

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

20 December 2017

GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN 2018-2022

Report by Senior Depute Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report summarises the development process for the new Council Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2022. It asks Council to approve the Plan subject to final review by Bòrd na Gàidhlig which monitors Gaelic Language Plans on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUE

- 1.1 The Council's first Gaelic Language Plan (GLP) 2012-2017 <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=14727&p=0> was approved by Full Council on 19 December 2012. The GLP is a statutory plan intended to support the promotion and protection of the Gaelic language in Scotland. Implementation of the GLP is monitored by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the national Gaelic language agency which formally advises Scottish Ministers on matters related to the language. Delivery is coordinated by the Council. Council last received a delivery progress update on the 2012-2017 Gaelic Language Plan in February 2017. This will expire at the end of 2017.
- 1.2 The new draft GLP has been submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for feedback and feedback will be provided by 20 December 2017. There has already been significant dialogue with Bòrd na Gàidhlig during the development phase of the GLP.

2. GAELIC WORKING GROUP

The GLP has been developed by a working group consisting of officers from across the Council including:

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

3. OUTLINE OF THE GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN (GLP)

The plan sets out Perth & Kinross Council's strategic commitments, key performance results and enabling actions with the priority of the National Plan for Gaelic. These commitments are set out in 4 Steps:

- Step 1: We recognise Gaelic as a living language. We will increase the visibility and use of Gaelic with our staff, communities and partners.
- Step 2: We will continue to develop and invest in front line services which enable Gaelic to be spoken and learned at home, at school and in the community.
- Step 3: Our people are central to delivering great public services. We will develop and invest in their Gaelic learning.
- 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.

4. CONSULTATION ON THE GLP

- 4.1 The draft GLP for 2018-2022 was issued for public consultation from 18 September – 27 October 2017. The consultation was available online as a survey and was also made available in libraries and Community Campuses across Perth & Kinross.
- 4.2 67 responses were received and a summary of the feedback received is at Appendix A. The largest number of responses were in relation to provision of Gaelic education. A number of respondents also commented on the importance of promoting Gaelic culture and heritage. There was positive feedback from respondents about the clarity of the layout and the key priorities set out in the GLP.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 This report provides an overview of the Gaelic language Plan 2018-2022.
- 5.2 It is recommended that the Council:
- (i) Approves the implementation of the new GLP 2018-2022 subject to any final review comments received from Bòrd na Gàidhlig after 20 December 2017.

Author

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
John Fyffe	Senior Depute Chief Executive	5 December 2017

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	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	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 Successful delivery of the Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2022 contributes to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan 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 2017-2027 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 GLP identifies where financial resources are required to deliver the commitments it includes. Commitments in relation to corporate communications, signage etc are intended to be proportionate: for example bilingual signage will be installed when signs are due for renewal. Many Gaelic related initiatives are externally funded via Scottish Government or Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The Council will continue to submit bids for this external funding in order to implement key GLP commitments in education and elsewhere.

Workforce

- 2.3 There are no direct workforce implications to this report. 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)

- 2.4 There are no asset management implications to this report.

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 however, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Council are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Council 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 and ECS SMT have been consulted during the development stages of the draft Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2022.

External

4.2 A public consultation on the draft plan took place 18 September – 27 October 2017.

The draft GLP for 2018 – 2022 was submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig in November 2018 for approval.

5. Communication

5.1 A Communications Plan will be prepared to support the launch of the GLP once approved. .

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:

Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2022.

7. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2022.

Appendix 2 – Public Consultation Feedback Summary