

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

19 June 2019

UPDATE ON GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN 2018-23

Report by Depute Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer (Report No. 19/191)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides Council with an update on implementation of the Perth and Kinross Council Gaelic Language Plan 2018 – 2023.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUE

- 1.1 The Council's second [Gaelic Language Plan \(GLP\) 2018-2023](#) prepared under section 3 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was approved by Full Council on 20 December 2017.
- 1.2 The GLP is a statutory plan and supports the delivery of the objectives of the National Plan for Gaelic. The 2018 – 2023 PKC Gaelic Language Plan was approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on the 8 March 2018.

2. PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTATION

- 2.1 The GLP sets out four corporate steps/commitments for Gaelic which include targets in relation to increasing the use of Gaelic, the learning of Gaelic at all levels and the promotion of Gaelic.
- 2.2 The commitments are set out under 4 steps and progress over the first year of the plan is detailed below.

Step 1: We recognise Gaelic as a living language. We will increase the visibility and use of Gaelic with our staff, communities and partners.

- 2.3 The Council has continued to actively promote Gaelic services demonstrating equal respect for Gaelic and English in delivering bilingual services and resources. 7 corporate documents were published in Gaelic and English during 2018/19.
- 2.4 The Council has increased the presence of Gaelic in its social media posts including the promotion of Gaelic services and events.
- 2.5 The Gaelic translation of the Council name is now used on the Council website and staff are encouraged to have bilingual email signatures.
- 2.6 Bilingual signage was installed at Perth Academy in 2018/19. Future sign replacements will incorporate bilingual directions where appropriate

Step 2: We will continue to develop and invest in frontline services which enable Gaelic to be spoken and learned at home, at school and in the community.

- 2.7 Two informal groups for 0-5s are delivered in Perth and Aberfeldy areas where Gaelic education is also available at primary/secondary school. The numbers of young people and parents accessing these groups continue to increase with over 80 children registered in 2019. Work is being carried out to recruit Gaelic early childhood practitioners for Gaelic Medium Nursery provision at Goodlyburn Primary school and Breadalbane Academy. A question on Gaelic provision was included in the early learning and childcare consultation with parents/carers 2018/19.
- 2.8 The Council works with the Scottish Book Trust and Culture Perth and Kinross to deliver regular Gaelic Bookbug sessions across Perth & Kinross with monthly sessions taking place at AK Bell Library and Goodlyburn Primary School. Additional sessions have taken place in Crieff, Kinross, Alyth, Blairgowrie and Aberfeldy in 2018/19. Gaelic input has been included in Bookbug Session Leader Training in Perth & Kinross.
- 2.9 The numbers of pupils entering Gaelic Medium Education (GME) have continued to increase on an annual basis with a total of 48 pupils in GME in 2018/19, this is an increase of 10 pupils since 2017/18. The Council continues to promote and raise awareness of GME and has introduced an annual programme of transition sessions for early years at both primary schools where GME is available.
- 2.10 The Council continues to support Gaelic Education in secondary schools and throughout 2018/19 worked with Developing The Young Workforce Perth & Kinross to include Gaelic within three careers events focusing on Tourism and Hospitality.
- 2.11 We have continued to support Gaelic Learners Education in Primary Schools (GLPS) across Highland Perthshire. In 2018/19 St Dominics Primary School in Crieff began delivering GLPS which increased the number of primary pupils accessing Gaelic language learning from 619 to 654. GLPS training courses are offered to all primary teachers in Perth and Kinross and support Gaelic as part of the 1+2 initiative.
- 2.12 There are currently 8 Gaelic classes for adults delivered by PKC in communities across Perth and Kinross, this includes Perth, Aberfeldy and Rattray with 149 adult learners in 18/19. Gaelic language taster sessions have also been delivered across the area with a total of 321 participants.
- 2.13 Through funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF) fund the Council has delivered 15 community learning events and activities for all ages exploring Gaelic language and culture in 2018/19 this includes an Gaelic Days and evening events in Kinross, Perth, Aberfeldy, Crieff and Alyth.

Step 3: Our people are central to delivering great public services. We will develop and invest in their Gaelic learning.

- 2.14 Gaelic language skills training and development are offered to all PKC staff, elected members and staff working for our community planning partners. These opportunities are mainly funded with GLAIF funding. This includes weekly classes, one off taster sessions, Gaelic awareness sessions, exploring Gaelic in the Perth and Kinross landscape, conversation classes and supporting staff to attend distance learning and short courses. At total of 299 staff have benefited from Gaelic Learning Opportunities in 18/19, this includes sessions exploring the Gaelic Landscape across Perth and Kinross.
- 2.15 Staff working in Gaelic including those working in education are supported to maintain and develop their language skills and professional practice through providing workplace learning opportunities, supporting them to attend national conferences and networking events and providing support towards short and distance learning courses.

Step 4: Gaelic is part of our heritage and our modern day Story of Place. We will actively promote it as part of the unique cultural identity of Perth and Kinross.

- 2.16 The first annual volunteer-run Fèis takes place in September 2019. The council has worked with community groups, individuals and national organisation Fèisean nan Gàidheal to support the development of this event. *Fèis Thatha* (Tay) will provide young people and adults from across Perth and Kinross with the opportunity to explore Gaelic language and traditional music through a weekend of tuition.
- 2.17 Perth will host the 2021 Royal National Mòd. The Council is working with national organisation An Comunn Gàidhealach and local partners to deliver the event which will take place from the 8th – 16th October 2021. This will be the first time Scotland's premier Gaelic festival has been in Perth for 17 years. The Annual Perthshire and Angus Provincial Mod has been held in Aberfeldy for almost 100 years. It currently takes place within the Breadalbane Academy Community Campus in June each year. It is one of the biggest Provincial Mods in Scotland and regularly attracts over 700 junior and senior competition entries. The junior entries include many of the pupils from the GMPE schools.
- 2.18 Gaelic language and culture has been highlighted within large-scale Council-run events including Perth's Hallowe'en Weekend, the Perth Salute and Riverside Light Nights programme.
- 2.19 The Council has worked in partnership with local cultural organisations and community groups to support and develop an annual programme of Gaelic events and activities for all ages across the area. This includes:-
- The development of the Hamish Matters Festival in Eastern Perthshire;
 - Soutar Festival of Words 2019 with Culture Perth & Kinross;

- Two Gaelic days in partnership with Birks Cinema, Aberfeldy;
- Gaelic learning and arts events at Kinross Winter festival;
- Book Week Scotland events in Perth, Kinross and Alyth.

2.20 Visit Scotland launched the Gaelic Tourism Strategy for Scotland 2018 - 23 in October 2018. PKC formed part of the working group in the development stages in the plan. This included identifying opportunities in the Perth and Kinross area.

3. RESOURCING THE PLAN

3.1 The Council applies for assistance from external bodies for specific programmes.

3.2 A bid is submitted to the Scottish Government Grant for Gaelic Education on an annual basis. £110,000 was received for 2018/19. The same amount has been received for 2019/20.

3.3 The Council submitted 2 successful funding bids to Bòrd na Gàidhlig's GLAIF securing funding for the following projects in 2018/19 to support GLP progress:

- Gaelic in The Community - £14,650 for the delivery of Gaelic activities and events, which include traditional music and adult learning classes, across Perth and Kinross.
- Gaelic in The Workplace - £11,400 for the delivery of workplace language classes and staff development opportunities for PKC staff and CPP staff.

3.4 Funding was also secured from Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Early Years fund to support the delivery of early year's provision through venue and play assistant costs for two Gaelic Playgroups.

4. MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PLAN

4.1 The 2018 – 2023 GLP was developed by a working group consisting of officers from across the Council including:

- Human Resources
- Organisational Development
- Corporate Communications
- Education and Children's Services
- Culture & Community Services
- Community Planning
- The Environment Service
- Corporate Finance

4.2 The working group will continue to monitor the plan on a quarterly basis.

5. WORKING WITH PARTNERS AND EXTERNAL AGENCIES

- 5.1 The Council works closely with local partners, community groups and organisations to deliver the actions in the Gaelic Language Plan.
- 5.2 The Gaelic in The Workplace initiative has supported staff from partners to develop their awareness of Gaelic and Gaelic languages skills. This includes staff from Culture Perth & Kinross, PKAVS, Scottish Natural Heritage, Police Scotland, Horsecross Arts, P&K Heritage Trust and P&K Countryside Trust.
- 5.3 The Council participates in national working groups for Gaelic Education, Gaelic Language Planning, Early Years and Community Learning and Development alongside other local authorities and public bodies.
- 5.4 A regional group for Gaelic in the east of Scotland has been formed by PKC, Dundee City Council, Fife Council, Aberdeen City Council and Angus Council. This group has recently secured funding for a research project into Gaelic in the east of Scotland. A team from the University of Aberdeen will lead on this.

6. AREAS FOR FUTURE FOCUS

- 6.1 Overall, good progress has been achieved with implementation of the Perth and Kinross GLP in key areas.
- 6.2 In Bòrd na Gàidhlig feedback to the Council, the following areas were highlighted as requiring further development:
- Ensuring Council signage, logos and social media communications are bilingual.
- 6.3 An annual update on the plan to BnG is due in March 2020.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 7.1 This report details the strong progress made towards implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2023.
- 7.2 It is recommended that the Council:
- (i) Note the progress made in implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2023 and feedback from Bòrd na Gàidhlig on strengths and areas for future development.

Author(s)

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Jim Valentine	Depute Chief Executive (Chief Operating Officer)	14 May 2019

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	Yes
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	No
External	No
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 Successful delivery of the Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 contributes to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens

This report relates to Objective No (i) and (ii).

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2013-2023 and Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2013/2018 set out five strategic objectives:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;

This report relates to Objective No (i) and (ii).

- 1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area:

- Learning: Realising Potential

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 The Council submits a bid to the Scottish Government Specific Grant for Gaelic Education on an annual basis and secured £110K in 2018/19
- 2.2 The Council submitted 3 successful funding bids to Bòrd na Gàidhlig GLAIF fund securing funding for the following projects in 2018/19:
- Gaelic in the community
 - Gaelic in the workplace

Workforce

- 2.3 The Gaelic Language Plan has provided opportunities for staff development in relation to learning staff accessing Gaelic awareness and training classes.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 N/A

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 The proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- (i) Assessed as not relevant for the purposes of EqIA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The proposals have been considered under the Act and

However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Committee are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Committee are not being requested to approve, adopt or agree to an action or to set the framework for future decisions.

Sustainability

- 3.3 N/A

Legal and Governance

- 3.4 N/A

Risk

3.5 N/A

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 The Gaelic Language Plan Working Group was consulted in reporting on the progress of the Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23.

External

4.2 Bòrd na Gàidhlig were consulted on our progress in implementing the Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23.

5. Communication

5.1 The Gaelic Development Officer will communicate with the Gaelic Language Plan Working Group in implementing any recommendations.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report:

Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23.

7. APPENDICES

7.1 A link to the Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 is included in the introduction of this report.