

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Education and Lifelong Learning
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	25/11/25
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	Scottish Languages Bill
<b><u>Report Author:</u></b>	Shona Milne
<b><u>Chief Officer:</u></b>	Shona Milne
<b><u>Contact Details:</u></b>	shmilne@aberdeencity.gov.uk

### **UPDATE:**

Members will be aware that the Scottish Languages Bill became an Act on 31 July 2025 granting official status to Gaelic and Scots Languages within Scotland and making changes to support for these languages in education.

The first set of commencement regulations for the Scottish Languages Act 2025 were laid before the Scottish Parliament on Thursday, 13 November 2025.

These regulations will bring into force a range of sections of the Act on 30 November 2025, including provisions that grant official language status to Gaelic and Scots and strengthen support and education for these languages. A full set of the sections being commenced can be found here

[The Scottish Languages Act 2025 \(Commencement No. 1\) Regulations 2025](#)

Key provisions include:

- **Status of the Gaelic and Scots languages,**
- **Duty on Scottish Ministers** to promote, facilitate and support Gaelic education and power to set standards for Gaelic education,
- **Powers for Scottish Ministers** to commission research and provide financial assistance to promote, facilitate, and support the use of Gaelic and Scots in schools,
- **Requirement on Scottish Ministers** to support the development of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig as the national centre for Gaelic language, education, and culture, and to review its current status and publish findings,
- **Powers for Scottish Ministers** to issue guidance to relevant public authorities on promoting and supporting the use of Scots, including its dialects.

**Implications for Aberdeen City Council**

The duty to provide Gaelic Education will continue and we will continue to seek funding through the provision of a grant to support delivery. We will continue to prepare and share Gaelic Language plans.

The Act has set out that there will be guidance produced. We currently work in an ad hoc way with the Doric Makar but don't directly promote the use of Scots language. The Act will increase the promotion of Scots language and sets out the need for Scottish government to provide Guidance on the delivery of Scots Language .