

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

GAELIC COMMITTEE - 5 JUNE 2008

Agenda Item	4.
Report No	G/10/08

HIGHLAND COUNCIL GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Summary

This report explains the process by which the Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan (HCGLP) 2007-2011 will be progressed. A detailed implementation strategy is being prepared for each year of the plan to identify the specific yearly targets for each service, how activity will be funded, and also identifying the Council officer with lead responsibility for delivery. It is proposed that these implementation strategies will be costed and that a three year funding plan for the remaining term of the plan will be developed. This will include a 3 year Gaelic Language Act implementation Fund application to Bòrd na Gàidhlig and prepared budget estimates for financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 to be submitted to the Council's budget review process.

Implementation of the Council's Gaelic Language Plan will contribute significantly to the Programme for Administration.

1. Background

1.1 The HCGLP 2007-2011 contains detailed information on areas for development of Gaelic within the range of council services. It was prepared as a 4 year Plan and did not focus in specific detail on the actions required each year to achieve the proposed outputs.

1.2 Discussion of the plan has now been progressed with Bòrd na Gàidhlig. It should be noted that the Council's ongoing Gaelic language development from 2007 has been contributing towards implementation of the targets of the plan.

1.3 It is worth recalling the global targets of the HCGLP;

- *The percentage of clients accessing Council services through the medium of Gaelic will increase by 10% over the lifetime of the Gaelic Plan, from a baseline figure identified by a commissioned audit in April 2008.*
- *Commissioned surveys will show that, over the lifetime of the Plan, the number of people in the Highlands describing themselves as 'well disposed' towards Gaelic has risen by a factor of 10%, against a baseline figure established by a commissioned survey in 2008*

- *The proportion of Gaelic medium pupils who have Gaelic speaking parents / carers (including Learner parents) will increase by 15% (from a 2006 baseline of 40%).*
- *The proportion of Gaelic medium pupils reporting regular use of Gaelic in the home will increase by 20% over the life of the Plan (from a 2006 baseline of 12%).*
- *The number of 0-3 year olds in Gaelic medium provision and the number of 3-18 year olds in the Highlands speaking Gaelic will increase by 10% by 2011, measured against the 0-3 figures for June 2007 and the National Census figures for 3-18 year olds in 2001.*
- *Over the timescale of the Plan, four new community development plans for Gaelic will have been produced by local groups.*

1.3 The HCGLP proposes that these targets will be achieved through a detailed range of activity across the full spectrum of Council services. While the Plan gives some detail of what these will be, the proposed implementation plans are intended as the means by which the targets will be delivered

2. Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan Implementation Strategy

2.1 Implementation plans are now being drafted for the three periods June 2008 to March 2009; April 2009 to March 2010, and April 2010 to March 2011. These detailed plans will identify the specific yearly targets by service department, how activity will be funded, and identify the Council officer with lead responsibility for delivery. It is proposed that these implementation plans will be the basis for a 3 year Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF) application to Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and that the 2009-10 and 2010-11 funding proposals will also be submitted to the HC Budget review process later this year.

2.2 These implementation plans will provide the Gaelic Development Manager with an accurate means of regular monitoring the delivery of the plan, and will also facilitate reporting to the Council's Gaelic Committee, and to Bòrd na Gàidhlig as funders and regulators.

2.2 The actions for development in 2008-09 will be largely the continuity of current activity which can be implemented within existing resources, and with new initiatives being carried forward through new GLAIF support. The 2008-09 implementation plan will also produce detailed delivery strategies for some activities where such are required.

2.3 It is intended that more details on the implementation of the plan will be submitted to the Gaelic Committee in the autumn.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Members are invited to note progress with the implementation strategy for the Gaelic Language Plan

Signature:

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