

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services**

**Special Educational Services Committee: 26 June 2014**

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### **Subject: West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Plan 2014-19**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to submit to the Educational Services Committee for consideration West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Plan 2014-19 and to seek approval of the draft plan for submission to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval nationally.

#### **2. Recommendations**

**2.1** Committee is asked to:

- i. note the contents of the report and the aims of West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language Plan 2014-19; and
- ii. ratify West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language plan for submission to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval nationally.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1** All Scottish Local Authorities are required to prepare a Gaelic Language Plan under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. In order to meet this statutory requirement a West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language Plan 2014-19 has been developed.

- 3.2** The Act states that a Gaelic language plan must set out the measures to be taken by the relevant public authority in relation to the use of the Gaelic language in connection with the exercise of the authority's functions. It must specify the date by which the measures are to be taken, and contain such other information as may be prescribed in regulations.

**3.3** A Gaelic language plan must also have regard to:

- i. the most recent national Gaelic language plan published;
- ii. the extent to which the persons in relation to whom the authority's functions are exercisable use the Gaelic language;
- iii. the potential for developing the use of the Gaelic language in connection with the exercise of those functions; and

- iv. any representations made to the authority in relation to the use of the Gaelic language in connection with the exercise of those functions.

#### **4. Main Issues**

- 4.1** In producing this Draft Gaelic Language Plan, West Dunbartonshire Council is committed to ensuring that the aims of the Gaelic Language Act 2005 are reflected. The plan includes input and commitment from across council departments responsible for areas such as: educational programmes, council communication, roads and transportation and organisational development.
- 4.2** Whist reflecting the aims of the Gaelic Language Act 2005, West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language Plan 2014-19 is cognisant of:
  - i. the existing usage of Gaelic within the authority;
  - ii. the council's strategic priorities; and
  - iii. the current economic climate.
- 4.3** The plan identifies key areas which will be developed over its 5 year lifespan, including actions, timescales and lead services. Actions identified within the draft plan include: targeted bilingual signage on council buildings and roads; support for learning for all ages and development of Gaelic resources linked to Curriculum for Excellence. Equality of access and inclusion are key to this draft plan and will be supported through the establishment of Gaelic language collections in every public library and on mobile libraries.
- 4.4** In developing this plan, all council departments have been consulted and have contributed. Public Consultation has been held on the draft plan for a period of 6 weeks through social media via the Council's Facebook page. Additionally, consultation has been carried out with individuals and local specialist interest groups and with Edinbarnet Primary which teaches Gaelic.

#### **5. People Implications**

- 5.1** There are no people implications.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1** Costs relating to the actions within the West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language Plan will be met within existing budgets. However, the plan is cognisant of pressures upon budgets, and external match funding to support actions offered by agencies such as Bòrd na Gàidhlig will be sought where available.
- 6.2** Immediate costs are as follows:
  - Replacement of 6 gateway signs: £7000 (HEEDS budget);
  - Signage for libraries: £1000 (Educational Services budget); and

- Gaelic collections (books and media for libraries: £3000 (Educational Services budget).
- **Total costs £11000**

## **7. Risk Analysis**

- 7.1** A West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language Plan is a statutory provision under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005.

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 8.1** A full Equalities Impact screening was carried out in developing this Gaelic Language Plan. No negative issues were identified in the screening of this plan.

## **9. Consultation**

- 9.1** In developing this plan, consultation was held with representatives from all Departments within West Dunbartonshire Council. The draft plan was subject to 6 weeks online public consultation through Social Media via the Council's Facebook page. In addition individual consultation was held with local interest groups.

## **10. Strategic Assessment**

- 10.1** In addition to assisting in the implementation of Scottish Government Strategic Objectives: *Wealthier & Fairer; Smarter; Healthier*, West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language Plan 2014-19 links to the Council's aims to promote Constructive Partnership Working and Joined-Up Service Delivery in addition to Encouraging Positive Dialogue with Local Citizens and Communities.

The Plan contributes to Educational Services strategic aims: to Enable Everyone To Become Successful Learners, and Confident Individuals. It also reflects Educational Service Improvement Plan Objectives to: Promote Engagement With Culture; and To Develop The Range Of Learning Opportunities For All Ages Across Libraries, Arts and Culture.

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**Terry Lanagan**  
**Executive Director of Educational Services**  
**Date: 5 June 2014**

**Person to Contact:** Gill Graham,  
 Manager of Libraries & Cultural Services  
 Telephone: (01389) 608042

E-mail: [gill.graham@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:gill.graham@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

<b>Appendices:</b>	1. West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language Plan 2014-19
<b>Background Papers:</b>	Equalities Impact Screening
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All wards