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**REPORT TO: CORPORATE COMMITTEE ON 30 AUGUST 2022**

**SUBJECT: MORAY COUNCIL GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN 2022-2027 -  
DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION**

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

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To ask Committee to consider and comment on the draft Moray Council Gaelic Language Plan 2022-2027 (**Appendix 1**).
- 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:**

- (i) **Considers and comments on the draft Gaelic Language Plan 2022-2027**
- (ii) **Agrees to consult with the public and relevant national and local bodies on the draft Gaelic Language Plan, before agreeing a final version of the plan at Corporate Committee on 8 November 2022 prior to formal submission to Bord na Gaidhlig.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 requires relevant public authorities to prepare a Gaelic Language Plan. Moray Council's first Gaelic Language Plan was published in 2017. The latest monitoring report on the 2017 Plan is included as Appendix C within the draft 2022-27 Gaelic Language Plan (**Appendix 1**). The next iteration of our Plan is due with the Bord Na Gaidhlig (the principal Gaelic body in Scotland) by the end of this year.

- 3.2 High Level Aims for the new plan were developed in discussion with Bord Na Gaidhlig, relevant senior managers, and our Corporate Gaelic Group. These high level aims must be closely linked to the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 (The Moray Council high level aims are included as Appendix B within the draft Plan (**Appendix 1**)).
- 3.3 The national guidance on the development of Gaelic Language Plans states that Plans should be proportionate and take account of the local situation, however they should also be supportive of the aims of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and demonstrate equal respect for Gaelic and English.
- 3.4 The Council is required to consult on its draft Gaelic Language Plan for a minimum of six weeks. The consultation will start on 1 September 2022.
- 3.5 Following consultation a revised version of the Plan, taking account of comments received, will be brought back to Corporate Committee for approval prior to formal submission to Bord Na Gaidhlig. The Board may request amendments following assessment of our final Plan. Any requested amendments will be brought back to Committee for approval prior to publication of the final agreed 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 currently no Moray Council budgets allocated to the development of the Gaelic language.

External funding is available to support some of the targets set out within the plan. Previous applications for external funding have included:

- 2021-22 Gaelic Specific Grant for Education

Partnership bid with Moray Gaelic Group and Moray College. £3,000 received to take forward actions within the Gaelic Language Plan, including the purchase of 248 Gaelic books for the library service, and resources to ensure we can maintain a permanent collection.

- 2022-23 Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund

Partnership bid with Moray College. £3,000 to support a number of initiatives including adult learning and family learning activities, an author session during National book week, and the Moray delivery of Global Gaelic Week.

The Corporate Gaelic Group will continue to identify and apply for external funding. There may be an impact on service budgets as we progress with the action plan, however activities will be progressed in a proportionate way, with spend kept to a minimal level where possible.

**(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 may 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**

The Corporate Management Team, all Heads of Service, the Equal Opportunities Officer, the HR Manager and Lindsey Robinson, Committee Services Officer 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 provide feedback on the draft Plan prior to consultation.**

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Background Papers:  
Ref: SPMAN-9425411-51  
SPMAN-9425411-52