



REPORT TO: CORPORATE COMMITTEE ON 8 NOVEMBER 2022

SUBJECT: MORAY COUNCIL GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN 2022-2027

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To ask Committee to approve the Moray Council Gaelic Language Plan 2022-2027
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (B) (41) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the formulation and review of Council wide policy, strategies, priorities and objectives.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee approves the Moray Council Gaelic Plan 2022-27 prior to formal submission to Bord na Gaidhlig, included as Appendix 1.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 30 August 2022 Committee agreed the draft Moray Council Gaelic Language Plan 2022-27 (para 11 of the minute refers), and agreed to consult on the draft plan for the statutory minimum period of 6 weeks.
- 3.2 The consultation on the draft plan started on 1 September, and included the following consultation and engagement activities:
- Head Teachers input on 1 September 2022;
 - Survey monkey consultation, shared on social media and on the Councils' webpage;
 - Circulation via tsiMoray's newsletter;
 - Inputs to Moray Gaelic Group;
 - Participation in the Gaelic inputs at the Scottish Learning Festival;
 - Correspondence with Feis Moray and Moray College.

- 3.3 There has been a low response to the survey, with anticipated comments on Doric provision. Some respondents have confused this consultation with the Scots and Gaelic Language Bill consultation, which has been ongoing at the same time. However, new learners have come forward and Dallas Primary School has indicated an interest in progressing provision. Moray UHI have welcomed the plan stating: “the measures will increase awareness and encourage engagement. Small steps are important and the steps proposed will provide the building blocks needed to meet statutory obligations and beyond.” Feis Moray have had interest in relaunching “Come and try” music and song provision, which would be free for participants. If the pilot sessions are popular their intention would be to offer lessons at a reasonable cost. This would be instead of delivering a large Feis. Moray Gaelic Group have welcomed the plan and in particular, the proposal to develop a Gaelic forum. 57 Council employees have indicated an interest in Gaelic linked to the skills audit. However, one respondent noted that the plan did not demonstrate how Moray Council would increase the visibility of Gaelic, e.g. through the addition of Fàilte gu Moraibh on Council building signage and the Moray Council Website.
- 3.4 The draft Moray Council Gaelic Plan 2022-27 has been updated to take account of responses to the consultation and a final version is included as **Appendix 1**. If approved the Plan will be submitted to Bord Na Gaidhlig for approval. The Bord may request amendments following assessment of our Plan. Any requested amendments will be brought back to Committee for approval prior to publication of the final agreed Moray Gaelic Plan.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The development and promotion of the Gaelic Language is not a specific priority within the Corporate Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan, however it aligns with the corporate and partner vision of:

- Ensuring a life of opportunity for all, where we can thrive in vibrant communities and work together to enrich our future.
- Raising Aspirations through expanded choices, improved livelihoods and wellbeing.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 requires relevant public authorities to prepare a Gaelic Language Plan on receipt of a formal notice from Bord Na Gaidhlig.

(c) Financial implications

There are no specific financial implications highlighted in this report, however there will be an impact on service budgets in taking forward the targets set out in the Plan. There are currently no Moray Council budgets allocated to the development of the Gaelic language.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no specific risks relating to this paper, other than the financial and staffing risks highlighted in sections (c) and (e).

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no specific staffing implications arising directly from this report, however Service Managers will be required to allocate staff time to progress actions to achieve the targets set out in the Plan. This will impact on other priority areas of work.

(f) Property

The Property implications relate to bi-lingual signage only.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

There are no equalities issues arising directly from this report. The implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan will ensure we meet the national requirement to demonstrate equal respect for Gaelic and English, while still recognising and acknowledging the importance of the Scots language across Moray and the North-East of Scotland.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

There are no climate change or biodiversity issues arising directly from this report.

(i) Consultations

All Heads of Service and the Corporate Management Team have been consulted and any comments incorporated into the report.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Members are asked to acknowledge the statutory requirement to develop and implement a Gaelic Language Plan for Moray to include strategies to increase the number of Gaelic speakers, to encourage its use and to facilitate access to Gaelic language and culture in line with the National Gaelic Language Plan, and to approve the Moray Gaelic Plan 2022-27 prior to submission to Bord na Gaidhlig.**

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Background Papers:	
Ref:	SPMAN-9425411-83 SPMAN-9425411-86