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**East Dunbartonshire Council**

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**COUNCIL** THURSDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

**REFERENCE:** EDC/014/23/PC

**LEAD OFFICER:** DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**CONTACT OFFICER:** PAMELA CAMPBELL, TEAM LEADER -  
COMMUNITY PLANNING & PARTNERSHIPS,

**SUBJECT TITLE:** DRAFT GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN 2023-28

## **1.0 PURPOSE**

**1.1** The purpose of this Report is to present the Council's draft Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28 for approval and onward submission to Bord na Gaidhlig for assessment.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Council:

- 2.1** notes progress in relation to the development of the Council's draft Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28;
- 2.2** approves the Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28, Appendix 1 to this Report for submission to Bord na Gaidhlig for assessment;
- 2.3** instructs officers to undertake public consultation on the draft Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28; and
- 2.4** instructs officers to provide a further report to a future meeting of Council on the finalised version of the Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28, following the public consultation.

**ANN DAVIE**  
**DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **3.0 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

- 3.1** Scottish Gaelic is recognised as an indigenous language under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, a convention ratified by the UK Government on 27 March 2001. The Scottish Government holds responsibility for implementing the Charter in relation to Scottish Gaelic.
- 3.2** Section 3 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 Act outlines that a Gaelic language plan must:
- set out the measures to be taken by the relevant public authority in relation to the use of Gaelic language in connection with the exercise of the authority's functions; and
  - specify the date by which the measures are to be taken.
- 3.3** A relevant public authority, in preparing a Gaelic Language Plan, must have due regard to:
- the most recent national Gaelic Language Plan; and
  - the extent to which Gaelic is used by those who use the authority's function.
- 3.4** The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, established Bord na Gaidhlig. The primary objective of the Bord is to secure the official language status of Gaelic in Scotland, affording it equal respect alongside the English language.
- 3.5** To achieve this, Bord na Gaidhlig is mandated to create a National Gaelic Language Plan every five years, with the most recent plan published in April 2023. Consequently, public authorities, including the thirty-two local authorities in Scotland, are obligated to prepare and publish their own Gaelic Language Plan, taking into consideration the National Gaelic Language Plan.
- 3.6** The draft plan for 2023-28 builds on progress made across East Dunbartonshire since 2013 when the first plan was published. This progress has included:
- enhancing the excellence and delivery of Gaelic Medium Education, spanning from early childhood through to the senior phase; and
  - advocating and integrating the Gaelic language and culture both within the Council and outwardly across the community.
- 3.7** This plan seeks to build on progress made, focussing on:
- persisting in the advancement of Exceptional Gaelic Medium Excellence for the 0-18 age group, aligning with national directives, and shaping it through active stakeholder participation;

- increasing the use of Gaelic by supporting communities to host Gaelic events and supporting capacity building to community and third sector organisations to access the East Dunbartonshire Community Grant Scheme;
- establishing an internal and external Equalities Action Planning Forum which will meet regularly to monitor progress and enable community voice to be embedded; and
- a broader and more widespread adoption of Gaelic language learning among children and young people, contributing to preserving and revitalising the Gaelic language.

The primary objective of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 is to foster the sustainability and growth of the Gaelic language and its associated culture. East Dunbartonshire Council will endeavour to normalise opportunities for the public and our staff to use Gaelic, aligning with the objectives outlined in the National Gaelic Language Plan.

- 3.8** The Council received official notice from Bord na Gaidhlig to develop its fourth statutory Gaelic Language Plan under the framework of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. The Council is required to submit the new plan to Bord na Gaidhlig by December 2023.

#### **4.0 IMPLICATIONS**

The implications for the Council are as undernoted.

- 4.1** Frontline Service to Customers – Front line staff members are likely to have to respond to queries relating to Gaelic Medium Education, Gaelic groups for children and adults or how information could be provided in Gaelic
- 4.2** Workforce (including any significant resource implications) –N/A.
- 4.3** Legal Implications – in adopting the plan, the Council is ensuring compliance with its legal obligations under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 Act.
- 4.4** Financial Implications – Services require to deliver the commitments of the plan within current budgets.
- 4.5** Procurement – N/A.
- 4.6** ICT – None
- 4.7** Corporate Assets – Consideration of funding agreed new signage to deliver the commitments within the plan.
- 4.8** Equalities Implications – An EQIA has been conducted.

#### **5.0 MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

The risks and control measures relating to this Report are as follows:-

**5.1** Community participation in the consultation of the Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28. It is important that consultation on the draft GLP reaches a wide pool of stakeholders, however this may be challenging. A comprehensive communication and consultation plan will be developed using a range of engagement methods informed via the pre-consultation stage.

## **6.0 IMPACT**

**6.1 ECONOMIC GROWTH & RECOVERY** - The draft GLP 2023-28 supports the awareness of Gaelic opportunities including tourism, cultural and heritage, therefore could support local businesses and cultural venues

**6.2 EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS** - The draft GLP 2023-28 will conduct an internal capacity audit across East Dunbartonshire Council and could generate interest in posts with requirement to have Gaelic Language.

**6.3 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE** - The draft GLP 2023-28 will have a positive impact on children and young people, promoting Gaelic language and culture.

**6.4 SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES** - The draft GLP 2023-28 fosters safe and stronger communities by promoting cultural cohesion and inclusivity.

**6.5 ADULT HEALTH & WELLBEING** - The draft GLP 2023-28 plan enhances adult health and wellbeing by providing opportunities for cultural enrichment and linguistic engagement.

**6.6 OLDER ADULTS, VULNERABLE PEOPLE & CARERS** - The draft GLP 2023-28 positively influences older adults by offering them a chance to connect with potentially their cultural heritage and engage in lifelong learning.

**6.7 CLIMATE CHANGE** – The draft GLP 2023-28 supports awareness of Gaelic opportunities including climate challenges, therefore could support climate change.

**6.8 STATUTORY DUTY** - The draft GLP 2023-28 ensures compliance with the statutory duty outlined in the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, actively working to promote and sustain the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland

## **7.0 POLICY CHECKLIST**

**7.1** Completed versions of the following are appended to the Report:-

- Appendix 1: Policy Development Checklist template checklist attached
- Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment template assessment attached

## **8.0 APPENDICES**

**8.1** Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28

