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Is the vision of the draft Plan one in which you can share?:

Although the Falkirk area has a relatively small number of Gaelic speakers, the vision to reverse the overall decline in Gaelic speaking, to increase the number of opportunities in which Gaelic can be used in Scotland and to promote acquisition of the language is one which Falkirk Council can share and support.

In the light of your response to the above question, are the proposed sectoral projects essential to the meeting of the action area aims for 2012? If not, why not?:

Some of the sectoral projects have much more relevance to Falkirk than others. Most importantly, we would have a role in contributing to the increase access to Gaelic medium education both in formal and informal education settings. Falkirk Council already has 4 teachers undergoing training with various grant support and there is the potential for developing partnerships with other local authorities, particularly Stirling Council, to enhance access to provision for young people in this area. In the area of lifelong learning, Falkirk Council has, in the past run Gaelic adult education classes.

In the area of culture, the sectoral project would have some resonance in this area with regard to raising awareness of both cultural products and activities and our Arts, Museum and Education Services have a role to play in promoting aspects of Gaelic performing and visual arts and the role that Gaelic and Gaelic-speaking communities play in the history of the nation. This will be of particular importance in the run-up to 2008 when Falkirk hosts the Mod. As part of the Youth Music Initiative, both formula-funded and strategic we are developing programmes in traditional Scottish instruments such as bodran, pipes and whistle.

Are the outcomes for the twenty themes and the priorities for tackling them correctly outlined and prioritised? If not, why not?:

Yes

In the light of your response to the above question, what projects do you view as being essential to implementing these priorities (some examples are offered in Appendix I)?:

All proposed projects seem appropriate to the themes involved.

And are the right organisations identified as being the primary players in implementing these priorities?:

Yes

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, how do you see yourselves contributing to the success of the National Plan?:

Falkirk Council recognises the status of Gaelic as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to English and also recognises the very low level of development of the language in this area where it may be less than some minority ethnic and European languages. As such, support for the development of Gaelic resources in this area must be balanced against the demands of other languages for support both in the area of formal and informal education.

However, there are very strong links between the Highland and Islands and Falkirk, most notably through the Tryst and it is perhaps in the area of culture

where we can play a more effective role in emphasising these links and connections. We can raise awareness and provide opportunities for people to experience Gaelic culture through the performing arts (such as music, dance, drama, film) and visual arts and through hosting touring exhibitions.

Do you have any other comments on the draft National Plan which you would like to submit?:

I agree for my views to be made public: Yes

I agree for my name and area to be made public: Yes