

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 4 JUNE 2019

DRAFT GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN 2019 - 2024

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF HR, DIGITAL ENABLEMENT, IT & BUSINESS SUPPORT

ABSTRACT

This report presents a second iteration of a draft Gaelic Language Plan for Angus, as required by legislation.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approves the draft Gaelic Language Plan 2019 – 2024
- (ii) delegates authority to the Chief Executive to make any changes as appropriate, following conclusion of a minimum six week statutory public consultation period, and submit the draft Plan to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for their approval.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN

2.1 The priorities of this plan will contribute to the following local outcomes of providing:

- More opportunities for people to achieve success
- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
- A skilled and adaptable workforce

3. BACKGROUND

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was passed by the Scottish Parliament with a view to securing the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland, commanding equal respect with the English language.

The Act requires the public sector in Scotland to play its part in creating a sustainable future for Gaelic by raising its status and profile in the community, workplace, home and in places of learning.

The Act also established Bòrd na Gàidhlig, a statutory, non-departmental body to promote the use and understanding of the Gaelic language throughout Scotland.

Part of the Bòrd's role is to require public bodies, as it deems appropriate, to prepare and publish Gaelic Language Plans. Angus Council is one of many public authorities to receive a statutory notice some years ago to produce a Gaelic Language Plan (ours was from 2014 – 2019), and review it at the end of five years. This draft Gaelic Language Plan is the second iteration from the 2019 – 2024 Plan.

4. CURRENT POSITION

A draft Gaelic Language Plan (2019 – 2024) for adoption by the Council is attached. We have taken a proportionate approach, whilst still ensuring that the draft Plan has been prepared within the framework of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, in accordance with statutory

criteria set out in the 2005 Act, and having regard to the National Plan for Gaelic and the Guidance on the Development of Gaelic Language Plans.

The draft Plan sets out how we will use Gaelic in the operation of our functions, how we will enable the use of Gaelic when communicating with the public and key partners, how we will promote and develop Gaelic, and reports on any developments over the last five years.

As required by Bòrd na Gàidhlig the draft Plan must undergo a minimum six week period of public consultation. Following approval by the Policy and Resources Committee, the draft Plan will be translated into Gaelic, and the public consultation period will begin. Subsequently, the draft Plan will be submitted to the Bòrd by 16 September 2019 for their approval.

Subject to Committee approval of the draft Plan, and the forthcoming summer recess, authorisation is therefore sought for the Chief Executive to amend the Plan as appropriate, following the conclusion of the public consultation, and then to submit it formally to Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

Failure to produce a second iteration of our Gaelic Language Plan will result in a breach of the legislation.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the terms of this report

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Doreen Phillips, Senior Practitioner (Equalities)

EMAIL DETAILS: phillipsd@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices:

1. The draft Gaelic Language Plan 2019 – 2024
2. The internal Gaelic capacity audit (i.e. staff survey)