with the local bunscoil to provide a smooth transition for the children.

68. ETI have concluded that the quality of education provided by Naíscoil an Iúir is very good and that it is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self improvement. A full copy of ETI comments regarding this proposal are contained at Appendix E.

Area Plan

69. The former SELB Primary Area Plan 2014 notes that the Managing Authority is keeping Bunscoil an Iúir under review within the context of the Department's Sustainable Schools Policy (SSP) and the local area. A number of issues in the school and/or local area have been identified and need to be addressed, i.e., the school's enrolment is below the minimum enrolment threshold detailed in the SSP and at the time of the Area Plan (June 2014) there were 50 unfilled places.

Financial Implications

70. Places in the voluntary/private sector are funded on a per place basis (currently £1801 per annum) and allocated on an annual basis by PEAG taking account of the number of statutory pre-school places available and their assessment of demand. If a statutory nursery is opened at Bunscoil an Iúir the requirement for recurrent funding would transfer from the Pre-School Budget to the Aggregated Schools Budget. As such, costs have been estimated at approximately £50,000 for a 26 place Part-time IM Nursery Unit with £30,000 falling initially to the in-year contingency fund.

Should the DP be approved, there would be a requirement to employ a nursery teacher and an assistant at a cost of approximately £30K but this would be met from within the school's budget.

Accommodation and Location

71. Bunscoil and Naíscoil an Iúir are situated on the same site and housed in the same building. The Case for Change confirms that the site is restricted which inhibits expansion to allow for the development of the IM sector in the wider community. It also states that the current accommodation is hampering the growth of the naíscoil thereby undermining the sustainability of the school. The proposal is for 26 part-time nursery places but this number cannot be accommodated in the school's present location.

72. The EA has been commissioned to undertake a feasibility study for the potential relocation of the school to a site at Doran's Hill, Newry which the Department is currently awaiting. The site is approximately one mile outside Newry and is owned by the Thomas Davis, GAA.

73. If the site proves suitable it will need to be vested. Accommodation on the new site would be provided by way of a single nursery unit in modular accommodation.

74. It is estimated that the time frame for procurement of a modular nursery unit and for obtaining all necessary statutory approvals is at least nine months from the date of approval of the minor works application. The cost of such a unit would be in the region of £300,000 plus VAT and fees. As the Department is not yet aware of the ground conditions of the proposed new site, site works costs cannot yet be estimated.

CONCLUSION

Sustainability

75. The evidence suggests that Bunscoil an Iúir, to which the proposed nursery unit would be attached, faces a challenge in stabilising its enrolment numbers to meet the recommended thresholds. This has been highlighted in the (former) SELB Primary Area Plan (June 2014). Even with the improved admission number in 2015/16, enrolment, numbers overall have not shown consistent growth.

76. The Case for Change claims that if the DP was accepted there would be a greater link between the naíscóil and the bunscoil resulting in greater enrolment and this in turn would enable the school to not only reach the rural enrolment threshold of 105 but to surpass it, thereby ensuring its viability. It goes on to state that the long-term benefits of this DP would be recognised across three levels of provision. In 2015/16 no pupils transferred from Bunscoil an Iúir to the IM Unit at St Malachy's HS, Castlewellan but in 2014/15, 4 pupils did.

77. The Case for Change is more aspirational than evidence based. There is no evidence presented that enrolments at Bunscoil an Iúir will increase. At present, not all pupils who attend the non-statutory pre-school, which is on the primary school site, go on to attend Bunscoil an Iúir. In 2013/14 and 2014/15 there were 16 and 14 funded places in the pre-school yet only 9 pupils and 11 pupils respectively were admitted to the primary school. Although the 2015/16 primary intake did increase to 21 pupils, figures for 2016/17 show only 13 applications.

78. The host school at which a statutory nursery unit is to be established should be viable and sustainable. However, as stated above, Bunscoil an Iúir does not meet all six criteria of the SSP.

Need

79. In determining the need for pre-school provision, as stated above, the Department generally assumes a level of provision at 95% of target age children, predicated on the application rate for pre-school places which is approximately 92%; however the level of provision within local areas may be higher or lower based on historic patterns of demand and assessment of ongoing need.

80. Consideration has been given to the level of pre-school provision within the two and five mile radii of Naíscóil na Iúir and, because IM providers may enter the Pre-School Education Programme even where unfilled English-medium provision is available in the area, to IM pre-school provision specifically.

81. In relation to pre-school provision overall the level of provision within the two mile radius is very close to the planning figure of 95%. There were no underage children and no approved temporary flexibility which demonstrates that there is enough provision in the area to match the demand. The level of provision within the five mile radius is just under the 95% planning figure, although a number of underage children accessing statutory pre-school places each year is indicative of slight over provision in the wider area.

82. In relation to IM pre-school provision specifically, in both the two and five mile radii, the level of provision is significantly above the planning figure of 95%. It should be noted that over the last five years admissions have been between 9 and 13 pupils until 2015/16 when

21 pupils were admitted although it is anticipated that 13 pupils are due to be admitted in September 2016 which would be consistent with previous years. Should the proposal be approved, the figure in the two and five mile radius would be over twice the number of P1 places, at 200%. This suggests that the proposal would lead to a high level of over provision of IM pre-school places in the area.

Applications for IM Pre-school

83. Table 10 below shows the number of places available and the number of first preference applications received for admission to Naíscóil an Iúir for each of the last three years:

Table 10 – Applications for IM Settings

Year	Initial Places available (as set by PEAG)	Total admitted	1 st preference applications received	Total Applications received
2013/14	11	9	10	10*
2014/15	16	16	16	16
2015/16	16	16	12	16

* the enrolment for 2013/14 subsequently increased to 16 pupils enrolled with 14 funded

84. Naíscóil an Iúir admitted every child who applied for a place in 2015/16 and in 2016/17 eleven children have been placed at the end of the Stage 1 admission process. This demonstrates that there is already sufficient IME pre-school provision in the area to provide a funded IM pre-school place for every child whose parents want it.

85. The Case for Change would appear to suggest overprovision of IM places in the area and the resultant availability of funded IM pre-school provision may in fact be an intended outcome of the proposal as, in setting out the perceived benefits of the proposal, the document refers to CnaG's advice that parents send their children to a nursery setting for two years. However, DE aims to ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it.

86. The information provided does not present sufficient evidence of the need for additional IM pre-school provision in the area. It is likely, therefore, that the provision of additional pre-school places at the setting would lead to over provision and, specifically, IM pre-school provision, in the area.

87. If additional places are required in the future, the existing IM provider has advised that it could accommodate up to 16 additional children in an afternoon session.

Displacement

88. Should the DP be approved, the creation of a statutory IM nursery unit would displace the current good quality provision against the wishes of its current Management Committee. It is the Department's practice not to displace existing good quality pre-school provision with pre-school provision in an alternative setting. This includes not ceasing funding for an existing PSEP (Pre-School Education Programme) funded playgroup and establishing statutory nursery provision as an alternative.

89. The associated increase in the number of places could lead to underage children taking up statutory places in the area as demand for IM pre-school places is being fully met with the current level of provision. As stated above, if demand for IM places in the area were to increase, the naíscoil has advised that it could also run an afternoon pre-school session.

90. The EA PEAG also considers that the figures do not evidence a need for a 26-place nursery unit at present. They advise that if the DP were approved underage children will be enrolled, ie, over provision, which would result in an unnecessary draw on the Aggregated Schools Budget. They also state that good quality existing provision should not be displaced.

91. The Case for Change states that statutory provision would provide many benefits that the voluntary provision could not, ie, the employment of a qualified nursery teacher to improve linguistic development; the ability to identify and cater for children with Special Education Needs (SEN) and to be able to avail of the additional support services from the EA. It also states that the delivery of the curriculum would cease to be delivered in the manner it has been to date - on a limited and curtailed basis but it would enable staff to deliver it in the holistic manner it was intended.

92. However, the quality of the education provided by the existing pre-school has been assessed by the ETI as 'very good'. The most recent inspection in May 2014 concludes that:-

'The quality of education provided by the naíscoil is very good. The naíscoil is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.'

93. Although the ETI has advised that a nursery unit is preferable in IM schools to ensure a strong language immersion setting, in this case, they noted the quality of the current pre-school provision and that it is a well established setting with experienced early years' practitioners who also have very good Irish.

94. The three members of staff at the naíscoil all hold recognised child care qualifications and further support is provided by the early years IM specialist, Altram.

95. In the Case for Change another benefit put forward for the naíscoil becoming an integral part of the gaelscoil is that it would facilitate any potential relocation. In these circumstances, should the school be relocated, accommodation would be provided for both the primary school and the nursery unit. However, if the existing non-statutory pre-school remained, the provision of a site and accommodation would be a matter for the pre-school's management committee.

Impact

96. The Case for Change states that Bunscoil an Lúir is the sole provider of IM education in the area and as such this change of status would not impact on any other IM provision. However, the establishment of a statutory IM nursery unit would involve the closure of the existing good quality pre-school provision.

97. In line with the recommendations of the IM Review, children applying for Year 1 at the school already have had the opportunity to avail of a high quality pre-school experience.

Statutory Duty

98. In relation to the statutory duty, a reasonable adjustment has been made to pre-school policy to support the funding of IM pre-school even where unfilled English-medium provision is available in the area. In this case, there is already sufficient provision of IM pre-school places to meet demand in the area.

99. On balance, and taking account of the comments and information received, it is considered that the evidence does not currently support the establishment of a statutory part-time IM nursery unit in the area and the existing voluntary provider has capacity to provide additional IM places should such a need arise. The creation of a statutory IM nursery unit as proposed could result in high levels of over provision of IM pre-school places in the area.

Recommendation

100. Based on the evidence detailed above, it is recommended that you:

- i. Do not approve DP 455 to establish a grant-aided IM nursery unit at Bunscoil an Lúir (Newry) with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- ii. Agree that this submission (with any appropriate redactions) can be published on the Department's website once the school, CnaG and the EA have been informed of your decision and the press release issued.
- iii. Note that officials are available to discuss this submission should you wish.

101. A draft press release will be provided for your consideration when you have made your decision.

102. The following appendices are attached for your consideration::

Appendix A: Contextual information on current policy and processes for planning pre-school provision and the development proposal process

Appendix B: Copy of published DP 455

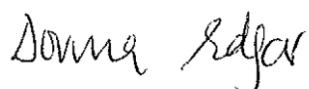
Appendix C: Case for Change

Appendix D: Consultation Summary

Appendix E: ETI Comments

Appendix F: DE Comments

Appendix G: Annual Area Profile



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CURRENT POLICY AND PROCESSES FOR PLANNING PRE-SCHOOL PROVISION AND THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL PROCESS

Pre-School Policy

The policy position to date was set out in Learning to Learn – A Framework for Early Years Education and Learning, published on 7 October 2013. Its key actions included placing a moratorium on any new or additional full-time provision or conversion from part-time to full-time (defined as over 4.5 hours) in advance of a review of the current levels of full-time provision, existing research and the needs of children being served by it.

PEAG and the Pre-School Planning Process

The Education Authority's (EA's) Pre-school Education Advisory Groups (PEAGs) are responsible for planning pre-school provision and overseeing the allocation of places to the non-statutory sector.

DE in conjunction with the EA undertakes an annual exercise to estimate the level of provision required for the following academic year. When planning pre-school provision, decisions are made on the basis of providing sufficient places for approximately 95% of the live birth statistics provided on the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) website. While the figure of 95% is higher than the average annual application rate (usually 92%), this provides for slightly more places to be allocated than assessed as needed to account for fluctuations in patterns of demand and ensure the process runs smoothly.

Displacement

It is the Department's practice not to displace good quality pre-school provision already in existence with pre-school provision in an alternative setting. This includes not ceasing funding for an existing Pre-School Education Programme (PSEP) funded playgroup and establishing statutory nursery provision as an alternative.

Provision Levels

In determining need, the Department generally assumes a level of provision at 95% of target age children, predicated on the application rate for pre-school places which is approximately 92%; however the level of provision within local areas may be higher or lower based on historic patterns of demand and assessment of ongoing need.

The numbers of pre-school places and associated percentages are measured against the Year One enrolments for 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Application of the Duty to Encourage and Facilitate IM Pre-school Education

The Department has a statutory duty to encourage and facilitate IM Education. In accordance with the Review of Irish-Medium Education, registered IM providers with sufficient children can be funded under the Department's Pre-School Education Programme even where unfilled English-Medium provision is available in the area.

Development Proposal Process

1.1 Any significant change to be made to a school can only be made through the publication of a Development Proposal (DP) as required by Article 14 (as amended) of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986. DPs are therefore the means by which any significant changes required to a school

1.2 DE seeks to ensure that, regardless of the reason for the proposal, all DPs are considered in the wider context of the Department's statutory duties and policies.

1.3 DPs are brought forward by a 'Proposer'. The Proposer is the relevant school managing authority which includes the Education Authority (for Controlled schools), the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (for Catholic maintained schools) as well as individual Boards of Governors of voluntary maintained schools, Voluntary Grammar Schools and Grant Maintained Integrated schools. Owners of independent schools may also bring forward a proposal to seek grant-aided status subject to meeting all the statutory requirements of a grant-aided school.

1.4 A key role of the Proposer is the development of a detailed case for change to support the proposal. This will include the rationale for the proposal together with supporting robust and verifiable evidence which clearly demonstrates that the proposal is policy compliant.

1.5 The four main stages in the DP process are:-

(i) **identification of need** *getting a proposal right at this stage will impact positively on the success of the proposal. The focus should be on educational benefits and provision of high quality education that meets the needs of children and young people and takes account of parental preference.*

(ii) **statutory pre-publication consultations**; *the proposer must consult with the Board of Governors, Staff and parents of registered pupils of the affected school. On receipt of a DP, the Education Authority (which publishes all DPs irrespective of sector) must consult with schools likely to be affected by it.*

(iii) **publication of a DP**; *the Education Authority publishes DPs on behalf of a proposer in newspapers.*

(iv) **statutory 2-month objection period**; *this is triggered at the date of publication and during this period anyone interested in or affected by a DP can submit their views (for or against a proposal) directly to DE. The public can request a meeting with Departmental Officials or the Minister at this stage of the process and these requests are normally facilitated, diaries permitting. At the end of the two month period, DE compiles and assesses all relevant information before making a recommendation on a DP to the Minister. The Minister's decision is final and concludes the DP process.*

1.6 All DPs are considered on a case by case basis within the general DP policy framework. In the case of Integrated and Irish-medium proposals full account must be taken of DE's duty to encourage and facilitate in accordance with the relevant legislation. A DP will be approved or not approved, although in some instances approval of a DP can be subject to modification in line with Article 14(7) of the 1986 Order.

1.7 DE's power to impose conditions on DPs is limited. The Education Orders provide that the only DPs to which specific conditions can be attached are those for the establishment of Grant

Maintained Integrated and voluntary Irish medium schools). Other conditions (imposed when schools are opening or transforming) will relate to Department policies and not the approval itself.

1.8 A DP approved by the Minister must be implemented in full. Further changes can only be made through the publication of another DP.

1.9 Although legislation does not provide for appeal, the Minister's decision can be challenged through an application for judicial review.

EDUCATION AUTHORITY

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL No 455

Notice is hereby given that a proposal under Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 has been submitted by the Board of Governors of Bunscoil an lúir to the effect that:

It is proposed to establish a grant-aided Irish-Medium Nursery Unit at Bunscoil an lúir (Newry) with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. The nursery unit will provide part-time pre-school education through the medium of Irish for 26 children and will replace the existing voluntary Naíscoil an lúir.

A copy of the Proposal may be inspected at offices of the Education Authority, Southern Region located at 3 Charlemont Place, The Mall, ARMAGH, BT61 9AX between the hours of 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

Any objections to this Proposal should be lodged with the Area Planning Policy Team, Department of Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, BANGOR, Co Down, BT19 7PR or emailed to dps@deni.gov.uk within two months of the date of publication of this notice.

NOTE: The Department of Education and the Education Authority operate a regime of openness under the Freedom of Information Act. Letters of objection and information supplied to the Department of Education and to the Education Authority may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, if requested. (A fee may be charged for supplying this information).

Gavin Boyd
Chief Executive

Appendix B

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL FOR BUNSCOIL AN IÚIR

DETAILS ON THE PROPOSED SCHOOL**Type of provision and enrolment:**

Irish-medium Statutory Nursery Unit

Location:

Dorans Hill, BT35 8PQ, Newry

Date of Implementation:

1st September 2016 or the earliest date possible, thereafter.

BACKGROUND

Bunscoil an Iúir was founded in 1989. It is located on Kilmorey Street, Newry, which is recognised as an area of high socio-economic deprivation. In 1998, the school was recognised by the Department of Education, and was awarded Grant Maintained status and moved to the current site on Kilmorey Street, Newry. The school is the sole provider of Irish-medium primary education within the Newry area and furthermore, the nearest Irish-medium provider within the southern region is in Crossmaglen, Gaelscoil Phádraig Naofa, approximately 13 miles away. There are currently 87 pupils in Bunscoil an Iúir and 16 pupils in Naíscoil an Iúir. Naíscoil and Bunscoil an Iúir are situated on the same site and housed in the same building. Naíscoil an Iúir is the feeder preschool for Bunscoil an Iúir. The school community feel that being housed in such a restricted site is having an adverse effect on the day to day running of the bunscoil and naíscoil. It is having a negative impact on the development of IME in the wider community; it is hampering the growth of the naíscoil and consequently, undermining the sustainability of the school.

At present, the Department's Estates Operations Team are involved in assessing the potential for a relocation of Bunscoil an Iúir to a new school site, Doran's Hill, Newry. The symbiotic nature of the naíscoil-bunscoil relationship is another major factor which has convinced the Board of Governors of the school to initiate this development proposal. This development proposal is supported by Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta and is in line with their development area for the Irish-medium sector.

The Principal of the Bunscoil and the Board of Governors of the Bunscoil, in collaboration with Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, consulted with the other Irish-medium pre-school settings within the surrounding area to ascertain their views and to seek their support for the proposal. Among those consulted were the Management Committees of Naíscoil Shliabh gCuilinn (24 children) & Naíscoil an Iúir (16 children). They are committed to this proposal and agree that Bunscoil an Iúir is the sole IME provider for the Newry and South Armagh area.

The School and Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta believe that the proposed future provision within this development proposal will fully comply with the Department of Education's

Sustainable School Policy and also with the Department of Education's Every School a Good School Policy. This development proposal also supports Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta's vision which recommends realistic, innovative and creative solutions to the IME sector within the context of area planning.

The school is focused on meeting the learning, personal, social and emotional needs of all the children within a calm caring & learning environment. The Board of Governors of the bunscoil are updated and informed regularly about the school and provide support and advice. The parents and staff of the bunscoil have confidence in the Board of Governors and in their leadership and management of the bunscoil.

SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: A POLICY FOR SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

Quality Educational Experience

Bunscoil an Lúir was inspected by ETI in April 2012 and this highlighted

"In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified the need to improve the quality of classroom management in a small number of classes in order to foster more effective learning by the younger children, which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address."

The Board of Governors and Staff have continued to improve upon these standards. The school firmly believes that with the experiences gained, and with an increased skills capacity amongst the Board of Governors, this proposal will further support the growing development of Bunscoil an Lúir as a school of high standards in education and pastoral care.

Stable Enrolment Trends

The enrolment figure for the last year has substantially increased and there are 21 children in primary 1 this year (2015/2016). The number of pupils in the school is 87. The Board of Governors are very confident in light of the outreach work and community engagement being done by Bunscoil an Lúir and from the commitment of the aforementioned pre-school settings that we can sustain enrolment trends into the future for the 26 places in the nursery within Bunscoil an Lúir. There are currently 16 children of pre-school age registered at the associated nursery, Naíscoil an Lúir and the recent closure of Naíscoil Chamlocha will also increase the demand for places at Naíscoil an Lúir. (See *statistical information* for further information).

Sound Financial Position

The Board of Governors has effectively managed the LMS budget and on the 3 year Budget Plan is within the 5% limit. As the figures below indicate;

Budget Spending for Bunscoil an Iúir 2014 - 18				
Year	Total Resources (incl previous years carryover)	Total Estimated Expenditure	Carryover	% Carryover of Total Resources
2014/15/	380,541	304,580	84,181	0%
2015/16	356,690	334,879	69,351	+6.11%
2016/17	322,657	316,564	21,794	+1.89%
2017/18	315,973	321,167	6,093	-1.64%

2014/15 budget = £296,360 + surplus £84,181 = £380,541

2015/16 budget = £2287,339 + £69,351 surplus = 356,609 (£334,879 est expenditure) 0%

2016/17 budget £287,339 + 21,339 surplus = 322,657 (£316,564 est expenditure) +6.11%

2017/18 budget £287,339 + £6,093 surplus = £315,973 (£321,167 est expenditure) -1.64%

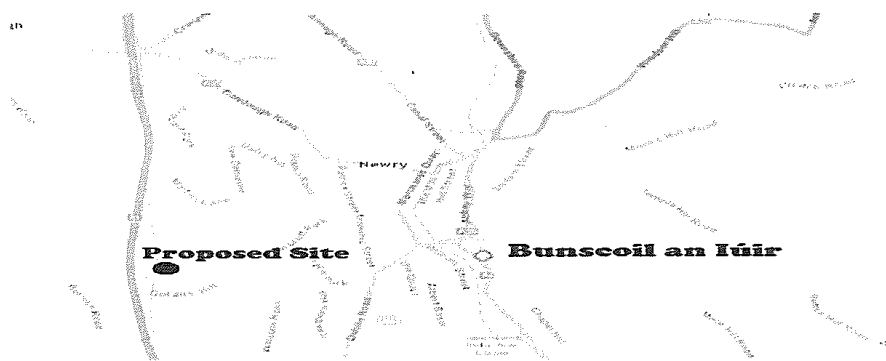
Projected budgets for 2016/17 and 2017/18 all lie well within the 5% range and no substantial budgetary difficulties are envisaged in the next few years and the growth in enrolment figures further support this view. The change of status will further enhance the preschool enrolment numbers and consolidate the budget for the foreseeable future.

Strong Leadership and Management by Board of Governors and Principals

The school has a clear vision for the future development of the school. Bunscoil an Iúir has consolidated the existing Board of Governors by identifying new members with key skills which will augment the management and leadership of the school in anticipation of the proposed change of status.

Accessibility

This change of status will enhance the provision of services in Naiscoil an Iúir and help to meet the growing demand for IME in the Newry and South Armagh areas. This in turn, will have a positive impact on the wider IME community for the Newry, Camlough and Jonesborough areas.



Strong links with the community

Both the Naíscoil and Bunscoil an Iúir have working relationships with Glór na nGael, Feis an Dúin and Comhaltas Ceolteoirí na hÉireann. Since 2012, Bunscoil an Iúir has been working closely with Thomas Davis GAC. It has developed strong links with the local community as evidenced by the willingness and commitment of Thomas Davis GAC to make a parcel of its land available for the future development of IME in the Newry and South Armagh region. These links and partnerships are impacting positively on the life and direction of Bunscoil an Iúir. This co-operation will provide extra-curricular sporting activities for the pupils, currently denied to them.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

The desired outcome of the proposal is to establish an IME statutory nursery unit known as Naíscoil an Iúir within Bunscoil an Iúir in order to provide parents and their children with the optimum start to their education. This development proposal is in line with the Early Years (0-6) strategy proposals that aim to:

- Improve the access to Irish medium pre-school provision; and
- Maintain part-time provision with the statutory preschool sector;

At present, Naíscoil an Iúir is at full capacity (16). The capacity is restricted due to the physical constraints of the current building. The closure of Naíscoil Chamlocha in June 2015 has had a major impact on the enrolments of Naíscoil an Iúir, 4 children from that playgroup were unsuccessful in obtaining a place within Naíscoil an Iúir for September 2015 because of the aforementioned physical limitations.

The current Programme for Government (2011-15) includes a commitment to ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it. Registered Irish-medium providers can enter the programme even where unfilled English-medium provision is available in the area, providing that sufficient demand for the provision is evidenced. This development proposal also falls in line with:

- Recommendation No. 2 from the Review of Irish-medium Education Report (2008),

- The obligations arising from the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and
- The statutory duty to encourage and facilitate Irish medium education (Article 89, Education (NI) Order 1998).

The Board of Governors considered two options;

- a) Naíscoil an Iúir to remain as a voluntary Naíscoil; or
- b) Apply to become a statutory Naíscoil.

The rationale to change to a statutory Naíscoil is that there are many added benefits associated with the statutory provision that the voluntary provision does not provide.

The most tangible benefit is the employment of a qualified teacher. Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta advises parents to send their children to an early years setting for two years (the equivalent to one year full-time) in order to give them the best opportunity to acquire the target language. Language acquisition and age are very strongly linked. As such, it is vital that children are afforded the best opportunities at the earliest stage and in this regard, a nursery setting which is led by a qualified teacher is the strongest option for the children and their future linguistic development. The employment of a teacher also improves the ability of the provision to identify and cater for children with Special Education Needs (SEN) and the newly established statutory provision would then be able to avail of additional support services from the Education Authority.

The symbiotic relationship between the naíscoil and the bunscoil and also, with the potential relocation of Bunscoil an Iúir it is the collective view of all concerned that the change of status for the naíscoil from voluntary to statutory would make it an integral part of Bunscoil an Iúir. This, in turn, would facilitate its relocation to the Doran's Hill site, should the relocation come to fruition and furthermore, it would be managed by the Board of Governors of the school. The school believes that it is a logical and practical step to take in order for the school to become a sustainable and vibrant entity.

AREA PLANNING IMPACT

Should this proposal be accepted, it is logical that this greater link between Naíscoil and Bunscoil an Iúir will result in even greater enrolment. This will not only enable the school to reach the rural threshold of 105 pupils but to surpass it and continue to develop and grow and thus, realise the aims of the sustainable schools policy. As regards the impact on other provision, this is the sole IME provider in the area and as such this change of status would not impact on any other IME provision.

The long-term benefits of this proposal would be recognised across three levels of provision. The improved nursery provision will increase the enrolment in Bunscoil an Iúir, the strength of the primary provision is essential in maintaining the viability and increasing the capacity of the recently established post-primary provision at St. Malachy's High School. The increased enrolment is vital in supporting the local post-primary IM provider.

“there has been a gap in the strategic development of post-primary provision”
(Minister of Education, John O’Dowd, 4th November 2014).

In his response to the Advisory Group Report on the Strategic Development of Irish-medium Post-primary Education, Minister O’Dowd acknowledged that there have previously been gaps in Post-primary IME provision. We envisage that the long-term outcome of this proposal will contribute to closing that gap.

In the context of Area Planning and sustainability we would see the statutory provision as an opportunity to increase and improve provision of IME within the Newry and South Armagh area.

We believe that parents in the surrounding area would be able to access IME consistent with the Department of Education’s own policy on IME and in keeping with the European Charter of Regional and Minority Languages. The delivery of the curriculum would cease to be delivered in the manner it has been delivered to date; on a limited and curtailed basis. On the contrary, it would enable staff to deliver it in the holistic manner it was intended.

This development proposal is not linked with any other development proposal. However, as stated previously The Department of Education’s Estates Operations Team is currently assessing the potential for the relocation of Bunscoil an Iúir.

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

The main policy areas relevant to this proposal are:

- Commitment 43 of the programme for Government (PfG) – to ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it
- The Department has not, as yet, developed a policy or criteria in relation to the circumstances where it would be appropriate to cease funding an existing PSEP funded playgroup and establish statutory nursery provision as an alternative
- In accordance with the Review of Irish-Medium Education, registered Irish Medium providers with sufficient children can be funded under the Department’s Pre-School Education Programme even where unfilled English Medium provision is available in the area.

Furthermore, the Board of Governors acknowledges that the Department of Education have a statutory duty under Article 89 of the Education Reform Order 1998 to *‘to encourage and facilitate the development of Irish medium education’*. In addition to this, the school also recognises the importance of the judicial review ruling by Treacy that said:

“The Department may facilitate and encourage the Irish medium sector in ways that it need not for other sectors by:

- a) Taking positive steps; or*
- b) Removing obstacles which inhibit the statutory objective.”*

A study of Effective Pre-school Provision (EPP) study, conducted by the Department of Education, noted that when looking at the effects of quality and specific “practices” in pre-school, found:

- Higher quality pre-schooling is related to better intellectual and social/behavioural development for children.
- Observed quality within pre-school settings was higher in nursery schools and classes.
- Staff training and qualifications are associated with better quality of provision.

We have a firm belief that this development proposal to form a statutory nursery will further enhance the quality educational experience by:

- Increased qualifications of staff and benefits of qualified teacher
- Increasing the schools ability to cater for Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Increasing the standards and quality of learning and teaching with stronger links the Bunscoil teaching staff and management structure
- Increase the availability of a range of curricular and extra-curricular activities for the children including physical education, the world around us, music, arts & drama, and enhancing their early mathematical and scientific experiences.
- Improving the physical learning environment for learning and teaching and the suitability of accommodation, and
- Increasing the ability to support the linguistic development of the children through in house expertise and the extended exposure of the language.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Children entitled to Free Schools Meals – 40.23%

Children on SEN Register – 12.8%

School Enrolment

The table below demonstrates the total enrolment at Bunscoil an Iúir over the last four years. Whilst there are several unfilled places in the school, it should be noted that the enrolment for Primary 1-3 is 42 and for Primary 5-7 is 32 and as such, presents clear evidence of increasing enrolment.

Current and Historical Enrolment at Bunscoil an Iúir			
Year	Approved Enrolment	Actual Enrolment	Unfilled Places
2012/13	129	86	43
2013/14	129	79	50
2014/15	129	78	51
2015/16	129	87	42

Recent enrolment in the school over the last 3 years shows an upward trend – from 79 to 87 pupils, a growth of 12%. Furthermore, the number of unfilled places is down from 50 to 42, 16% decrease.

School Admissions

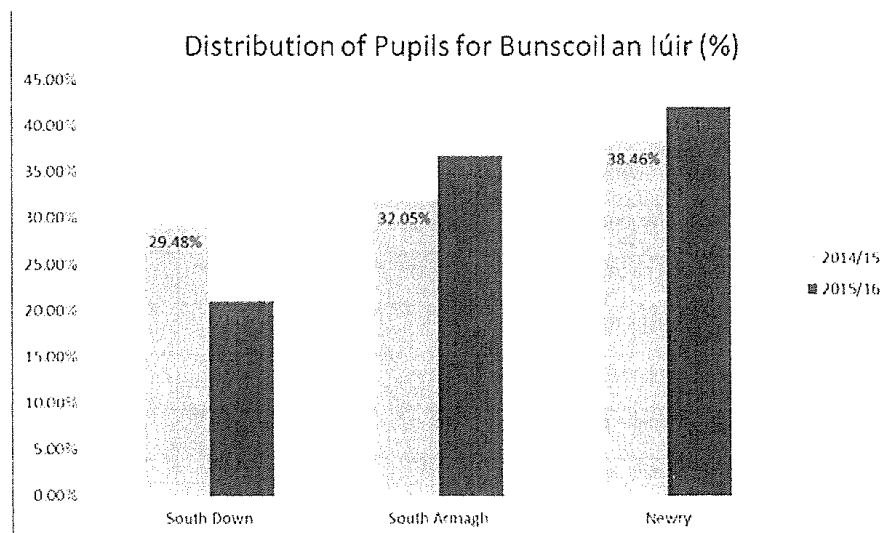
Table A, below, demonstrates the admissions to Bunscoil an Iúir over the past 5 years. With the exception of 2013/14, the enrolment has been steady. The latest figures show that at its current capacity of 16 places (as illustrated in Table B), Naíscoil an Iúir is unable to fully cater for all parents wishing to avail of an Irish-medium primary education for their child. In addition to this, the closure of the nearby Naíscoil Chamlocha (a voluntary naíscoil) has resulted in greater pressure on Naíscoil an Iúir to increase its own capacity in order to respond to the demand.

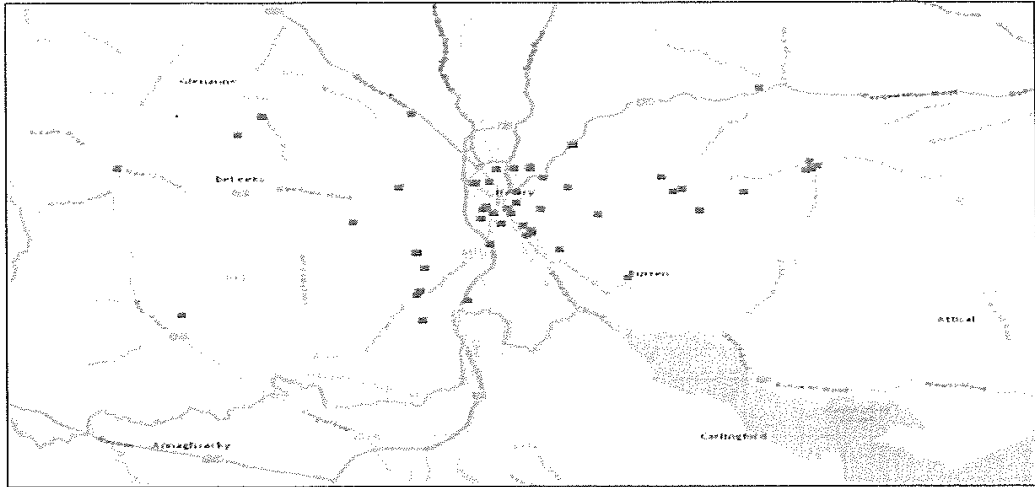
Table A Current and Historical Admissions at Bunscoil an Iúir					
Year	Applications for P1: 1 st Preferences	Total Preferences Considered	Admitted	Approved Admission Number	Temporary Variation Approved (i.e. for one year only)
2011/12	13	13	13	19	-
2012/13	13	13	13	19	-
2013/14	9	9	9	19	-
2014/15	11	11	11	19	-
2015/16	19	21	21	19	2

Table B				
Current and Historical Enrolment at Naíscoil an Iúir				
Year	Preferences	Total Preferences Considered	Admitted	Approved Admission Number
2013/14	10	10	9	11
2014/15	16	16	16	16
2015/16	12	16	16	16

Distribution of Pupils

At present, we have pupils coming from throughout the Newry/South Down/South Armagh areas. The graph below illustrates the growth in attendances from Newry and South Armagh.



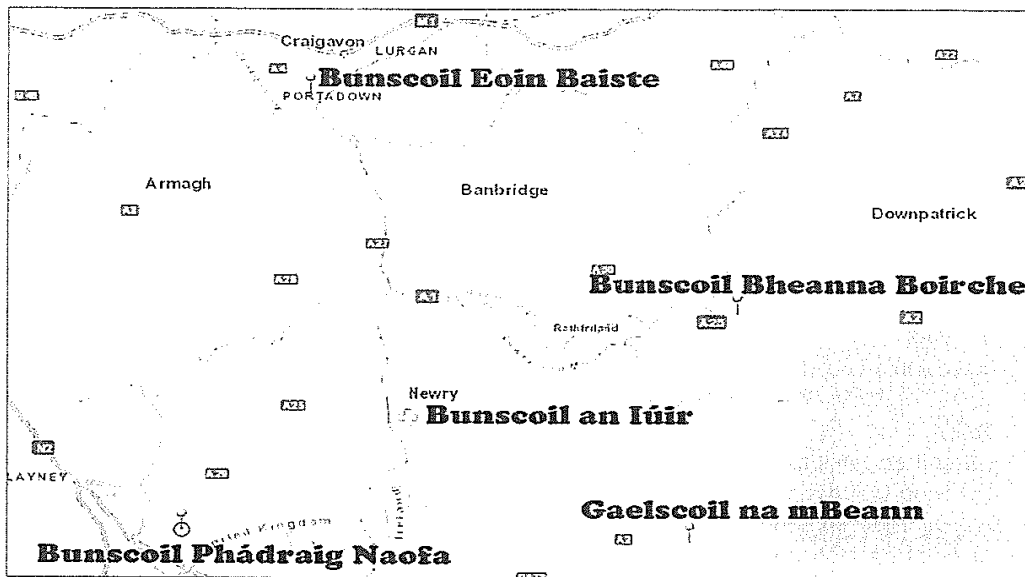


Alternative Schools

If successful, this would result in the only Irish-medium statutory provision to serve Newry & South Armagh. The table and map below illustrates alternative IME Schools;

2014/15 Local Irish-medium Pre-School and Primary 1 Provision							
REF	School Name	Distance (Miles)	Nursery Places (f/t p/t)	Recept.	Voluntary /Private Places	Total Places	P1
4AB0163	Naíscoil Uachtar Tíre	23.5	-	-	24	24	-
4046648	Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche	23.5	-	-	-	-	14
5BB0562	Naíscoil na mBeann	20.4	-	-	16	16	-
5046692	Gaelscoil na mBeann	20.4	-	-	-	-	12
5BB0392	Naíscoil an Banna	24.5	-	-	13	13	-
4031644	Bunscoil Eoin Baiste*	24.5	-	-	-	-	9
503 1148	Gaelscoil Phádraig Naofa**	12.8	-	-	-	-	25
5AB0395	Naíscoil an Chreagáin	19.5	-	-	16	16	-
		Total	0	0	69	69	60

*Irish-medium Unit, Portadown **Irish-medium Unit, Crossmaglen



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

In order to facilitate the employment of staff, the posts of Nursery Teacher and Assistant would need to be drawn up, advertised and interviews conducted. This process should take no longer than 8 weeks.

If the development proposal is approved Naíscóil an Iúir will be managed according to common practice, whereby the majority of the Board of Governors along with representatives of the voluntary Naíscóil and Thomas Davis GAA will be appointed by trustees and founding members of the school. The board will, through its meetings, support the work of the Principal and ensure that the unit carries out its main functions and fulfils its obligations as a public educational institution.

- The unit will be managed the Board of Governors of Bunscoil an Iúir
- The school will follow the curriculum guidelines as they are laid out in the 1989 and 1998 Education Reform Orders, where relevant.
- In conjunction with CCEA, Bunscoil an Iúir will prepare the children who progress from the nursery unit into the primary school so that they may undertake their public examinations through the medium of Irish

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

School Funding

A high-level funding estimate of a 26 place part-time nursery unit for the 2014/15 financial year is £46,708 (full year) according to LMS Common Funding Scheme 2015/16.

Staffing

A nursery teacher and a nursery assistant will need to be provided for the part-time session at a total cost of approx. £30,000.

Accommodation

It is proposed that Naíscoil an Iúir would be based on the site of Thomas Davis GAA, at Doran's Hill. It is further proposed built premises are provided and estimated construction costs at approx. £245,000. There are no site purchase costs as part of this proposal.

Transport

There will be no extra transport costs associated with this development proposal.

Other

Naíscoil an Iúir provides an excellent service to its children and is well connected to its local community. The Board of Governors and Management Committee of the naíscoil believe that Bunscoil and Naíscoil an Iúir's dedicated staff can continue providing an outstanding Irish medium education for the communities of Newry and South Armagh. Moreover, should the relocation of the bunscoil to Doran's Hill materialise it will secure the desired aims of sustainability, accessibility and the provision of quality education to the IME community within this region.

STATUTORY CONSULTATION

During 2013/14 and the current school year parents, staff and governors have been consulted about the future for Naíscoil an Iúir. Committee meetings, staff meetings, parents meetings and Board of Governor meetings have taken place (Copies of minutes enclosed in, Annex 1). The overall findings show consensus for a change of status to Naíscoil an Iúir as a means of increasing the public confidence and pupil enrolment numbers in Irish Medium education in Newry & South Armagh areas.

The decision to submit this Development Proposal was subsequently taken at Board of Governors meeting on 14th October 2015.

Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta have facilitated this process.

Proposer

Maria Nic Fhearchair, Principal, Bunscoil an Iúir

Brian McKinley, Chairperson, Bunscoil an Iúir

Interested Party	Points Raised	
	Support	Objection
Chris Hazzard MLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising not such an issue. • A fully equipped nursery would enhance learning. • A qualified teacher trained to deliver the curriculum. • Transport to school would become available. 	
Former BOG and former parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the best interests of pupils and staff. • A formal, fully accountable, Department resourced relationship between Bunscoil and Naiscoil is desirable. • Will increase parental support for IM provision in Newry. 	
<u>Board of Governors of Bunscoil an Iúir</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory provision would ensure security for future and best resources. • A statutory naiscoil would ensure equal treatment with other nurseries. • No longer dependent on fundraising. • Parents' expectation of a qualified teacher is a factor in enrolment. • More frequent inspections to ensure adherence to the curriculum. • Insecurity caused by need to fundraise would be removed. • As part of this plan to relocate the school it is essential that both the Naiscoil and Bunscoil are on a single site. • A statutory pre-school allows a single direction of management, control and leadership all vital in fulfilling the vision of the Bunscoil long term. • There can be a seamless progression from current to statutory provision. • Close partnership between the bunscoil and naiscoil - an important feeder. • Aware of misgivings on the part of the naiscoil. • Governors aim to support any transition in a managed and transparent way. • There is a good demand for Irish Medium education in the Newry area and a change of status would provide security for the future of the Bunscoil. • Statutory provision would guarantee the future staffing, accommodation and resources required for effective Irish Medium education in the Newry area. • Strong partnership between the two schools would be enhanced with a joint location. • Naiscoil pupils would have access to same facilities as mainstream schools. 	

Interested Party	Points Raised	
	Support	Objection
<u>Bunscoil Teaching Staff</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising not such an issue. • A fully equipped nursery would enhance learning. • Would help develop the Bunscoil and benefit IM education in the area. • No fees for the parents. • More security for staff. 	
<u>Bunscoil Principal</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joined-up approach will help provide the highest standard of education. • Children would benefit from good practice in the Bunscoil. • A qualified teacher would enhance learning and be trained in delivering the curriculum. • Fully equipped nursery setting would enhance learning. • Staff would be more part of the school team and would receive continuous professional development – enhancing good practice and cementing good relations. • Early morning and after school arrangements would benefit parents - could avail of services 8:45 – 17:45. This would encourage enrolment and growth IME in Newry. • In spite of some misgivings confident there can be a smooth transition to statutory provision. 	
<u>Outgoing Management Committee -</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present financial shortfall requires fundraising. • Benefits of becoming statutory: • Breakfast Club; • Bus service; • Longer session; • Hot meals available; • Qualified teacher; • Green space and better facilities (if relocated); • Naiscoil can only cater for 16 children – this limits Bunscoil's intake; • Beneficial to all to have the nursery and Bunscoil 'under the same management umbrella'. 	

Interested Party	Points Raised	
	Support	Objection
<u>New Management Committee</u>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich and nurturing learning environment provided by staff in the Naiscoil. • Do not agree that employing a qualified teacher would enhance the learning experience above what is already provided. • Small class sizes enhance the learning environment, make the pre-school experience a positive one and mean that any development issues/special educational needs can be identified early. • Offering an afternoon service would instantly increase capacity. • Best option for the Naiscoil is to remain as a voluntary pre-school.
<u>Parents</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new status will offer the same benefits as the parents of Bunscoil an lúir currently enjoy. • Early morning and after school arrangements would benefit parents. • The same starting time would be beneficial for parents. • Fundraising not such an issue. • School dinners available. • Fundraising not such an issue. • Fully equipped nursery setting would enhance learning. • A qualified teacher would enhance learning and be trained in delivering the curriculum. • New site would be safer as would have more parking and better drop off and pick up facilities. • Bunscoil is non-denominational so attracting more children would help integration in Newry • School transport would become available. 	
<u>Parents</u>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Naiscoil has advantages of bilingual learning and emphasis on a broad curriculum. • Preschool leaders in Naiscoil have very specific training and skills for the age group. • Smaller class size is beneficial. • The current teachers would be replaced. • Impressed with the Naiscoil & child very happy there. • The Naiscoil is thriving in its present form. • A qualified teacher is not necessary for a nursery school. • Naiscoil would not be able to accommodate 26 pupils.
<u>Others</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would help parents as children could avail of services 8:45 – 17:45. • Fundraising not such an issue. 	

Interested Party	Points Raised	
	Support	Objection
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully equipped nursery setting would enhance learning. • A qualified teacher would enhance learning and be trained in delivering the curriculum. • Access to school transport Naiscoil pupils could travel with older siblings who attend the Bunscoil. • School dinners available. • No weekly fees. • 'One school from nursery through to primary'. • A statutory nursery would receive the best resources • All accommodation, maintenance and staff costs would be covered. • Job opportunities in IM sector in Newry. • Purpose built accommodation. • New site would allow IM sector to flourish and an important sector of the community to realise its' potential. 	

One further e-mail received referred to a Facebook page set up to garner support for the proposal. Letters from Justin McNulty and two others were all received outside the objection period but the issues raised have also been reflected by other respondents.

EDUCATIONAL PROVISION

Bunscoil an Luir Newry was evaluated overall as good in the follow-up inspection in April 2012.

Standards and Achievements: Good

Quality of provision: Good

Leadership & Management :Good

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral. The follow up inspection has identified the need to improve the quality of classroom management in a small number of classes in order to foster more effective learning by the younger children, which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address.

Naiscoil an Luir was evaluated overall as very good in the inspection, May 2014.

Standards and Achievements: Very Good

Quality of provision : Very good

Leadership & Management: Very good

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this naiscoil is very good. The naiscoil is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

ETI KNOWLEDGE

The inspection report of the naiscoil highlighted “the very good pastoral and curricular links with the local bunscoil to provide a smooth transition for the children.” The naiscoil was very good. (May 2014)

The Bunscoil was evaluated as good in their follow-up in 2012. There has been no district visit to the school since the follow-up inspection.

RATIONALE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ETI EVIDENCE

The ETI view would be that a nursery unit is preferable in Irish-medium schools in order to ensure a strong language immersion setting. This is secured usually by the appointment of an Irish language graduate as the nursery unit teacher.

However, in this case it would be important to note the quality of the current pre-school provision. It is a well established setting with experienced early years’ practitioners who also have very good Irish.

MATTERS ARISING OR FURTHER QUERIES BY ETI

ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

RECOMMENDATION

The ETI support the establishment of a grant-aided Irish-medium nursery unit at Bunscoil an Luir, Newry to secure the children's immersion in the Irish language from an Irish language graduate.

EARLY YEARS' DETAILED COMMENTS ON DP 455**Introduction**

The Education Authority, at the request of the Board of Governors of Bunscoil An Iúir, published Development Proposal Number 455 on 14 October 2015 proposing that a 26 part-time place Irish-Medium statutory nursery unit be established at Bunscoil An Iúir from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Case for Change advises that Naíscoil An Iúir, an Irish-Medium voluntary pre-school provider currently located at Bunscoil An Iúir and which provided 16 part-time Irish-Medium pre-school places in the 2015/16 academic year, would close and the new statutory unit would open within the same premises, essentially effecting a change of management type at the setting while increasing the number of places available at the setting from 16 to 26.

Background

The Case for Change does not appear to suggest that the proposal seeks to address a lack of Irish-Medium pre-school places in the area; indeed, the figures provided in the Case for Change document demonstrate that all children whose parents applied for an Irish-medium pre-school place at the setting have received the offer of a funded place. The proposal appears, instead, to have been prompted by a planned change in accommodation for the Bunscoil which led to the consideration of the future of the Naíscoil which is located on the same site.

The Case for Change states that the most tangible benefit of the proposed change would be the employment of a qualified teacher. It does not acknowledge that voluntary pre-school settings may also employ qualified teachers, or advise whether the setting has made any attempt to do so. It suggests that the addition of a qualified teacher to the pre-school provision at the setting would improve linguistic outcomes for children and improve provision for children with Special Educational Needs. It is not entirely clear why this is deemed to be the case, or why the Board of Governors consider provision at the voluntary setting, which was given a 'very good' rating during its most recent ETI inspection (a higher grade than the statutory primary school provision at Bunscoil An Iúir received), to be less effective than teacher led statutory provision. Both the voluntary and statutory pre-school sectors are equally valued by the Department for their contribution to the pre-school education of children, with both following common curriculum guidelines and subject to the same education inspection standards.

The Case of Change also suggests that a change of management type would help facilitate any potential relocation of provision and would be a "logical and practical step" for the primary school, which had 87 pupils and 42 unfilled places in 2015/16 to become a "sustainable and vibrant entity". The document does not explain why the Board of Governors appear to have rejected the option of continuing to share a site with the Naíscoil as a voluntary pre-school provider.

Relevant Policies

The main policies relevant to this proposal are to ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it. This is considered in more detail below.

Learning to Learn – A Framework for Early Years Education and Learning - was published on 7 October 2013. Among its key actions is placing a moratorium on any new or additional full-time provision or conversion from part-time to full-time (defined as over 4.5 hours) in advance of a review of the current levels of full-time provision, existing research and the needs of children being served by it. This proposal is compatible with the moratorium.

The Department has a statutory duty to encourage and facilitate Irish-Medium Education. In accordance with the Review of Irish-Medium Education, registered Irish-Medium providers with sufficient children can be funded under the Department's Pre-School Education Programme even where unfilled English-Medium provision is available in the area. This is considered in more detail below.

It is the Department's practice not to displace good quality pre-school provision already in existence with pre-school provision in an alternative setting. The potential impact of this proposal on existing provision is considered in more detail below.

Officials have also considered consultation responses submitted as part of the Development Proposal process, advice from the Education Authority and Education and Training Inspectorate colleagues and population data from NISRA. (Annexes C and D).

Provision Levels

In determining need, the Department generally assumes a level of provision at 95% of target age children, predicated on the application rate for pre-school places which is approximately 92%; however the level of provision within local areas may be higher or lower based on historic patterns of demand and assessment of ongoing need.

The numbers of pre-school places and associated percentages are measured against the Year One enrolments for 2014/15 and 2015/16.

The analysis of provision below is based on the discontinuation of the 16 part-time funded places currently provided in the voluntary playgroup and the introduction of 26 part-time statutory places as proposed.

Consideration has been given to the total level of pre-school provision within the two and five mile radii of Naíscoil An Iúir and, because Irish-Medium providers may enter the Pre-School Education Programme even where unfilled English-Medium provision is available in the area, to Irish-Medium pre-school provision specifically.

The statistical information available in relation to the level of funded pre-school provision is as follows:-

All Pre-school provision

Level of Pre-school Provision – two mile radius of Bunscoil An Iúir

Year	Statutory places	Non-statutory places	Reception places	Total pre-school provision (ex reception)	P1 places	Level of pre-school provision (%age of P1 places)	Underage children in statutory places
2014/15	313	103	0	416	433	96.1%	0
2015/16	312	102	0	414	439	94.3%	0
2016/17 As proposed	338	86	--	424	439	96.6%	--

The level of provision within the two mile radius is very close to the planning figure of 95. There were no underage children, and no approved temporary flexibility, suggesting that the level of provision is closely matched to demand for places in the area.

Level of Provision – five mile radius of Bunscoil An Iúir

Year	Statutory places	Non-statutory places	Reception places	Total pre-school provision (ex reception)	P1 places	Level of pre-school provision (%age of P1 places)	Underage children in statutory places
2014/15	495	250	0	745	813	91.6%	25
2015/16	494	246	4	740	799	92.6%	20
2016/17 As proposed	520	230	--	750	799	93.9%	--

The level of provision within the five mile radius is just under the 95% planning figure, although a number of underage children accessing statutory pre-school places each year is indicative of slight over provision in the wider area.

Irish-Medium Pre-school provision

In accordance with the Review of Irish-Medium Education, registered Irish-Medium providers with sufficient children can be funded under the Department’s Pre-School Education Programme even where unfilled English-Medium provision is available in the area.

The statistical information available in relation to the level of Irish-Medium funded pre-school provision is as follows:-

Level of Pre-school Provision – two mile radius of Bunscoil An Iúir

Year	Statutory places	Non-statutory places	Reception places	Total pre-school provision (ex reception)	P1 places	Level of pre-school provision (%age of P1 places)	Underage children in statutory places
2014/15	0	16	0	16	11	145.5%	0
2015/16	0	16	0	16	21	76.2%	0
2016/17 As Proposed	26	0	--	26	21	123.8%	--

Irish-Medium Pre-school provision

Level of Pre-school Provision – five mile radius of Bunscoil An Iúir

Year	Statutory places	Non-statutory places	Reception places	Total pre-school provision (ex reception)	P1 places	Level of pre-school provision (%age of P1 places)	Underage children in statutory places
2014/15	0	26	0	26	11	236.4%	0
2015/16	0	16	0	16	21	76.2%	0
2016/17 As proposed	26	0	--	26	21	123.8%	--

As the numbers of Irish medium places in both radii are small, the statistics are less useful in assessing the level of provision.

As is the practice in considering Development Proposals, the comparison above is based on the Primary 1 figures for 2015/16. However, it is notable that the admission and enrolment figures for the school over the last five years show that the P1 class at the school has admitted between 9 and 13 pupils each year until 2015/16, when 21 P1 pupils were admitted. It appears that this higher figure may be an anomaly, as the Education Authority has advised that, based on P1 applications for September 2016, it is anticipated that the school will have 13 pupils in Primary 1 (consistent with the pattern in previous years) and an overall enrolment of 88. If this projection is correct, the proposed level of provision in both the two and five mile radii would increase to 200%.

It should be noted that the Case for Change considered Naíscoil Shliabh gCuilinn in terms of local provision. As Naíscoil Shliabh gCuilinn is outside the 5 mile radius, the Irish medium pre-school provision at the setting has not been included in the figures considered here.

Applications to Irish-medium settings

The table below shows the number of places available and the number of first preference applications received for admission to Naíscoil an Lúir for each of the last three years:

Year	Places available	Total admitted	1 st preference applications received	Total Applications received
2013/14	11	9	10	10
2014/15	16	16	16	16
2015/16	16	16	12	16

In each of the last three years, the Naíscoil has admitted every child who applied for a place at the setting. This, combined with the data set out above, demonstrates that there is already sufficient IME pre-school provision in the area to provide a funded Irish-Medium pre-school place for every child whose parents want it.

It is likely, therefore, that the provision of additional pre-school places at the setting would lead to over provision in pre-school provision and, specifically, Irish-Medium pre-school provision, in the area.

The Case for Change document would appear to suggest that over provision of Irish-medium provision in the area, and the resultant availability of funded Irish-Medium pre-school provision for pre-pre-school children may in fact be an intended outcome of the proposal, as, in setting out the perceived benefits of the proposal, the document refers to Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta advice that parents send their children to a nursery setting for two years.

Temporary Flexibility

No Irish-Medium pre-school providers in the area made a request for Temporary Flexibility in either of the last two years as none were oversubscribed.

Financial Implications

Places in the voluntary/private sector are funded on a per place basis (currently £1801 per annum) and allocated on an annual basis by PEAG taking account of the number of statutory pre-school places available and their assessment of demand.

If a statutory nursery unit is opened at Bunscoil An Iúir, the requirement for recurrent funding, including additional places which may remain vacant or utilised by non-target age children, will transfer from the Pre-School Budget to the Aggregated Schools Budget.

Impact on other provision

The Department's practice in considering development proposals which have sought to move pre-school provision from the non-statutory sector to the statutory sector has been not to displace existing good quality pre-school provision in the area.

The creation of a statutory Irish-Medium nursery unit would involve the closure of the existing good quality voluntary pre-school provider on the site against the wishes of its Management Committee. The associated increase in the number of places could lead to underage children taking up statutory places in the area as demand for Irish medium pre-school places is being fully met with the current level of provision. If demand for IM places in the area were to increase, the Naíscoil has advised that it could accommodate up to 16 additional places by running an afternoon pre-school session.

Summary of Key Points

- The level of provision in both the two and five mile radii indicates that there is sufficient provision within the Irish-Medium sector.
- All children in the area, whose parents wanted an IM place and remained in the admissions process to the end, were offered an IM pre-school place.
- There is no evidence that additional places requested are required to meet demand for Irish-Medium provision in the area.

- If additional places were required, the existing IM provider has advised it could accommodate up to 16 additional children in an afternoon session.
- It is the Department's practice not to displace existing good quality provision with alternative provision of a different management type.
- The Management Committee of Naíscoil An Iúir oppose the proposal and have set out significant concerns about it.

Early Years Team Conclusion

Based on the evidence and information available, the Early Years Team does not support the development proposal that a 26 part-time place Irish-Medium statutory nursery unit be established at Bunscoil An Iúir from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The case for change and available data on enrolments and demand, does not sufficiently evidence the need for additional Irish-Medium pre-school provision in the area and the existing voluntary provider has capacity to provide additional Irish-medium places should such a need arise. The creation of a statutory Irish-Medium nursery unit as proposed could result in high levels of over provision of Irish medium pre-school places in the area.

List of providers

2 Mile	
Nursery Schools	SCHOOLNAME
5116112	Ashgrove Nursery, Newry
5136342	St Malachy's Nursery
PS with Nursery	
Units	
5031130	Cloughoge PS
5031158	St Patrick's PS, Newry St Joseph's Convent PS, Newry
5031340	St Clare's Abbey PS, Newry
5036634	
Vol/Priv	
5AB0227	Rascals 'n' Ruffians Happy Days Playgroup, Newry
5AB0462	Dominican @ Orana Playgroup
5AB0498	Windmill Playgroup
5AB0506	Naíscoil An Iúir
5BB0235	
PS without Nursery	
Unit	
5016451	Windsor Hill PS
5031558	Ballyholland PS
5036409	St Ronan's PS, Newry
5036433	St Malachy's PS, Carnagat
5046597	Bunscoil an Iúir
TOTAL	
PROVISION	
5 mile	
PS with Nursery	
Units	
5011179	Bessbrook PS
5031176	St Peter's PS, Cloughreagh
5031697	St Patrick's PS, Mayobridge
5036064	St Malachy's PS, C'croppan
5036110	St Joseph's PS, Bessbrook
Vol/Priv	
5AB0191	Strawberry Tree Playgroup
5AB0212	Glenn & Barr Playgroup Busy Bees Playgroup, Burren
5AB0228	Meigh Community PreSchool
5AB0329	Kidzone Playgroup
5AB0497	Killeen Playgroup
5AB0541	Naíscoil Chamlocha
5AB0544	
PS without Nursery	SCHOOLNAME

Unit	
5011019	Mullaglass PS
5031154	Killean PS
5031169	St Brigid's PS, Drumilly
5031188	St Joseph's PS, Meigh
5031609	Carrick PS, Warenpoint
5031695	St Mary's PS, Barr
5036572	St Colman's PS, Saval

List of the wards considered for the births statistics

Ballybot
Bessbrook
Burren and Kilbroney
Camlough
Clonallan
Daisy Hill
Derryleckagh
Derrymore
Donaghmore (N&M LGD)
Drumalane
Drumgullion
Fathom
Forkhill
Mayobridge
St Marys
St Patricks
Tullyhappy
Windsor Hill

NISRA local birth rates and population predictions

Officials have considered NISRA local birth rates and population predictions to identify potential future population trends in the area.

- Birth statistics by academic year for all wards which fall at least partially within a 5 mile radius of Naíscoil An Iúir indicate a slight decrease of 3.8% of children in the pre-school cohort between September 2016 and September 2018 admissions. (965 for 2016, 928 for 2018).
- Population projections for 3 year olds for the Newry and Mourne council area predict a steady decrease of 29 (1.8%) children from 1,611 to 1,582 between 2017 and 2031 and then a steady increase of 49 (3.1%) children from 1582 to 1631 between 2031 and 2039.

These figures can, however, only be indicators of the future pre-school population and do not fully take into account population migration and other factors. On that basis they are not an exact predictor of demand. A list of the wards considered for the births statistics can be found in Annex B.

Education Authority Comments

The EA commented that, while they are aware of the duty to promote IM education, the numbers seeking Irish-Medium pre-school provision do not evidence the need for a 26 place nursery unit. The PEAG are also mindful of the principal not to displace good quality existing provision and have indicated that there is no shortfall within the Irish Medium provision and places remain available.

PEAG have advised that Naíscoil Chamlocha left the PSEP voluntarily in June 2015 but only had 5 applicants; one of which transferred to Naíscoil An Iúir and the others transferred to English Medium settings. PEAG recommends that consideration is given to relocating the existing voluntary playgroup to the same future site as Bunscoil An Iúir.

ETI Comments

The ETI has advised that a nursery unit is preferable in Irish-medium schools in order to ensure a strong language immersion setting. This is secured usually by the appointment of an Irish language graduate as the nursery unit teacher.

However, ETI added that it would be important to note the quality of the current pre-school provision which the recent inspection report found to be 'very good', and particularly praised the quality of language education.

Other Comments

The leader of the Naíscoil, the Chair of the Management Committee and a number of parents of Naíscoil pupils, past and present have written to object to the proposal in quite strong terms.

The Chair of the Management Committee advises that the current Committee were elected on 1 February 2016 and had no knowledge of the development proposal and did not have opportunity to consider the proposal. The Committee do not support the development proposal and consider the best option is that they remain a voluntary pre-school.

The leader of the Naíscoil rebuts numerous areas of the development proposal including the rationale for the change and educational impact. In particular, the correspondence points out the quality of provision at the setting and the experience and expertise of its staff. It also explains that any increase in demand of Irish medium provision in the area could be accommodated by the Naíscoil, even within its current accommodation, by providing an afternoon session.

The leader explains that the Naíscoil is fully supportive of the Bunscoil's plan to establish a new school on the Doran's Hill site and states that the Naíscoil staff are looking forward to progressing this shared ambition to allow the provision of a high quality accessible educational facility.

IRISH MEDIUM & INTEGRATED EDUCATION TEAM (IMIE) COMMENTS ON DP 455

Background

1. Irish-medium and Integrated Education (IMIE) Team notes that this Development Proposal references the establishment of a grant aided Irish-medium nursery unit, based on 26 part-time places, at Bunscoil an Iúir, with effect from 1 September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.
2. There is currently a voluntary playgroup (Naíscoil an Iúir) operating at the same location as the Bunscoil, the Naiscoil has 16 PEAG funded places (based on 2015/16 enrolments).
3. In order to establish a new 26 place part-time place nursery unit open at Bunscoil an Iúir, the existing playgroup managing committee would normally be expected to close the pre-school year within the existing voluntary playgroup.

Statutory Duty

4. In light of DE's statutory duty to encourage and facilitate Irish-medium Education and in recognition of the benefits of an immersion experience at pre-school for those pupils wishing to access Irish-medium primary provision, DE considers the need for Irish-medium pre-school provision in the context of Recommendation 2 of the Irish-medium Review (2009) that *Irish-medium providers with sufficient children should be allowed to enter the existing funding programme even where unfilled English-medium provision is available in the area.*

Quality of existing Pre-School Provision

5. The ETI inspection report for Naíscoil an Iúir from May 2014 reported that "In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this Naíscoil is very good." The existing provision must be viewed as representing good quality pre-school provision.
6. The Pre-school Education Programme is a partnership between statutory and voluntary/private pre-school providers and both sectors are equally valued for their contribution to the education of pre-school children. It has been practice not to displace voluntary provision through the establishment of statutory provision where there is sufficient pre-school provision in the area.

Applications to Naíscoil an Iúir

7. The table below shows the number of places available and the number of first preference applications received for admission to Naíscoil an Iúir for each of the last three years.

Year	Places available	Total admitted	1 st preference applications received	Total Applications received
2013/14	11	9	10	10
2014/15	16	16	16	16
2015/16	16	16	12	16

8. In each of the last three years, the Naiscoil has admitted every child who applied for a place at the setting. The number of applications received does not indicate that filling 26 statutory places (if made available) would be readily achievable. This information indicates that there is already sufficient IME pre-school provision in the area to provide a funded Irish-Medium pre-school place for every child whose parents want it.
9. The consultation response from the Naiscoil notes that if additional pre-school places were required in the area it could offer 16 places with an afternoon session. For context the Management Committee of Naiscoil an lúir opposes the proposal.
10. DE and the Education Authority plan to provide sufficient pre-school provision in local areas to meet demand for places: planning is on the basis of providing places equivalent to 95% of target age children across Northern Ireland. The provision is based on ensuring 1 year of pre-school to every family that wants to avail of it. Current levels of provision meet existing demand and the Naiscoil appears willing to extend provision should this be necessary.

Proposed transfer Bunscoil an lúir to a new site

11. IMIE team understands that proposals for transfer of Bunscoil an lúir to a new site are currently under consideration and that a feasibility study for the proposal is awaited from the Education Authority. This proposal envisages the transfer of Naiscoil an lúir in tandem with the proposed site move. The outcome of this study and proposed move cannot be pre-determined.

Enrolments at Bunscoil an lúir

12. The approved enrolment figure for Bunscoil an lúir for 2015/16 was 19, the numbers of pupils actually enrolled in 2015/16 was 21. A temporary variation was necessary to provide for this increase. The enrolment figure for P1 for the 2014/15 year was 11; enrolment figures in 2012/13 were 13 and in 2013/14 15 pupils were enrolled.
13. As above the enrolment figure for Bunscoil an lúir for 2015/16 was 21, while this represented a substantial increase of 10 over the previous year, this would appear to have been an anomaly rather than sustainable growth. IMIE understands that indicative enrolment figures for Bunscoil an lúir for September 2016 have been provided by the EA which would indicate a P1 enrolment of 13 pupils.
14. The existing playgroup has 16 PEAG funded places in 2015/16. As set out in the table below, the highest the number of funded places has been 16 which have been achieved in 2014/15 and 2015/16. The table also records Bunscoil an lúir's Year 1 intakes for the period 2011/12 to 2015/16. The latest intake in 2015/16 was 21 while previous intakes have ranged from 11 to 15 in the previous 4 years. IMIE understands that indicative enrolment figures for Bunscoil an lúir for September 2016 have been provided by the EA which would indicate a P1 enrolment of 13 pupils

Table A PEAG Funded Pre-School Places at Naiscoil an lúir and P1 enrolments at Bunscoil an lúir

Year	PEAG Funded Places at Naiscoil an lúir	P1 enrolments at Bunscoil an lúir
2011/12	14	13
2012/13	9	13
2013/14	14	15
2014/15	16	11
2015/16	16	21

Closure of Naíscoil Chamlocha

15. With the closure of Naíscoil Chamlocha there is no alternative Irish medium pre-school provision within either a 2 or 5 mile radius of Naíscoil an lúir. The case for change notes that 4 of the children previously at Naíscoil Chamlocha were unsuccessful in obtaining a place within Naíscoil an lúir in September 2015, this is presented as an indicator of unmet parental demand. However this may also indicate that the children in question were applying for a second year of pre-school.
16. While it is possible that enrolment figures for the Naiscoil may increase, this is not certain. The consultation response from the Naiscoil notes that if additional pre-school places were required in the area it could offer 16 places with an afternoon session.

Conclusion and Recommendation

17. IMIE team is aware that:

- The maximum number of applications received by Naíscoil an lúir during the period 2013/14 to 2015/16 was 16;
- Bunscoil an lúir has submitted a request for consideration of a move to an alternative site which is to be subject to a feasibility study;
- There is no certainty that the move will be approved;
- Naíscoil an lúir has indicated in its response to the DP that it could if necessary extend provision by providing an afternoon session for 16 children;
- The management committee of Naíscoil an lúir is opposed to the move; and
- There is no clear evidence provided that existing provision needs to be increased

18. While there may be an argument that a transfer to alternative premises for the Bunscoil and that having statutory provision via 26 places at a co-located statutory Naíscoil may increase enrolments there is no certainty in the information presented this would be the outcome.

19. The outcome of the proposed move by Bunscoil cannot be pre-determined or therefore used as a significant factor in reaching a supportive determination. Until there is greater

clarity on the proposed move it would appear unnecessary to create an additional 10 pre-school places, the views of the Management Committee of the Naíscoil should also be considered. If the DP was approved and the Management Committee of the Naíscoil continued with its current provision this could lead to significant over provision.

Recommendation

20. IMIE teams view is that an evidence based need for this Development Proposal has not been clearly established. Supporting this DP would be on the basis of assumptions that cannot at this point be relied upon. There are also risks that the current Management Committee of Naíscoil an Iúir may continue its existing provision.

21. In light of the statutory duty, a reasonable adjustment has been made to pre-school policy to support the funding of Irish-medium pre-school even where unfilled English-medium provision is available in the area. In this case, there is already provision of sufficient Irish-medium pre-school places to meet demand in the area.

22. In line with the Recommendations of the Irish-medium review, children applying for Year 1 at the school already have the opportunity to avail of a high quality pre-school experience. In conclusion, IMIE does not support the Development Proposal for the establishment of a nursery unit at Bunscoil an Iúir.

Investment and Infrastructure Directorate Comments on DP 455

Current Position

Naiscoil an Iúir is currently located in a building which is owned by Newry and Mourne District Council. There are currently 16 pupils attending Naíscóil an Iúir, which is at full capacity due to the physical restraints of the current building.

Additional Accommodation Requirements

The school has asked the Department to progress the relocation of the school from its current site to Doran's Hill, Newry – see further details below. The proposal includes the relocation of the naíscóil to the proposed new site. A feasibility study to determine the suitability of the site has been commissioned from the Education Authority and is awaited. Should this site prove suitable and business case approval for the relocation of the school be approved, and this DP be approved the accommodation on the new site would be provided by way of a single nursery unit in modular accommodation.

Costs and Timescales

In general the time frame for procurement of a modular nursery unit and for obtaining all necessary statutory approvals is at least nine months from the date of approval of the Minor Works application, the cost of such a unit would be in the region of £300k plus VAT and fees. It should however be noted that EOT is not aware of ground conditions of the proposed new site and site works costs cannot be estimated.

Additional Points to Note

The school was vested by way of a lease in 1997.

The school has approached Estate Operations Team to request that the school be relocated to a permanent site at Doran's Hill, Newry. The proposed site is approximately one mile outside Newry and is owned by Thomas Davis, GAA. This size is approximately 2.6 acres in size. EOT has instructed the EA to carry out a feasibility study on the proposed new site, which is awaited.

The Building handbook recommends an area of 1.1ha (or 2.717 acres, approximately) for a 7 class-base primary school with single nursery, plus site specific requirements, eg. any area for bus turning circle, lay-by (or other traffic requirements), or unusable site areas due to contours, etc. The proposed site is therefore undersized by .1 acres.

Curriculum, Qualifications and Standards Directorate (CQSD) Comments on DP 455

1. This DP proposes that the existing 'voluntary' pre-school provision Naíscoil an Iúir changes its status to 'statutory' pre-school provision as a nursery unit under the management of Bunscoil an Iúir. The level of provision proposed is 26 part-time places. The Naiscoil is currently located on the same site as the Bunscoil.
2. Bunscoil an Iúir was last inspected by the ETI in April 2012 – this was a follow-up inspection and the ETI reported that in the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school was 'good'. The school had important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection identified an area for improvement which the school had demonstrated the capacity to address, namely the need to improve the quality of classroom management in a small number of classes in order to foster more effective learning by the younger children.
3. The enrolment at Bunscoil an Iúir is 87 in 2015/16 however it is noted that 21 pupils were enrolled in Year 1 in September 2015. Over the previous 4 years the enrolment had fallen from 92 in 2011/12 to 78 in 2014/15. The enrolment is below the threshold for a rural primary school (105 pupils) though it is noted that the existing site is restricted which may limit the school's ability to grow.
4. Naíscoil an Iúir was inspected in May 2014 and the ETI reported that in the areas inspected, the quality of education provided was 'very good'. The naiscoil was meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and had demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.
5. The enrolment at the Naíscoil was 16 in 2014/15 and 2015/16. The proposers state that the Naíscoil is unable to fully cater for all parents wishing to avail of a future IM primary education for their child however no evidence is provided to support this. They also advise that the closure of Naíscoil Chamlocha (voluntary provider in Camlough) means that there will be an increased demand for places at Naíscoil an Iúir though there is no indication as to what that level of demand would be (per DE statistics, in 2014/15 Naíscoil Chamlocha had a total enrolment of 21 including 10 funded places).
6. The Case for Change paper sets out the educational impact of the proposal from the proposer's perspective, which include:
 - a qualified teacher will be employed to teach in the Naiscoil. This is considered by the proposers as an important factor in affording the best opportunity for the children to develop their linguistic skills. They also consider that a qualified teacher would be better placed to identify and cater for children with SEN;
 - bringing the Naíscoil under the management of the Bunscoil would facilitate the relocation of both providers to a new site at Doran's Hill, if that comes to fruition at a future date;
 - bringing the Naíscoil under the management of the Bunscoil would have a positive impact on the future sustainability of both the providers
7. The proposer advises that the existing site at Kilmorey Street, Newry is restricted and this is having "*an adverse effect on the day to day running of the bunscoil and naiscoil. It is having a negative impact on the development of IME in the wider community*" and "*it is hampering the growth of the naiscoil and consequently, undermining the sustainability of the school.*" Later in

the Case for Change document it states that “*It is proposed that Naiscoil an lúir would be based on the site of Thomas Davis GAA at Doran’s Hill*” and that “*built premises are provided*” at an estimated construction cost of approx. £245,000. This is the potential site for the relocation of the Bunscoil. This would indicate that the existing site is too restricted to facilitate the proposed nursery unit for 26 part-time places and that it could only be accommodated if the school relocated to Doran’s Hill.

RECOMMENDATION

8. CQSD does not consider it is appropriate for Bunscoil an lúir to be seeking to establish a statutory nursery unit at this time. The bunscoil needs to be able to demonstrate the sustainability of its Year 1 to Year 7 provision. In addition, given the restricted nature of the existing site it is suggested that any consideration of this proposal should be deferred until the future location of the bunscoil and associated naiscoil is agreed. **CQSD does not support this Proposal.**

Access, Inclusion & Wellbeing Directorate Comments on DP 455

Given that the establishment of a statutory pre-school nursery unit will lead to the employment of a qualified teacher, which will improve the provision to identify and cater for children with SEN, and the unit will also be able to avail of additional services from the EA, including Educational Psychology services, SET (Special Education Team) would be supportive of this DP.

Primary School Annual Area Profile June 2016

DE Ref No:	School Name:	Status:	Council Area:
5046597	Bunscoil an luir	Other Maintained	NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN

Annual Census Information			
Year	Total pupils Y1-Y7	IMU	FSME %
2012/13	86	0	37.2
2013/14	79	0	41.8
2014/15	78	0	39.7
2015/16	87	0	35.6
Approved Reception – Year 7 enrolment number			129
Approved Reception – Year 7 admissions number			18
Year 1 Pupils 2015/16			21
First Preferences Applications 2015/16			19

Formal Intervention	
In formal intervention any period 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016	

Budgets			
Year	Available Delegated Resources £	Surplus/Deficit £	Surplus/Deficit %
2012/13	355,746	61,709	17.35%
2013/14	380,952	84,181	22.10%
2014/15	391,445	69,351	17.72%

KEY TO SYMBOLS & TEXT USED IN DATA ABOVE	
Symbol / Text	Definition
*	Relates to fewer than 5 cases.
#	Means that a figure greater than or equal to 5 had been treated to prevent disclosure of a small number elsewhere
-	School not open in the relevant academic year
n/a	No year 7 pupils