

**ANGUS COUNCIL**  
**STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 19 MARCH 2013**  
**DRAFT GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN**  
**REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**ABSTRACT:**

This report presents a draft [Gaelic Plan for Angus](#), for adoption by the council.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee:-

- (i) approve the draft Gaelic Language Plan attached to this report;
- (ii) authorise the Chief Executive to make any changes as appropriate following conclusion of the current six week statutory consultation period on the draft Plan;
- (iii) authorise the Chief Executive to subsequently submit the draft Plan to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval.

**2. BACKGROUND**

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was passed by the Scottish Parliament with a view to securing the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland, commanding equal respect with the English language.

The Act requires the public sector in Scotland to play its part in creating a sustainable future for Gaelic by raising its status and profile in the community, workplace, home and in places of learning.

The Act also established Bòrd na Gàidhlig, a statutory, non-departmental body to promote the use and understanding of the Gaelic language throughout Scotland.

Part of the Bòrd's role is to require public bodies, as it deems appropriate, to prepare and publish Gaelic Language Plans. Angus Council is one of many public authorities to be issued with a statutory notice to produce a Gaelic Language Plan.

**3. DRAFT GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN FOR ANGUS**

A draft Gaelic Language Plan for adoption by the council is attached. It has been prepared within the framework of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, in accordance with statutory criteria set out in the 2005 Act, and having regard to the National Plan for Gaelic and the Guidance on the Development of Gaelic Language Plans.

The Plan sets out how we will use Gaelic in the operation of our functions, how we will enable the use of Gaelic when communicating with the public and key partners, and how we will promote and develop Gaelic.

As required by the Bòrd na Gàidhlig the draft Plan must undergo a six week period of public consultation prior to being submitted to the Bòrd by 1 April for approval.

That consultation period finishes on 28 March. Given the timescale, and subject to committee approval of the draft Plan, authorisation is therefore sought for the Chief Executive to amend the Plan as appropriate following the conclusion of the consultation and then formally submit it to the Bòrd.

#### **4. RISKS**

Failure to produce a Gaelic Language Plan will result in breach of the legislation.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with the terms of this report. Any costs associated with any of the recommendations will be met from within current budgets, from successful funding bids to external bodies or will be the subject of a report to committee seeking additional funding.

#### **6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

The draft Gaelic Language Plan for Angus is compatible with an individual's rights under the European Convention of Human Rights.

#### **7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken.

#### **8. CONSULTATION**

The draft Gaelic Language Plan was drafted by a short-term Gaelic Working Group.

As outlined above the draft Plan is currently subject to a statutory six week period of public consultation.

There was also a consultation event held by the Education Department, for parents of Gaelic-speaking children in Angus.

The Director of Corporate Services, Head of Finance and Head of Law and Administration have been consulted on the terms of this report.

**RICHARD STIFF  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**HMR**

**NOTE:** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.