

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 27 February 2018

Gaelic Language Plan, 2018-2022: Update on Progress

Item number	8.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	

Executive Summary

This report is in response to Section 3 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 which places a statutory duty on the City of Edinburgh Council to produce a Gaelic Language Plan every five years and to the Council's commitment to support the continued development of Gaelic in Edinburgh, including Gaelic Medium Education.

The report provides an overview of progress to date with the production of the plan and the next steps required to ensure its completion.

Geàrr-chunntas Riaghlaidh

Tha an aithisg seo mar fhreagairt do Earrann 3 de dh'Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005 a tha a' cur dleastanas reachdail air Comhairle Baile Dhùn Èideann gus Plana Gàidhlig a chruthachadh a h-uile còig bliadhna agus ri dealas na Comhairle gus taic a chur ri leasachadh leantainneach air Foghlam Tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Tha an aithisg a' toirt sealladh farsaing dhen adhartas gu ruige seo a thaobh cruthachadh a' phlana agus na h-ath-cheuman a tha a dhìth gus dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid a chrìochnachadh.

Gaelic Language Plan, 2018-2022: Update on Progress

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the progress in developing the Gaelic Language Plan 2018-22 and that an extension has been sought from Bòrd na Gàidhlig for submission to them. This will enable proper regard to be paid to the extensive responses made to the public consultation on the draft report.
- 1.2 Committee is asked to approve that the *Gaelic Language Plan 2018-22: Report on Feedback From Public Consultation* can be circulated as a public document.
- 1.3 The Committee is asked to note the progress being made with secondary Gaelic Medium Education (GME) which continues alongside the development of the Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 This plan is being developed in response to Section 3 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, which places a statutory duty on the City of Edinburgh Council to produce a plan every five years.
- 2.2 This second edition of the plan builds upon the lessons learnt and achievements made since the first edition of the plan, produced in 2012, which received positive feedback from Bòrd na Gàidhlig.
- 2.3 The production of the report is overseen by the Gaelic Implementation Group, set up to provide a forum for the City of Edinburgh Council to engage with key stakeholders on development of the Gaelic Language Plan and supported by the Co-Production Group. In collaboration with the Co-Production Group, a draft plan was produced in September 2017 and was used as the basis of an extensive consultation exercise, which closed on 15 December 2017.

3. Main report

- 3.1 This second edition of the City of Edinburgh Council's Gaelic Language Plan (GLP) builds on the progress and lessons learnt from the first plan, and focuses on developing more fluent Gaelic speakers, by offering more Gaelic learning opportunities, improving relations with Gaelic communities and building the profile of Gaelic across the city.
- 3.2 Between October and December 2017, the Council carried out a public consultation on a draft of the second GLP asking for feedback from pupils and parents engaged in Gaelic Medium Education and Gaelic Learners Education, Gaelic community

groups, teachers, Gaelic cultural groups, as well as the wider community. The consultation was carried out using an online survey, available in both Gaelic and English, to allow interested individuals and groups to provide their comments and suggestions. The majority of responses submitted were from existing members of the Gaelic community, particularly parents or carers of pupils from Gaelic Medium Education.

- 3.3 There were 387 responses to the consultation via the online platform and by letter and email. The majority of the respondents agreed with the vision for the City. The consensus was that the focus must be on the quality of Gaelic Medium Education and Gaelic Learners Education provision before any attempts are made to increase the breadth. This will require strategic decision making, detailed plans and measurable action to ensure success.
- 3.4 An initial verbal summary of the responses to the consultation was reported to the Gaelic Implementation Group at its meeting on 11 December 2017 with a full report provided by Strategy and Insight provided to the group in advance of their 30 January 2018 meeting, where it was discussed in detail.
- 3.5 To allow time sufficient time to enable due regard to be given to the responses in producing the City of Edinburgh Council's final report, we have requested an extension to the deadline for publication from Bòrd na Gàidhlig who are now aware that our intention is to finalise the plan during March 2018 for consideration by the Corporate and Policy Committee at its 15 May 2018 meeting.
- 3.6 As part of the Council's on-going commitment to extending secondary GME provision, additional funding has been procured from the Scottish Government to enhance GME staffing. This includes a promoted post to facilitate the development of Gaelic Education at secondary level across the city and for an additional GME secondary teaching post.
- 3.7 In their report to the Education, Children and Families Committee of 12th December 2017, the school estate planning team noted that it had been considering options for the relocation of GME from James Gillespie's High school. Projections show that it will experience issues accommodating the expected pupil intake in future years. One proposed step towards addressing this is establishing enhanced GME provision at an alternative location. One opportunity that has emerged from analysis by estate planning is that Drummond High school could become the school which GME primary pupils attend for their secondary GME education. Informal consultations on this are now in process.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 A successful outcome will be the completion of the second Gaelic Language Plan which builds on the clear and agreed vision to provide clear actions which will provide progress towards this vision.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 While there are no additional financial implications arising from this report, activities towards promoting the quality of Gaelic Medium Education and Gaelic Learners Education may have cost implications. Details will be included in the report to the 15 May Committee meeting.

6. Risk, policy, compliance, and governance impact

- 6.1 The Gaelic Implementation Group is chaired by the Council's Gaelic champion, Cllr Dickie, which reports to The Council's Policy and Strategy Committee. In addition, the Council's Head of Strategy and Insight oversees the co-ordination of the plan and its implementation.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 The work reflected in this report aims to directly improve outcomes for groups with protected characteristics, which will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 This report has been assessed in respect of the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties. In summary, the Framework will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because of Council action to improve social justice, and economic wellbeing.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The response to the consultation has been developed based on extensive engagement led by the Council's Strategy and Insight Service.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Gaelic Language Plan 2018-22: Report on Feedback From Public Consultation – A report by Strategy and Insight
- 10.2 City of Edinburgh Council - Gaelic Language Plan 2018 to 2022 - V22 - Final draft for Public consultation – A report by Strategy and Insight

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

Contact: Laurence Rockey, Head of Strategy and Insight

E-mail: Laurence.rockey@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3493