



## **National Gaelic Plan Consultation**

### **Response on behalf of East Dunbartonshire Council**

**October 2006**

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

The vision clarifies the place and importance of Gaelic in Scotland and its relationship to the other languages of Scotland.

The Gaelic Plan highly promotes a prestigious image for the speaking and learning of Gaelic.

This vision expressed by the Gaelic plan is to be applauded.

- *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?*

All of the sectoral projects are important to the re-invigoration of Gaelic, but it is not clear how all of these projects will be resourced within the suggested timescales.

The Bord na Gaidhlig's priority must be to increase the number of Gaelic speakers in Scotland, in the education sector, in the home, in the community and in the workplace. The main drivers of Gaelic learning have always been and will continue to be the local authorities, from early years learning through to adult learning.

The continued provision of Gaelic resources, including the use of ICT, and the professional development for Gaelic staff, both teaching and support staff, underpins the success criteria for increasing the number of Gaelic speakers at national level.

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

The outcomes for the themes are not achievable in their present format, priorities, targets and associated tasks will have to be prioritised.

The targets must be affordable, realistic, manageable and achievable.



- ***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 1)?***

There are some real challenges outlined in the Plan, e.g., the successful bringing on board of commercial organisations not currently involved in the revival of Gaelic, would be a very powerful message in the active promotion of Gaelic speaking and learning. The strategic journey towards achieving this and similar projects must be clearly explained.

Vitality, culture and communications projects are inter-dependent and cannot be achieved in isolation.

- ***Are the right organisations identified as being the primary players in implementing these priorities?***

In general, the lists of primary players encapsulate all expected participants, however, their areas of responsibility would have to be defined.

Short and long term targets will need to be identified, involving the Bord working alongside a smaller number of primary players in the first phase of implementation, whilst taking a close look at proven successful implementations in other countries such as Wales, where there is a strong community of speakers of lesser used languages.

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

East Dunbartonshire Council Education Service has supported the development of Gaelic language and culture at all levels, since its inception, by:

- Promoting equality of opportunity in Gaelic Medium Education
- Promoting Gaelic Learning in the Primary School.
- Promoting Gaelic Medium and Gaelic Learning in the Secondary Curriculum
- Continuing to enhance the cultural, linguistic and entrepreneurial skills of Gaelic learners.
- Providing pre-school Gaelic Medium education for children aged 3-5
- Supporting the playgroup facilities of Rionnagan Beaga
- Supporting the inter-authority CNSA network pre-five provision.
- Supporting Gaelic Learning in the Community.



East Dunbartonshire Council will continue its provision and will hope to enhance this provision in accordance with guidance from the Bord.

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

The Gaelic Language Plan will need to explicitly outline a long term plan for the expansion of Gaelic education provision in order that local authorities and SEED can plan the funding needed to deliver this expansion. The references in the Plan to the Gaelic Specific Grant omits to mention the financial contribution made by local authorities to the development of Gaelic education. We need long term, guaranteed funding in order to implement long term Gaelic resourcing.