

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: FALKIRK COUNCIL GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN
Meeting: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 18 October 2011
Author: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting of 9 August 2011, Policy and Resources Committee agreed to consultation on its draft Gaelic Language Plan.
- 1.2 The purpose of this paper is to report on the feedback from the consultation process and to present an amended plan for approval by Policy and Resources Committee.
- 1.3 The report also presents information on funding that has been provided by Bord na Gàidhlig to support implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Falkirk Council has devised a Gaelic Language Plan within the framework of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. It sets out how the authority will use Gaelic in the operation of its functions and how it will promote and develop Gaelic through taking a pragmatic approach that recognises the area's traditions and use of the language today.
- 2.2 Falkirk Council's Gaelic Language Plan has been prepared 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 Plan*.
- 2.3 The authority is required to submit copies of the plan in Gaelic and English to Bord na Gàidhlig by 31 October 2011, following a period of public consultation.
- 2.4 As approved by Policy and Resources Committee, consultation was undertaken in order to seek feedback from interested parties. The plan was available for consultation on Falkirk Council's website for a period of twelve weeks, beginning on 10 August and concluding on 21 September 2011.
- 2.5 In addition, Falkirk's Gaelic Associations were notified directly of the plan and were provided with copies in both Gaelic and English. These associations were:
 - Fòram Gàidhlig na h-Eaglaise Brice (Falkirk Gaelic Forum)
 - An Comunn Gàidhealach (The Highland Society)
 - Fèis Fhoirt (Forth Festival)
 - Falkirk Junior Choir
 - An Clas Gàidhlig (The Gaelic Class)

3. RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION

3.1 There were 3 responses to the consultation, 1 of which came from Gaelic Forum, 1 from the Scots Language Centre and 1 joint response from a group of 3 employees of Falkirk Council.

3.2 Suggestions for Amendments

Suggestions	Responses
<p><u>Signage</u></p> <p>There should be a commitment to using bilingual Gaelic/English signage when signage is replaced or new signage, rather than a commitment to 'considering' replacement/new signage as set out in the draft plan. (<i>Falkirk Gaelic Forum</i>)</p> <p>We would urge authorities to develop Scots signage at the same time as signage in Gaelic is developed. Such signage should take account of local dialect forms. (<i>Scots Language Centre</i>)</p>	<p>Resources are not currently available to amend the existing commitment to 'consider' replacement/new signage.</p> <p>There is no statutory requirement to use Scots language for signage and to do so in addition to English and Gaelic would could be confusing</p>
<p><u>Gaelic Medium Education</u></p> <p>There should be commitment to giving consideration to full Gaelic Medium Education where sufficient demand exists. (<i>Falkirk Gaelic Forum</i>)</p>	<p>Funding is insufficient at this stage to develop Gaelic Medium Education. The situation will be kept under review.</p>
<p><u>Gaelic Language in the Primary School programme</u></p> <p>Should more places be available to Primary teachers per year to participate in the Gaelic Language in the Primary School programme? (<i>FC employees</i>)</p>	<p>Consortium funding for this training is set at 2 places per school year. This is sufficient to meet the demand from school staff for access to this programme.</p>
<p><u>Scots Language</u></p> <p>In developing Gaelic language plans we would urge all institutions and authorities to consider how they might develop similar plans to support Scots speaking communities.</p> <p>In developing statements for use online we would urge authorities to consider how they might develop similar resources for Scots. For example, any institution or authority which wishes to indicate its support for Gaelic by means of a statement on its web site might consider how it could do the same for Scots.</p>	<p>There is no statutory requirement to develop a Scots language Plan as there is for Gaelic. Resources are not currently available for this.</p> <p>A network for teachers who are teaching Scots language is about to be established by a teacher who has professional recognition in Scots language. Glow offers the facility for colleagues to share and develop resources online.</p>

Suggestions	Responses
<p>We would urge authorities to consider how they might support and encourage Scots language activities. We note that a number of local authorities give various forms of support to Gaelic cultural and language learning groups and would suggest that efforts are made to find ways to support Scots.</p> <p><i>(Scots Language Centre)</i></p>	<p>Scots language is taught in a number of Falkirk schools.</p> <p>5 teachers (4 Primary/1 Secondary) have been awarded Professional Recognition in Scots language from the General Teaching Council, Scotland.</p>

- 3.3 In addition, a number of inaccuracies in the draft plan identified by respondents were amended as requested.

4. FUNDING

- 4.1 Funding to support implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan was sought from Bord na Gàidhlig in May, 2011 for the following:
- translation of the Gaelic Plan
 - summaries of a range of key Falkirk Council policies
 - web design
 - stationery and printing
 - signs for welcoming the public at public access points
 - resources for GME and GLPS pupils
 - five day Summer School for GLPS teachers
 - operating and set up costs for Beginner Class and intermediate classes.
- 4.2 Funding of £11,200 was granted by Bord na Gàidhlig on 17 August 2011. To date, a payment of £8,960 has been made to Falkirk Council, representing 80% of the total grant for session 2011-12. This grant award is made on condition of a progress note, including a written statement of income and expenditure being submitted by 31 January 2012. The second and final payment can be claimed after completion of the project, up to 31 August 2012, along with a final report.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The recent consultation has provided useful comments for inclusion in Falkirk Council's Gaelic Language Plan.
- 5.2 Funding has been provided by Bord na Gàidhlig to assist in the implementation of the plan.
- 5.3 The revised Gaelic Language Plan is attached as Appendix 1 for approval.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Policy and Resources Committee is asked to agree the amended Gaelic Language Plan for submission to Bord na Gàidhlig by 31 October, 2011.**

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Director of Education

Date: 12 October 2011

Contact Officer: Nigel Fletcher, ext 6686.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL