

## **GEALIC LANGUAGE PLAN**

### **Executive summary**

1. This paper updates the SPCB on progress with the Gaelic Language Plan, following the public consultation on the draft approved by SPCB in September 2012. SPCB is invited to agree to submit the Plan to Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

### **Issues and Options**

2. The SPCB's draft second Gaelic Language Plan was available for public consultation, for the required six weeks, between 22 September and 4 November 2012. 56 responses were received; this compared to 34 responses for the consultation on the first Plan in 2007. Of these, 8 were negative, 47 positive, and 1 neutral. 10 responses were on behalf of groups, including:

- HIE
- Glasgow City Council
- Historic Scotland
- Glasgow University
- Comunn na Gàidhlig
- MG Alba
- Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Responses came from throughout Scotland. 27 responses were in Gaelic, 29 in English (in 2007, nearly all responses to the consultation were in English). There was a high level of support for the Plan overall.

3. Of the negative responses, the majority were expressing a view on the position of / funding for Gaelic in general, rather than anything specific to the SPCB's draft Plan.

4. Of the responses in favour of the Plan, the majority related to the detail of how the Core Commitments could be implemented. None of them suggested anything which requires the addition of a new Core Commitment or significant adjustment to any of the current ones.

5. One response was received from a Member. The submission concentrated mainly on the policy position of Gaelic in general; one point related directly to the work of the SPCB.

6. The Member requested that the stationery used for his work as a constituency MSP should be "free of Gaelic altogether as it is misleading and irrelevant". The issue of mono-lingual stationery has been raised since the bilingual logo was adopted in 2008. The response has been to confirm that

the SPCB introduced the bi-lingual corporate identity as standard for all applications so it is not possible to have parliamentary stationery without the Gaelic wording. A response has been issued to the Member explaining this.

7. No substantial changes have been made to the version of the Plan agreed by the SPCB in September although some minor edits have been made, to correct factual information for example. A final draft is attached.

### **Resource Implications**

8. Resource implications were addressed as part of the SPCB's previous considerations (SPCB (2012) Paper 58). There are no changes as a result of the consultation.

### **Governance issues**

9. These issues were addressed as part of the SPCB's previous considerations (SPCB(2012) Paper 58). There are no changes as a result of the consultation.

### **Publication Scheme**

10. It is recommended that this paper is withheld from publication until the Gaelic Language Plan has been approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. It can be published, along with SPCB(2012) Paper 58, when the final Plan has been agreed.

### **Next steps**

11. An analysis of the public consultation will be finalised for submission to Bòrd na Gàidhlig with the SPCB's second Gaelic Language Plan (this is a requirement). The SPCB's Languages Policy and the first Gaelic Language Plan will be submitted as the other supporting documents.

12. Bòrd na Gàidhlig is expected to consider the SPCB's Plan by end of March 2013. SPCB will be advised if Bòrd na Gàidhlig require any amendments to the Plan prior to approving it.

13. Once approved, the Plan will be published and launched (it is expected that this will be in May 2013).

### **Decision**

14. The SPCB is invited to agree to submit the second Gaelic Language Plan to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval.

Committees and Outreach Group  
November 2012