

**GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update the Community Services Committee on progress in delivering the actions in the approved Argyll and Bute Council Gaelic Language Plan.

**1.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

Notes the progress being made in delivering the Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

## Gaelic Language Plan Progress Report

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### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Community Services Committee on progress in delivering the actions in the approved Argyll and Bute Council Gaelic Language Plan.

### 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

- 3.1 Notes the progress being made in delivering the Council's Gaelic Language Plan

### 4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1. Argyll and Bute Council has a duty under the Statutory Notice by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to produce a Gaelic Language Plan. The Council approved its Gaelic Language Plan in 2018.
- 4.2 The Gaelic Language Plan is aligned with the National Gaelic Plan and focuses on the same themes. These are:
- Promoting a Positive Image of Gaelic
  - Increasing the Learning of Gaelic
  - Increasing the Use of Gaelic
- 4.3 The Council's Plan contains a number of actions with success measures that have been developed and agreed as our approach to delivering on the Plan. Attached to this report in Appendix 1 is a progress report showing each of the actions that have been agreed and their status.
- 4.4 Each of the actions has an identified lead officer. Regular meetings are programmed with the Policy Lead to provide updates on progress against the agreed actions. These meetings have representation from services that are involved in delivering different aspects of the Gaelic Language Plan.
- 4.5 As the plan progresses, the actions will be completed or reviewed to ensure that they remain appropriate.

- 4.6 Progress with the plan continues to be good with the majority of actions on track or complete. This is to be welcomed, particularly during the challenges of the last 18 months of the Covid Pandemic, given the ambitious nature of the plan with new development actions in it.
- 4.7 Bòrd na Gaidhlig have been in correspondence regarding reference in the plan to the Gaelic School in Oban stating that they would like to see a firmer commitment by the council to putting this in place. Members will recall that in December 2018 the Committee considered options and their relative impacts for a Gaelic School. The preferred option B proposed to change the management arrangements at Rockfield School, to create a Deputy Head with specific management responsibilities for the Gaelic Medium Unit. The Committee agreed that Option B is the recommended option based on an evaluation of impact, deliverability, affordability and risk and further agreed that in the event there was a material change in circumstances Officers would give further consideration to the other options that have been identified in the report. The Committee decided not to build a stand-alone Primary School in Oban and Lorn.
- 4.8 Discussions are ongoing with officers of Bòrd na Gaidhlig and members will be updated as discussions progress.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Good progress is being made by the Council on delivery of the Gaelic Language Plan.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

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|-----|-----------------------------|---|
| 6.1 | <b>Policy</b>               | This proposal is compliant with the Council's policies and procedures.            |
| 6.2 | <b>Financial</b>            | There are no financial implications from this report.                             |
| 6.3 | <b>Legal</b>                | The Council has a duty under a statutory notice to produce a Gaelic Language Plan |
| 6.4 | <b>HR</b>                   | None  |
| 6.5 | <b>Fairer Scotland Duty</b> | None  |
| 6.6 | <b>Climate Change</b>       | None  |
| 6.7 | <b>Risk</b>                 | None  |
| 6.8 | <b>Customer Service</b>     | None  |

**Executive Director with responsibility for Customer Support Services – Kirsty Flanagan**

**Head of Customer Support Services – Jane Fowler**

**Policy lead – Councillor Robin Currie**

**For further information contact:** Jane Fowler, Head of Customer Support Services

**Date: November 2021**

**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Gaelic Language Progress Action Plan