



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Annual Report: Gaelic Language Plan

20 January 2022

Reference: SPCB (2022) Paper 02

Executive summary

1. The Gaelic Language Plan (GLP) is subject to consideration by Leadership Group and approval by SPCB every 5 years. The current plan (Gaelic Language Plan 3) covers from April 2018 to end of March 2023, with a requirement to report annually to Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG) on our progress.
2. The Annual Report for May 2020 – April 2021 is due by end of January. This paper provides the SPCB with the following information on:
 - the Annual Report for 2020/21
 - the forthcoming work required to prepare the next iteration of GLP and SPCB inputs.
3. As a reminder of the context, our current GLP is based on the following principles agreed previously by the SPCB:
 - a. Using Gaelic to reach out to communities across Scotland and ensuring communities can reach out to us in Gaelic (by offering outreach and education activities in local communities and facilitating interactions with the Parliament in Gaelic).
 - b. Supporting our MSPs and staff in developing confidence around using Gaelic in their work (by providing and promoting support and opportunities for them to do this)
 - c. Integrating Gaelic into the fabric of the Scottish Parliament's thinking (by ensuring work is delivered alongside and within existing programmes as well as having activities specifically for raising the profile of Gaelic).

Issues and options

4. In January 2021, to reflect the status of the reports and help us to meet our goal in paragraph c above, SPCB approved the reporting procedure for Session 6 as:
 - Quarterly compliance updates and an Annual Report for Leadership Group consideration.
 - Annually, the Report is provided to SPCB for information.
 - The Report is then submitted to BnG and published on our website as a public record.
5. The report for 2020/21 is included in Annex A. We remain on target to deliver our plan overall in the 5-year period it covers.
6. The Gaelic Language Plan itself requires a new iteration every 5 years and its next iteration is due for 2023. Our goal is to bring the ongoing Language Plan review and the Gaelic Language Plan 4 work together for SPCB consideration prior to summer recess 2022 with a view to launching a public consultation on the Plan over summer. A finalised draft GLP4 will then be brought to the SPCB in January 2023.

Governance

7. See paragraph 4 for SPCB governance arrangements.

Resource implications

8. This work is delivered within existing resources.

Publication Scheme

9. This paper can be published once the annual report has been received by BnG.

Next steps

10. Publication of the Annual Report on our website will take place in February.

Decision

11. The SPCB is asked to consider and approve the GLP Annual Report for 2020-21, future timescales for SPCB consideration and the future work on GLP4.

Outreach Services
January 2022