

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	17 th August 2016
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Gaelic Language Plan
REPORT NUMBER	OCE/16/024
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report brings before the Council for its consideration a revised Gaelic Language Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council approves the content of the Council's revised Gaelic Language Plan.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The envisaged annual monitoring report on the delivery of the Gaelic Language Plan will provide details of any additional costs incurred by the Council in its implementation.

As noted in the report agreed by Council at its meeting on 19th August 2015 (CHI/15/238) many of the in-house changes envisaged through the action plan can be made at minimal additional cost through for example programming work at the time of refreshing out-dated signage or through simply raising awareness of existing provision which is not currently promoted.

Gaelic Classes are available through Aberdeen Gaelic Club and Aberdeen University and their support for the Council's action plan will be sought. The Gaelic Club is already considering running some initiatives which the Council could support either through funding or promotion of the events/classes which would contribute to some of the aims of the plan.

Education projects have specific funding streams for Gaelic Education or are included as part of the '1+2' initiative which also has funding available toward all languages. Arts and Community projects can be

supported through various bodies working in Aberdeen with Gaelic plans in place such as Creative Scotland, the University of Aberdeen, Scottish National Heritage, the Forestry Commission and the National Theatre of Scotland. Aberdeen Gaelic Club will also be aware of funding opportunities.

There are also several opportunities for funding community projects through various funds (Community, drama etc.) which are detailed at: <http://www.gaidhlig.org.uk/bord/en/funding-opportunities>.

Comunn Na Gàidhlig (CnaG) also funds Gaelic projects, information is available online at: <http://www.cnag.org/en/>

The Council will make partner organisations aware of the funding opportunities which are available to them and will promote these funding opportunities, as they become available, through Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisation (ACVO) for community groups and to our own mailing lists of organisations and community forums.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a statutory obligation under the Gaelic language (Scotland) Act 2005 to produce a Gaelic Language Plan.

As noted in the report agreed by the Council at its meeting on 19th August 2015 the Head of Legal and Democratic Services advises that the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 does not provide for any sanctions. It is likely that non-submission of a Plan would fall within the remit of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (for example if a member of the public raised a complaint). The SPSO could then produce a report for consideration by the Scottish Parliament, if the Council did not remedy this failure. It would then be for Parliament to decide what, if any, action to take. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services is not aware of the SPSO ever producing such a report.

An EHRIA has been completed and found no adverse impact.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

At its meeting of 19th August 2015 the Council considered a report by the Director of Communities, Housing and Infrastructure on the Council's draft Gaelic Language Plan. Council resolved to agree:

- i. the content of the Council's final draft Gaelic Language Plan;
- ii. to receive annual monitoring updates in relation to the associated action plan by means of an information bulletin report;
- iii. to submit the draft plan on 21 August 2015 to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval; and

- iv. should Bòrd na Gàidhlig propose modifications to the submitted draft plan, to instruct officers to submit the modified plan to Committee for approval.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has proposed a small number of modifications to the Council's draft plan and as a result a revised plan is now presented to the Council for its consideration.

While the vast majority of the draft plan submitted by the Council satisfied the requirements of the Bòrd na Gàidhlig Plans Panel a small number of changes were requested both in relation to some of the phraseology used in the plan and the language used in some of the plan's commitments.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –

The Gaelic Language Plan includes sections relating to how the Council will make use of Gaelic in its interactions with customers.

Improving Staff Experience –

The Gaelic Language Plan includes sections relating to how the Council will encourage staff to develop their Gaelic skills and knowledge.

Improving our use of Resources –

The Gaelic Language Plan discharges the Council's statutory responsibility in relation to its support for Gaelic.

Corporate -

The Council has a statutory obligation under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 to produce a Gaelic Language Plan.

Public –

An EHRIA has been undertaken on the Gaelic Language Plan.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The report deals with the Council's statutory duty to comply with the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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