

6. Are these the right priorities for the Council's next Gaelic Language Plan to focus on?

YES

7. Are there any priorities which have not been included?

Yes

If yes, please tell us what these other priorities are:

We would suggest the following additional information to be included in Priorities:

Priority 2: We would expect the Council to work with partners to ensure there is sufficient planning and a robust strategy to support GME sustainability and development.

Priority 3, Promoting Gaelic: we this priority and further suggest the establishment of Capital Gaelic as a true brand, which is recognised in Edinburgh, nationally, and internationally.

8. Are these the right actions for the Council's next Gaelic Language Plan to focus on?

Yes

Yes

9. Are there other actions that we could take to support Gaelic development?

Yes

If yes, please tell us what these actions are:

We would suggest current actions are expanded as follows:

1.1 We support these aims and actions, while making the distinction that GME is focused on supporting children in developing into fluent speakers of the language and that as action 3 is specific to learners it perhaps belongs elsewhere in the plan.

1.2 We support this high level aim and support the linkage of GME with a Gaelic community centre as an opportunity to provide cultural enrichment to the GME experience. We would welcome clarification on how Ionad Gàidhlig Dhùn Èideann would be financially sustainable, and how it would be linked to GME provision, for example through its location.

1.3 We would like explicit collaboration between the council and all parents of GME pupils. This can be achieved in collaboration with Parent representative groups, but must not be the only method of communication with parents. Parents need to be seen as partners in this process and the ongoing development of GME.

1.4 As per the suggested requirement for ALEOs, all new Council signage should also include Gaelic translations. Engage with appropriate language experts to ensure translations are accurate, meaningful and not limited to literal interpretations.

1.5 We support this high level aim but require more specific actions and commitments describing what steps will be taken to increase Gaelic content and measure this progress.

2.1 The development of Cròileagan and Early Years GME provision should be aligned with plans for the expansion of primary provision to ensure sustainable growth of GME overall.

Primary provision requires expansion so that there is a greater critical mass of GME high school pupils sooner rather than later. Additional GME primary provision would have the further, eventual benefit of creating additional streams of GME students who would transfer to a thriving GME high school

2.1

Provide more specific details on how the Cròileagan provision will be strengthened and how the reach across the city will be extended. Specify goals, targets, and timelines for improvement.

We support the establishment of the role of the GME early years Development Officer and suggest that a specific role of GME/GLE Development Officer for Primary and Secondary be considered.

We support consultation and would like to see more detail in the plan, including how the consultation will be implemented, who will be involved, and how it will contribute to the improvement and development of GME.

However, the Gaelic Medium Education Improvement Plan has not been provided as part of this Draft Plan so it is difficult to comment on the specifics of this action.

2.2 We support 2.2 and would suggest the following information for each sub-point:

1 We support this commitment to collaborate and would like to see the organisations named in this plan and the nature of the collaborative work, such as the frequency of meetings, joint projects to be undertaken, and expected outcomes.

2 We support a thematic review of GLE, and would encourage elaboration in this plan including the criteria, methodology, and timeline for the review, as well as the expected outcomes and actions based on the review findings.

3 We support the action to create and promote teaching materials as this is an additional burden experienced by teachers in GME due to the small population and lack of an equivalent wider resource when compared to EME. Specific targets would be expected for what materials will be produced and distributed and how many teachers would be trained.

4 Provide more details on how the Council plans to support the development of Gaelic language skills among its workforce, such as through language training programs, resources, and incentives, as well as the expected outcomes and measurement of progress.

5 We support this action and assume that it means Gaelic Language and not Gaelic Speaking. For this action we would request specific examples of supporting opportunities for parents, as well as the expected outcomes and measurement of progress.

In terms of **additional actions**, we strongly recommend:

There should be clear financial backing in order to fulfil the aims and actions of the plan itself. There is a mention of finances (a note that GME comes from a variety of sources, and the actions set out in the plan are dependent on continued specific financial support from the Scottish Government), however it should be clearer to GME families which funding is confirmed and to what extent. To date, there has been consistent lack of clarity on financial support from Scottish Government. In addition, creation of GME high school not budgeted for by the Council. (Note that Scottish Government National Plan states 'We continue to support all Local Authorities who wish to deliver or expand Gaelic Education at all levels through our grants schemes.')

There should be further information on recruitment and retention of teaching staff at all levels, including teaching assistants. Investing in teaching staff required now to ensure that a robust cohort of Gaelic speaking staff are in a position to lead thriving dedicated GME schools in future. There should be greater capacity building and training for existing English-medium teachers interested in transitioning to GME. For example, explore the option for the Council to partnership with Scot Gov / encourage Scot Gov to create bursaries for trainee teachers.

The Plan should include a detailed approach re timescales for development of provision. Overall the actions lack detail as to how provision will be strengthened / developed. For example, staffing / finance / expansion of provision through new builds etc.

Improving the quality of provision should include specific actions with respect to teacher recruitment, training and retention. We would suggest that this needs to be added as a specific item with statements of current practice and position as well as desired outcome within the timescales of this plan to meet the projected roll of children in GME in Edinburgh.

We recommend that the Council complete an Internal Gaelic Capacity Audit and publish this data within Year 1 of the plan and on an annual basis for the life of the plan so that progress can be monitored. There should be action within the plan to continuously review and plan for capacity to meet the demand for GME/GLE. For example:

Stand-alone schools:

- Commitment to stand-alone primary and secondary provision over co-located alternatives - international research and good practice has shown that co-located options do not create the conditions to maximise the immersion opportunity
- Commitment to the creation of GME primary schools (rather than GME 'units' within English Medium schools) in areas of Edinburgh other than the north of the city, where Bunscoil Taobh na Pàirce is located

No catchment reviews:

- No catchment reviews of GME pupils at secondary level until a guaranteed, sustainable, long term alternative for secondary school provision is available - catchment reviews disproportionately affect Gaelic pupils in Edinburgh and the Lothians who do not have alternative GME provision other than one primary and one secondary.

No capping:

- No capping of the numbers of children entering GME primary provision - not only because these pupils have a right (schedule 1 of paragraph 4 of the 2010 Act applies) to be taught in Gaelic but also because the increase of pupils at primary levels then bolsters a GME secondary. In the case of Edinburgh and the Lothians, the rights of younger children to access Gaelic Medium Education at primary level should not be adversely affected by outside factors, especially ones which are not intrinsically linked to GME, such as the rising rolls issue across the city

10. Please provide any other comments or suggestions you have about the draft City of Edinburgh Council's Gaelic Language Plan and its effectiveness in fulfilling the objectives of the National Gaelic Language Plan

Greater levels of accessibility / wide engagement / access to information - note on terminology such as 'Opportunities for learners to engage with Gaelic (through L3 and IDL models) will be developed and promoted in all schools' - unclear whether families will understand what L3 and IDL refers to.

Circulate Implementation Plan to GME families so that they understand the way in which actions such as 'Continuing to develop high quality Gaelic Language Education for 0-18 years will be supported by the Gaelic Medium Education (GME) Improvement Plan'.

Encourage participation from Scottish Government in a Short Life Working Group in Edinburgh to ensure that progress on a GME high school is made and that any proposals align with the national strategy for GME

The plan does not appear to adhere to the Bòrd na Gàidhlig guidance provided to public bodies when preparing their plans. The plan adheres in part to the template provided but not completely. https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Gaelic-Language-Plan-Template_.pdf Comman nam Pàrant suggests that the plan be redrafted in terms of this template, as adopted by other local authorities, to improve clarity of the plan.

The draft plan lacks the recommended "Internal Gaelic Capacity Audit". If this data is not currently available can this be made an explicit action to be completed within Year 1 of the plan?

The plan should be updated to include the key principles of Active Offer, Equal Respect, and Normalising/Mainstreaming. It would be helpful for the Council to describe how it will apply these principles in the delivery of the plan.

The plan should be updated to make it clear which department and/or service area has responsibility for the high level aims and the specific actions listed.

The plan should be updated in accordance with the guidance to reflect the Corporate Service Aims and Outcomes.