

| <p>Frèam Dealbhadh Nàiseanta (NPF4) - Freagairt Co-chomhairleachaidh Comataidh Ùghdarras Ionadail, Taigheadais is Dealbhadh Le Bòrd na Gàidhlig 23 Dùbhlachd 2021</p> | <p>National Planning Framework (NPF4) - Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee Consultation Response By Bòrd na Gàidhlig 23 December 2021</p> |
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| <p>PAIRT 1 – RO-INNLEACHD SPÀSAIL NÀISEANTA DO DH’ALBA 2045</p> <p>Dè do bheachd air an earrann Àiteachan So- chòmhnaidh?</p> <p>Tha taobh-duilleig 7 den sgrìobhainn co- chomhairleachaidh ag ràdh, “Tha sinn airson feum nas fheàrr a dhèanamh de na h-àiteachan againn gus taic a chumail ri gnìomhachd chorpóra, gabhail fois agus a’ cluich, gus daoine a thoirt còmhla gus ar cultar, iomadachd agus dualchas a chomharrachadh”. An seo agus an àiteachan eile anns an sgrìobhainn co- chomhairleachaidh bu chòir iomradh a dhèanamh air na dòighean san urrainn toglaichean agus stòrasan fiosaigeach eile taic a chumail ri gnìomhan stèidhichte air stòrasan cultarach <i>do-bheantainn</i> mar eisimpleir a’ Ghàidhlig agus a cultar.</p> <p>Tha taobh-duilleig 7 den sgrìobhainn co- chomhairleachaidh ag ràdh “Bidh feum againn air àiteachan nas fheàrr gus suidheachadh a chruthachadh far an urrainn slàinte is sunnd fhad-bheatha a bhith aig a h-uile duine”. Bu chòir a’ Ghàidhlig agus a cultar a bhith mar phàirt de seo taobh a-staigh slàinte agus sunnd.</p> <p>Dè do bheachd air an earrann Àiteachan Tairbheach?</p> <p>Tha taobh-duilleig 8 den sgrìobhainn co- chomhairleachaidh ag ràdh “Nì sinn feum de na neartan agus cothroman eaconamach aig gach pàirt de dh’Alba.”</p> <p>Ann an àiteachan far a bheil sgilean Gàidhlig aig deagh chuibhreann den t-sluagh, tha cothrom nach beag ann a thaobh Gàidhlig mar stòras eaconamach. Thomhais</p> | <p>PART 1 – A NATIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND 2045</p> <p>What is your view on the Liveable Places section?</p> <p>Page 7 of the consultation document states, “We want to make better use of our spaces to support physical activity, relaxation and play, to bring people together and to celebrate our culture, diversity and heritage”. Here and elsewhere in the consultation document there should be reference to the ways that buildings and other physical assets can support activities based on <i>intangible</i> cultural assets: in particular, Gaelic language and culture.</p> <p>Page 7 of the consultation document states that “We will need better places to create the conditions for lifelong health and wellbeing for all”. Gaelic language and culture should be included within this as part of health and wellbeing.</p> <p>What is your view on the Productive Places section?</p> <p>Page 8 of the consultation document states, “We will play to the economic strengths and opportunities of each part of Scotland.”</p> <p>For areas which have a significant proportion of their population with Gaelic skills there is a considerable opportunity around Gaelic as an</p> |

rannsachadh *Ar Stòras Gàidhlig*¹ an luach eaconamach a tha a' Ghàidhlig a' toirt do dh'Alba. Fhuair e a-mach e gu bheil gnothaichean anns na gnìomhachasan cruthachail, turasachd, dualchas, agus roinnean bìdh is dighe a' faighinn buannachd shònraichte bho bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig, agus gu bheil comas aig seo luach eaconamach mòr a lìbhrigeadh.

Tha taobh-duilleig 8 den sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh againn ag ràdh, "S e an ro-innleachd a th' againn a bhith a' togail eaconamaidh sunnd aig am bi buannachd do gach duine anns gach sgìre de dh'Alba". **Bu chòir a' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar a bhith air am meas mar phàirt den eaconamaidh slàinte agus sunnd.**

Dè ur beachd air an earrann Àiteachan air Leth?

Feumar a' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar aithneachadh airson na tha iad a' cur ri cruthachadh àiteachan fìor-mhath, a' toirt seachad fèin-aithne agus ceangail làidir eadar daoine agus an t-àite.

A-rithist, bu chòir iomradh a dhèanamh an seo mun cheangal eadar toglaichean agus stòrasan fiosaigeach, agus stòrasan do-bheantainn mar eisimpleir a' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar. Cuidichidh seo gus an t-amas a ruigsinn gum bi "na h-àiteachan againn sònraichte san àm ri teachd" (taobh-duilleig 9) Tha seo a rèir mar a tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag aithneachadh gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig na pàirt bhunaiteach de dhualchas, fèin-aithne nàiseanta agus beatha chultarach na h-Alba."².

Mar sin, bu chòir dhan Fhrèam-obrach Planaidh Nàiseanta taic a chumail ri gealltanais Riaghaltas na h-Alba a bhith a' cur ris an àireamh de dhaoine a tha a' cleachdadh agus ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig³. Bu chòir

economic asset. The report, *Ar Stòras Gàidhlig*⁸, measured the economic value Gaelic brings to Scotland. It found that businesses in the creative industries, tourism, heritage, and food and drink sectors in particular benefit from their use of Gaelic, and that this has the potential to bring significant economic value.

Page 8 of the consultation document states, "Our strategy is to build a wellbeing economy that benefits everyone, and every place, in Scotland". **Gaelic language and culture should be included within this as part of a health and wellbeing economy.**

What is your view on the Distinctive Places section?

Gaelic language and culture needs to be recognised for its contribution to creating great places, providing a sense of identity and sense of place.

Again, the link between buildings and other physical assets and intangible cultural assets such as Gaelic language and culture should be made here. This will help to fully realise the stated aim of "Our future places will be distinctive" (page 9). This reflects Scottish Government's recognition that "Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's heritage, national identity and current cultural life"⁹.

Given this, the Fourth National Planning Framework should support Scottish Government's commitment to increasing the numbers using and learning Gaelic¹⁰. It should

¹ <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/5585/hieplusreportplus2014plusfinalplusonline.pdf>

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-scottish-governments-draft-gaelic-language-plan-2021-2026/>

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-greener-scotland-programme-government-2021-22>

⁸ <https://www.hie.co.uk/media/5585/hieplusreportplus2014plusfinalplusonline.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-scottish-governments-draft-gaelic-language-plan-2021-2026/>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-greener-scotland-programme-government-2021-22>



dha cuir ri fàs ann an iomadachd cànanain agus cultair san aon dòigh 's a bhios e, mar eisimpleir, a' cumail taic ri bith-iomadachd.

Dè ur beachd air an earrainn 'Sgìrean-gnìomha do dh'Alba 2045'?

Tha an fhreagairt againn a' coimhead gu sònraichte air **Sgìre tionnsgalachd a' chosta a tuath agus an iar**. Seo a chionn 's gu bheil na coimhearsnachdan leis an àireamh as motha sa chiad de dhaoine aig a bheil sgilean Gàidhlig san sgìre sin.

Tha Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig⁴ ag ràdh gu bheil "farsaingeachd de... chùisean - eaconamach, deamografach, bun-structair eile a bheir buaidh dhìreach agus neo-dhìreach air cleachdadh agus pròifil na Gàidhlig". Tha deagh bhuidhe aig leasachadh eaconamach agus bun-structar ann a bhith a' cumail taic ri àireamhan-sluaigh agus mar sin ri leasachadh na Gàidhlig. Seo as adhbhar gu bheil sin a' cur freagairt a-steach dhan cho-chomhairle seo. Seo as adhbhar cuideachd **gu bheil sinn den bheachd gum bu chòir dhan Chomataidh beachdachadh cuideachd air an ìre is gun cuir NPF4 ri seasmachd agus leasachadh na Gàidhlig agus a cultar.**

Ann an Cunntas-sluaigh 2011, bha sluaigh iomlan de mu 45,000 eadar na 28 eileanan ann an sgìrean Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd, Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal is Bòd, agus Comhairle nan Eilean Siar a bha 3 bliadhna a dh'aois no nas sine. Bha sgilean Gàidhlig aig mu 22,000 (48%) aca. Tha seo **fada nas àirde na ìre chuibheasach na h-Alba.**

Ann an 12 de na h-eileanan, bha sgilean Gàidhlig aig còrr is 40% de na daoine. Bha a' mhòr-chuid aca taobh a-staigh nan Eileanan Siar (10), agus cuideachd Ratharsair agus Tiriodh. A thuilleadh air sin, bha an àireamh airson an Eilean Sgitheanaich dìreach rud beag na b' isle (37%).

contribute to increasing linguistic and cultural diversity in the same way that it aims, for example, to support biodiversity.

What is your view on the 'Action areas for Scotland 2045' section?

Our response focuses on the **North and west coastal innovation action area**. That is because it contains communities with the highest proportions of people with skills in Gaelic.

The National Gaelic Language Plan¹¹ states that "there are a range of... issues - economic, demographic, infrastructural and more - that have direct and indirect impacts on the use and profile of Gaelic". There is a positive impact of economic and infrastructure development in supporting population levels and thus the development of the Gaelic language. That is why we are responding to this consultation. It is also why **we believe that the Committees should also consider the extent to which NPF4 will contribute to the sustainability and development of the Gaelic language and culture.**

In the 2011 Census the 28 individual islands in Highland, Argyll and Bute and the Outer Hebrides had a total population of around 45,000 aged 3 years or above. Of these around 22,000 (48%) had some skills in Gaelic. That is, **vastly above the Scottish average of 1.7%.**

In 12 of the islands the proportion of residents with Gaelic skills was over 40%. These were largely within the Outer Hebrides (10), plus Raasay and Tiree. In addition, the figure for Skye was only slightly less (37%).

⁴ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BnG-NGLP-18-23.pdf>



Gu h-iomlan, tha na h-eileanan seo air a' chosta an iar a' dèanamh suas nas lugha na 1% de shluagh na h-Alba a tha 3 bliadhna a dh'aois no nas sine - ach tha barrachd air cairteal (25%) de luchd-còmhnaidh na h-Alba aig a bheil sgilean Gàidhlig a' fuireach annta. **Mar sin, chan e amhàin gu bheil gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig cudromach do na h-eileanan seo ach gu bheil seasmhachd nan eileanan riatanach airson seasmhachd agus fàs leantainneach na Gàidhlig.**

A bharrachd air seo, tha Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag ràdh: "Tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag aithneachadh cho cudromach 's a tha a' Ghàidhlig do dh'iomadh coimhearsnachd eileanach, agus cho cudromach 's a tha na coimhearsnachdan eileanach far a bheil Gàidhlig air a bruidhinn do sheasmhachd na Gàidhlig ann an Alba".

Ann an a' gheàrr-chunntas mu Sgìre-gnìomh ath-bheothachaidh a' Chinn a Tuath, tha iomradh air a "dualchas nàdarra agus cultarach air leth." Airson sgìre-gnìomha tionnsgalachd a' Chosta a Tuath agus an Iar, chan eil iomradh ann ach air "eachdraidh bheartach agus dualchas cultarach sònraichte" (taobh-duilleig 12). Tha sinn den bheachd gum bu chòir an sgìre seo a chomharrachadh cuideachd mar tè le "dualchas nàdarra agus cultarach air leth", gu sònraichte mar thoradh air Gàidhlig agus a cultar.

Tha sinn toilichte gu bheil cuid de na prìomh amasan ann am Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean air an cur an cèill a-rithist san sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh. Gu sònraichte a bhith a' toirt fàs air an eaconamaidh agus air an t-sluagh agus gus piseach a thoirt air còmh-dhail agus taigheadas. Seo ceithir cuspairean a tha ro-chudromach airson seasmhachd nan coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig agus mar sin airson seasmhachd na Gàidhlig.

Tha e feumail gu bheil an sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh ag ràdh "mar thoradh air sluagh a tha a' fàs nas sine, feumaidh sin barrachd a dhèanamh gus crìoch a chur air na pàtran crìonaidh sluaigh san àm ri teachd" (taobh-duilleig 12). Tha seo cudromach oir chan eil dùbhlann ann dìreach a thaobh àireamhan-sluaigh sna h-àiteachan buntainneach. Tha **structar aoise ann a tha a' sìor-fhàs nas neo-chothromaiche.**

Overall, these west coast islands account for less than 1% of the Scottish population aged 3 years or above - but contain one quarter (25%) of Scottish residents with some Gaelic skills. **Therefore, the Gaelic language is not only important to these islands, but these islands' sustainability is essential to the continued sustainability and growth of the Gaelic language and culture.**

As Scottish Government's National Islands Plan states: "Scottish Government recognises the importance of the Gaelic language to many island communities, and the importance of the Gaelic speaking island communities to the survival and sustainability of Gaelic in Scotland".

In the overview (page 11) to the Northern revitalisation action area there is reference to its "exceptional natural and cultural heritage". For the North and west coastal innovation action area there is only a reference to "a rich history and distinctive cultural heritage" (page 12). We believe that this area should also be classed as one with "an exceptional natural and cultural heritage", especially given the extent of its Gaelic language and culture.

We welcome that some of the key aims of Scotland's National Islands Plan are restated in the consultation document. In particular to grow the population and economy and improve transport and housing. These are four key issues for the sustainability of Gaelic-speaking communities and thus for the sustainability of Gaelic.

It is also useful that the consultation document states that "an ageing population will mean that we need to do more to reverse past patterns of population decline" (page 12). That is because there is not only an issue of population numbers in the affected areas. There is also an **increasingly imbalanced age structure.**



Mar sin, bu chòir do bheachdachadh na comataidh a dhol nas fhaide na dìreach a bhith a' coimhead air an ìre is gum bi na molaidhean "ag àrdachadh sluagh ann an sgìrean dùthchail". Bu chòir dhaibh cuideachd beachdachadh air an ìre is gum bi iad **a' cruthachadh pròifil aoisean nas cothromaiche is nas seasmaiche**. Gus seo a dhèanamh, bi feum air poileasaidhean agus gnìomhan gus barrachd de na daoine a leanas a thàladh/a chumail:

- Òigridh (gu sònraichte 16-24 bliadhna a dh'aois).
- Daoine 25-49 bliadhna a dh'aois - a' bhuidheann as dualtaiche a bhith gnìomhach gu h-eaconamach agus teaghlaichean a bhith aca.

Tha mòran eileanan a' dèiligeadh ri dùbhlain co-cheangailte ri bhith a' cumail/a' tàladh àireamhan iomchaidh de dhaoine òga. Mar eisimpleir, eadar 2011 agus 2019 thathar a' meas gun do thuit na h-àireamhan sa bhuidhinn aois 16-24 10% ann an Leòdhas. Bha lùghdachadh de 14% san fheadhainn a bha 25-49 bliadhna a dh'aois cuideachd.

Tha sin ann an co-theacs far a bheil ceudad nas ìsle ann an Leòdhas anns an dà bhuidhinn aois sin an taca ris a' chuibheas Albannach. Bheir na treandaichean seo droch bhuaidh air seasmhachd choimhearsnachdan ann an Leòdhas. Mar seo, bheir seo droch bhuaidh air seasmhachd na Gàidhlig ann an eilean far an bheil i làidir.

A' dh'aindeoin 's cho cudromach 's a tha a' bhuidheann aoise 16-24 's e glè bheag de dh'iomraidhean a th' anns an sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh a thaobh a bhith a' coileanadh feumalachdan sònraichte na h-òigridh. Bu chòir aghaidh a chur air seo san tionndadh mu dheireadh.

Bhiodh e feumail fios a bhith ann air dè a' bhunait fianais a chaidh a chleachdadh a thaobh feumalachdan na h-òigridh ann an cruthachadh an dreachd de NPF4. Mar eisimpleir, tha Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean air rannsachadh cunbhalach a dhèanamh air beachdan agus miannan òigridh eadar 15 is 30 bliadhna a dh'aois. Bha an rannsachadh mu dheireadh ann an 2018⁵. Bha e a' gabhail

Therefore, the Committees' deliberations on NPF4 should go beyond simply considering the extent to which the proposals will "repopulate rural areas". They should also consider the extent to which they will **produce a more balanced, sustainable age profile**. That will require policies and actions to help to attract/retain more:

- Younger people (notably 16-24 years).
- Aged 25-49 who are most likely to be economically active and have families.

Many islands face challenges in retaining/attracting sufficient numbers of young people. For example, between 2011 and 2019 the number of 16–24 year-olds in Lewis is estimated to have fallen by 14%. There was also a decline of 14% in those aged 25-49.

This is in a context where Lewis already had a lower share of its population in these two age groups compared to the Scottish average. These negative trends will affect the sustainability of communities in Lewis. In turn, this will reduce the sustainability of Gaelic in an island where it has been very strong.

Given the key importance of the 16-24 age group **the consultation document has very few references to meeting the specific needs of young people**. This should be addressed in its final version.

It would be useful to know what evidence base has been used around the needs of young people in compiling the draft NPF4. For example, Highlands and Islands Enterprise have undertaken periodic research into the attitudes and aspirations of young people aged 15-30. The

⁵ <https://www.hie.co.uk/research-and-reports/our-reports/2018/may/31/yp-research/>



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| <p>a-steach obair, taigheadas, còmh dhail agus ceangailteachd dhidseatach.</p> <p>Bhiodh e feumail do dheasbadaidh na Comataidh cuideachd nam biodh eadar-dhealachadh eadar diofar sheòrsaichean de “sgìrean dùthchail”. Ann an Alba, tha eadar-dhealachaidhean mòra ann eadar àiteachan “dùthchail”: bho àiteachan a tha meadhanach faisg air bailtean gu eileanan a tha am measg nan coimhearsnachdan as iomallaiche san RA. Ged a tha na h-aon sheòrsaichean dùbhlain aig àiteachan dùthchail a thaobh slugh, còmh dhail, taigheadas, is mar sin air adhart, mar as trice, tha iad nas miosa anns na sgìrean aig a bheil slugh nas lugha agus a tha nas iomallaiche.</p> <p>Tha taobh-duilleig 12 den sgrìobhainn ag ràdh “is urrainn dòigh-obrach leasachaidh airson na sgìre seo a tha mothachail air a’ ghnàth-shìde agus air nàdar cuideachadh gus aghaidh a chur air dùbhlain nas fharsainghe”. Bu chòir seo atharrachadh gu “Dòigh obrach [,,,] a tha mothachail air a’ ghnàth-shìde, air cultar agus air nàdar....”.</p> <p>Tha an sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh ag ràdh “far a bheil obraichean sgileil ann, tha e uaireannan doirbh feachd-obrach ionadail a thàladh is a chumail” (taobh-duilleig 13). Ach, chanamaid cuideachd gur e ceistean leithid taigheadas agus còmh dhail a tha ga dhèanamh nas doirbhe daoine ùra a thàladh, a bharrachd air a bhith a’ cur ris an àireamh de dhaoine a tha a’ fàgail nan eileanan.</p> <p>Tha taobh-duilleig 15 ag ràdh gum bi “feum aig coimhearsnachdan eileanach agus air a’ chosta air dòigh-obrach shònraichte agus shùbailte a thaobh nàbachdan 20 mionaid”. Feumaidh mìneachadh nas coileanta a bhith ann air mar as urrainnear seo a choileanadh. Feumar seo a dhèanamh ann an dòigh nach adhbharaich imrich gu bailtean nas motha leithid Steòrnabhagh is Port Rìgh. Biodh droch bhuaidh aig sin air seasmhachd nan coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig leis an àireamh as àirde sa cheud aig a bheil Gàidhlig.</p> <p><i>Cruthaich Coimhearsnachdan le Cothromachadh-carboin ann an Coimhearsnachdan Eileanach agus air a’ Chosta</i></p> | <p>most recent was in 2018¹². It included employment, housing, transport and digital connectivity.</p> <p>The Committees’ deliberations would also benefit from a differentiation between types of “rural area”. Within Scotland “rural” can vary greatly: between areas relatively close to towns to islands which are among the most remote communities in the UK. While rural areas can face similar challenges in terms of population, transport, housing, etc., these tend to most acute in the less populated and more remote areas.</p> <p>Page 12 of the consultation document states” A climate and nature conscious approach to development of this area can help to tackle wider challenges”. This should be changed to “A climate, culture and nature conscious approach....”.</p> <p>The consultation document states that “where skilled jobs exist it can be difficult to attract and retain a local workforce” (page 13). However, we would argue that it is issues such as housing and transport that make it difficult to attract new people as well as contributing to the outmigration of existing residents.</p> <p>Page 15 states that “Island and coastal communities will need a bespoke and flexible approach to the concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods”. There needs to be a fuller explanation of how this can be achieved. It must be in a way that does not lead to migration of population to larger settlements like Stornoway and Portree. That would further reduce the viability of the communities with the highest proportions of Gaelic speakers.</p> <p><i>Create Carbon Neutral Coastal and Island Communities</i></p> |
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¹² <https://www.hie.co.uk/research-and-reports/our-reports/2018/may/31/yp-research/>



Tha sinn a' cur fàilte air na ceuman a thathar a' moladh a thaobh taigheadais. Chaidh seo aithneachadh bho chionn fhada mar chuingealachadh air sluagh air a chothromachadh agus air taic ri fàs eaconomach. Tha e riatanach gum bi prìomhachas agus maoinachadh ann agus dèanamh cinnteach gum bi gu leòr taigheadas air prìs ruigsinneachd.

Bu chòir planadh cuideachadh taic a chumail ri cruthachadh barrachd taigheadais - agus chan ann a-mhàin ann am bailtean a th' ann mar-thà. Tha seo cudromach gu sònraichte anns na sgìrean nas iomallaiche far a bheil Gàidhlig fhathast gu math làidir. **Tha gealltanais ann am Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean "dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid beachdachadh air a' bhuidhe air coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig nuair a thathar a' cruthachadh poileasaidhean taigheadais."**

Mar as còir, tha an sgrìobhainn cho-chomhairleachadh a' toirt iomradh air eadar-ghluasad cothromach bho ola is gas gus am bi cothromachadh-carboin ann an sgìre eadar-ghluasad an Ear-thuath san àm ri teachd. Ach, feumar aithneachadh cuideachd gu bheil àireamh nach beag de luchd-obrach ola is gas aig a bheil teaghlaichean is dachaighean ann an sgìre-gnìomha tionnsgalachd a' Chosta a Tuath agus an Iar. Tha seo gu h-àraid fìor a thaobh nan Eileanan Siar - an t-àite far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig as treasa.

Tha an uiread de luchd-obrach ola is gas san sgìre cuideachd a' neartachadh na h-argamaid airson pròiseact Co-ionad Lùths nan Eilean Siar mar rud a chruthaicheas cosnadh le deagh phàigheadh.

Cùm taic ris na h-Eaconamaidhean Gorm is Sunnd

Tha sinn ag aontachadh ris a' bheachd san sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh gum b' urrainn "Na leasan a dh'ionnsaich sinn bhon ghalar làir sgaoilte mu bhith ag obair air astar cuideachadh gus fàs a thoirt air coimhearsnachdan tro bhith a' cur ris an fharsaingeachd de dheagh obraichean a tha rim faighinn" (taobh-duilleig 16). Ach, chì sgìrean eile den RA seo mar chothrom cuideachd. Ma tha Sgìre-gnìomha ath-bheothachaidh a' Chinn a Tuath gu bhith farpaiseach, feumaidh gu leòr

We welcome the proposed actions on housing. This has long been recognised as a constraint on maintaining a balanced population and supporting economic growth. It is essential that providing a sufficient supply of affordable housing is prioritised and given the required funding.

Planning should support the creation of increased housing stock - and not only in existing settlements. This is particularly an issue for the more remote areas where Gaelic remains relatively strong. **The National Islands Plan contains a commitment to "ensure that the impact on Gaelic speaking communities is considered as housing policies are developed".**

Rightly, the consultation document refers to a just transition from oil and gas to a net zero future for the Northeast transition area. However, there is also a need to recognise the significant number of offshore workers with homes and families in the North and west coastal innovation action area. That is particularly the case in the Outer Hebrides - which is a Gaelic heartland.

The presence of offshore workers in the area also strengthens the case for the Outer Hebrides Energy Hub project as a creator of well-paid employment.

Support the Blue and Wellbeing Economies

We support the consultation document's view that "The lessons we have learned from the pandemic about remote working could also help to grow communities by extending the range of high-quality jobs available" (page 16). However, other parts of the UK will also see this as an opportunity. For the Northern revitalisation action area to be competitive there needs to be available appropriate housing, high quality digital



taigheadas freagarrach air prìs reusanta a bhith ann, ceangailteachd didseatach aig àrd-ìre agus còmh-dhail a tha ath-leumach agus air prìs reusanta airson siubhal gnìomhachais.

Tha sinn a' cur fàilte air an tasgadh cuimsichte air bun-structar na turasachd, a' gabhail a-steach Pròiseact Leasachaidh nan Eilean Siar mar Cheann-uidhe. Cumaidh seo taic ris agus brosnachadh e an t-iarrrtas a tha a' fàs air **turasachd co-cheangailte ris a' Ghàidhlig. Tha seona fhìor dheagh chothrom airson pàirtean de sgìre tionnsgalachd a' Chosta a Tuath is an Iar.**

Tha e stèidhichte air a bhith a' tàladh barrachd luchd-tadhail gu Alba aig a bheil ùidh ann a bhith ag ionnsachadh barrachd mu dheidhinn na Gàidhlig. Fhuair suirbhìdh aig VisitScotland ann an 2016 a-mach, gun obair bhrosnachaidh ro làimh, gun robh còrr is aonan anns gach trì-ùir den luchd-freagairt den bheachd gun robh a' Ghàidhlig, mar chànan nàiseanta na h-Alba, a' cur ris an turas aca agus gun robh iad ag iarraidh barrachd ionnsachadh ma deidhinn.

Thathar ag aithneachadh comas mòr na Gàidhlig ann an ro-innleachd aig VisitScotland Ro-innleachd Turasachd na Gàidhlig do dh'Alba⁶. Tha VisitScotland air a ràdh gu bheil "ùidh anns a' chànan a' sìor fhàs agus tha an làrach luchd-cleachdaidh againn, VisitScotland.com, ag aithris àrdachadh de 56% ann am fèill agus amharc air susbaint Gàidhlig"⁷.

Cuir ri Ath-leumachd agus Dì-charbonaich Ceangailteachd

Feumar cur ri comas, cunbhalachd agus ath-leumachd seirbheisean aiseig ann an lìonra CalMac mar chùis èiginn. Cha robh na seirbheisean math gu leòr sna beagan bhliadhnaichean mu dheireadh, rud a tha a' toirt droch bhuaidh air comas nan eileanach a bhith a' siubhal agus air gnìomhachd eaconamach san fharsaingeachd

connectivity and resilient and affordable transport for business travel.

We welcome the proposed targeted investment in tourism infrastructure, including the Outer Hebrides Destination Development Project. This will support and complement the growing demand for **Gaelic-related tourism. That represents a tremendous opportunity for parts of the North and west coastal innovation action area.**

It is based on attracting more of the visitors to Scotland who are interested in learning more about Gaelic. A 2016 VisitScotland survey found that, with no prior promotion, more than one in three visitors felt that Gaelic, as a national language of Scotland, enhanced their visit and they would like to find out more about it.

This significant potential is recognised in VisitScotland's Gaelic Tourism Strategy for Scotland¹³. VisitScotland have stated that "interest in the language continues to grow and our consumer site, VisitScotland.com, reports a 56% increase in the popularity and views of Gaelic content"¹⁴.

Strengthen Resilience and Decarbonise Connectivity

There is an urgent need to improve the capacity, reliability and resilience of ferry services in the CalMac network. These have been lacking in recent years with negative impacts on islanders' ability to travel and general economic activity.

⁶ <https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/gaelic-tourism-strategy.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.visitscotland.org/news/2021/gaelic-toolkit>

¹³ <https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/gaelic-tourism-strategy.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.visitscotland.org/news/2021/gaelic-toolkit>



Tha sinn a’ cur fàilte air an iomradh air "oidhirpean nas motha gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil barrachd buaidh aig òigridh air co-dhùnaidhean a bheir buaidh air na h-àiteachan a bhios aca san àm ri teachd (taobh-duilleig 15). Ach bu chòir seo a bhith a’ dol nas fhaide na taigheadas. **Gu sònraichte, bu chòir dha a bhith a’ gabhail a-staigh siubhal an-asgaidh air aiseagan do dhaoine fo aois 22 a bharrachd air siubhal an-asgaidh air busaichean a-mhàin.**

Tha sinn fada den bheachd:

- Gum faodadh daoine òga a tha a’ fuireach ann an coimhearsnachdan eileanach a bhith fo ana-cothrom oir feumaidh iad aiseagan a chleachdadh gus cothroman a ruigsinn agus chan e còmhail rathaid a-mhàin.
- Gu bheil siubhal air aiseag an-asgaidh deatamach gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil co-ionannachd ann eadar daoine òga sna h-eileanan agus an coaisean air tìr-mòr.

Bidh tarraingeachd nan eilean do dhaoine òga a’ toirt buaidh air na co-dhùnaidhean aca a thaobh a bhith a’ fuireach sna h-eileanan no a bhith a’ dol gu àiteigin eile. Bheir cosgaisean siubhal buaidh air co-dhùnaidhean mar seo. Mar sin, tha e a’ toirt buaidh air soirbheas agus seasmhachd nan coimhearsnachdan eileanach agus dh’fhaodadh e droch bhuaidh a thoirt air a’ Ghàidhlig is sgìrean far a bheil i ga bruidhinn.

Tha an teacsa air Plana Ceangailteachd nan Eilean a’ toirt iomradh air "cothrom [air còmhail] an dà chuid airson cur-seachadan agus bathar" (taobh-duilleig 17). Bu chòir seo atharrachadh gus iomradh a thoirt air siubhal gnìomhachais agus còmhail co-cheangailte ri slàinte, rudan far a bheil seirbheisean adhair gu math cudromach.

Tha tòrr de na puingeann gu h-àrd cuideachd fìor a thaobh nan sgìrean nas dùthchaile agus nas iomallaiche ann an **the Sgìre Ath-bheothachaidh a’ Chinn a Tuath**, gu sònraichte:

We welcome the reference to “greater efforts to ensure young people have more influence in decisions that affect their future places” (page 15). However, this should extend beyond housing. **Notably, to Transport Scotland introducing free ferry travel for under 22s rather than this being limited to bus services.**

We strongly believe that:

- Young people living in island communities could be disadvantaged because they have to use ferries and not just road transport to access opportunities.
- Free ferry travel is essential to ensure parity between island dwelling young people and their mainland peers.

The attractiveness of the islands for young people will affect their decisions to live there or elsewhere. The level of transport costs will influence such decisions. Thus, it affects the future sustainability of the island communities and has the potential for a negative impact on the Gaelic language in Gaelic speaking areas.

The text on the Islands Connectivity Plan refers to “access for both leisure and freight” (page 17). This should be amended to include business travel and health-related travel-for which air services are particularly important.

Many of the above points also apply to the more rural and remote parts of **the Northern revitalisation area**, notably:

- Role of economic and infrastructure development in supporting Gaelic language and culture.



- An t-àite a th' aig leasachadh eaconamach agus bun-structar ann a bhith a' cumail taic ris a' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar.
- A' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig mar Stòras Eacanomaigeach.
- Poileasaidhean a tha a' cumail taic ri pròifil sluaigh chothromach.
- Cho fìor chudromach 's a tha taigheadas air prìsean ruigsinneach.
- Barrachd mìneachaidh air an dòigh-obrach shònraichte, shùbailte a thaobh coincheap nan nàbachd 20 mionaid. Feumar seo a dhèanamh ann an dòigh a sheachnas call-sluaigh bho àiteachan dùthchail gu prìomh bhailtean le droch bhuaidh air a' Ghàidhlig.

PÀIRT 2 – LEASACHAIDHEAN NÀISEANTA

Rèile fìor luath

Tha an sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh ag ràdh "Tha ceangailteachd rèile as urrain a bhith farpaiseach le còmh-dhail adhair is rathaid eadar na prìomh bhailtean is cathair-bhailtean ann an Alba, Sasainn, agus air adhart dhan Roinn Eòrpa na pàirt ro-chudromach de bhith a' lùghdachadh eimiseanan siubhail" (taobh-duilleig 60).

Ach, cha bhi na thathar a' moladh leis fhèin a' dèanamh seo comasach airson fear de chathair-bhailtean na h-Alba - i.e. Inbhir Nis. Sin a chionn 's gu bheil e a' toirt còrr is trì uairean air an tràna eadar Inbhir Nis agus meadhan na h-Alba gus ceangal ri seirbheisean air adhart a Shasainn. Tha seo, leis fhèin, còrr is uair a thide nas fhaide na turas adhair eadar Inbhir Nis agus Lunnainn.

Mar sin, gus amannan farpaiseach fhaighinn gu/bho Inbhir Nis, feumaidh lùghdachadh mòr a bhith ann an àm an turais eadar am baile-mòr agus stèiseanan ann am meadhan na h-Alba. Bu chòir seasamh Riaghaltas na h-Alba air seo a chur an cèill anns an sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh.

A BHEIL RUD SAM BITH EILE AGAIBH RI RÀDH A THAOBH AN DREACHD DEN FHREAM-OBRACH PLANAIDH NÀISEANTA (NPF4)?

- Use of Gaelic as an economic asset.
- Policies which support a balanced population.
- The central role of affordable housing.
- Greater explanation of the bespoke and flexible approach to the concept of 20 minute neighbourhoods. This must be in a way that avoids loss of population from rural areas to main settlements with a negative impact on the Gaelic language.

PART 2 – NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

High Speed Rail

The consultation document states that "Rail connectivity that can effectively compete with air and road-based transport between the major towns and cities in Scotland, England and onward to Europe is an essential part of reducing transport emissions" (page 60).

However, what is proposed will not, on itself, make this possible for one of Scotland's cities - i.e., Inverness. That is because it is currently over three hours by train between Inverness and the central belt to connect with onward services to England. That alone is more than one hour longer than a flight between Inverness and London.

Thus, getting close to achieving competitive rail times to/from Inverness will require significant journey time reductions between the city and central belt stations. Scottish Government's position on this should be stated in the consultation document.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO ADD IN RELATION TO THE DRAFT OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK (NPF4)?



Seo geàrr-chunntas de na prìomh phuingeann againn:

Tha an ro-ràdh gu Pàirt 1 - Ro-innleachd Spàsail Nàiseanta airson Alba 2045 ag ràdh “Feumaidh sinn gabhail ri atharrachadh radaigeach agus feumaidh sinn a libhrigeadh gus an urrainn dhuinn cur an aghaidh agus atharrachadh ri linn atharrachadh na gnàth-shìde, bith-iomadachd a thoirt air ais, slàinte is sunnd adhartachadh, eaconamaidh sunnd a thogail agus àiteachan fìor mhath a chruthachadh”. Bu chòir a’ Ghàidhlig agus a cultar a bhith mar phàirt de seo taobh a-staigh **slàinte agus sunnd, pàirt den eaconamaidh sunnd agus rud a tha a’ cur ri àiteachan fìor mhath.**

Bu chòir an Ceathramh Frèam-obrach Planaidh Nàiseanta taic a chumail ri gealltanais Riaghaltas na h-Alba a bhith a’ cur ris an àireamh de dhaoine a tha a’ cleachdadh agus ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig. Bu chòir dha cuir ri fàs ann an iomadachd cànan agus cultair san aon dòigh ’s a bhios e, mar eisimpleir, a’ cumail taic ri bith-iomadachd.

Tha farsaingeachd de chùisean - eaconamach, deamografach, bun-structair is eile a bheir buaidh dhìreach agus neo-dhìreach air cleachdadh agus pròifil na Gàidhlig. Mar sin, tha ceangail follaiseach ann eadar tasgaidhean agus leasachaidhean sòisio-eaconamach agus seasmhachd na Gàidhlig.

Tha dàimh dà-shligheach ann eadar cànan agus coimhearsnachd. Tha Gàidhlig cudromach do na coimhearsnachdan eileanach sa chosta an iar far a bheil i ga bruidhinn, ach mar an ceudna, tha na coimhearsnachdan eileanach cudromach a thaobh na Gàidhlig san àm ri teachd.

Tha sinn a’ cur fàilte air na gnìomhan a thathar a’ moladh a thaobh taigheadas, a tha na prìomh raon. Tha sinn a’ toirt fa-near gu bheil gealltanais ann am Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean “dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid beachdachadh air a’ bhuidhe air coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig nuair a thathar a’ cruthachadh poileasaidhean taigheadais”.

Tha glè bheag de dh’iomraidhean san sgrìobhainn mu bhith a’ coileanadh nam feumalachdan sònraichte aig

The key points in our response can be summarised as follows:

The introduction to Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045 states that “We must embrace and deliver radical change so we can tackle and adapt to climate change, restore biodiversity loss, improve health and wellbeing, build a wellbeing economy and create great places”. Gaelic language and culture should be included within this as part of **health and wellbeing, part of the wellbeing economy and a contributor to creating great places.**

The Fourth National Planning Framework **should support Scottish Government’s commitment to** increasing the numbers using and learning Gaelic. It should contribute to increasing linguistic and cultural diversity in the same way that it aims, for example, to support biodiversity.

There are a range of issues - economic, demographic, infrastructural and more - that have direct and indirect impacts on the use and profile of Gaelic. Thus, there is a clear link between socio-economic investments and development and the viability of the Gaelic language.

There is a two-way relationship between language and community. Gaelic is important to the west coast island communities where it is spoken, but equally the island communities where it is spoken are important to the health and future of the Gaelic language.

We welcome the proposed actions on the key issue of housing. We note that the National Islands Plan contains a commitment to “ensure that the impact on Gaelic speaking communities is considered as housing policies are developed”.

The consultation document has very few references to meeting the specific needs of



òigridh. Bu chòir aghaidh a chur air seo san tionndadh mu dheireadh.

Tha sinn a' cur fàilte air an tasgadh chuimsichte air bun-structar na turasachd, a' gabhail a-steach Pròiseact Leasachaidh nan Eilean Siar mar Cheann-uidhe. Cumaidh seo taic ris an iarrtas a tha a' fàs air turasachd co-cheangailte ris a' Ghàidhlig. Tha seo na deagh chothrom airson pàirtean de Sgìre-gnìomha ath-bheothachadh a' Chinn a Tuath, mar a tha Gàidhlig, san fharsaingeachd, mar stòras eaconamach.

Tha sinn a' cur fàilte air an iomradh air "oidhirpean nas motha gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil barrachd buaidh aig òigridh air co-dhùnaidhean a bheir buaidh air na h-àiteachan a bhios aca san àm ri teachd". Bu chòir seo a dhol nas fhaide na taigheadas. Gu sònraichte, bu chòir seo a bhith a' gabhail a-steach Còmhdhail Alba a bhith a' toirt a-staigh siubhail an-asgaidh air aiseagan do dhaoine fo aois 22 a bharrachd air siubhail an-asgaidh air busaichean a-mhàin.

Feumar cur ri comas, cunbhalachd agus ath-leumachd seirbheisean aiseig ann an lìonra CalMac mar chùis èiginn. Cha robh na seirbheisean math gu leòr sna beagan bhliadhnaichean mu dheireadh, rud a tha a' toirt droch bhuaidh air comas nan eileanach a bhith a' siubhal agus air gnìomhachd eaconamach san fharsaingeachd

Bu chòir NPF 4 aithneachadh gun urrainn do thogalaichean agus stòrasan fiosaigeach eile taic a chumail ri gnìomhan stèidhichte air stòrasan do-bheantainn - gu sònraichte a' Ghàidhlig agus a cultar.

Tha sinn den bheachd gum bu chòir dhan Chomataidh beachdachadh air na leanas:

- Beachdaich air an ìre is gun cuir NPF4 ri seasamhachd agus leasachadh na Gàidhlig.
- A' dol nas fhaide na dìreach a' smaoinichadh air an ìre is gum is gum bi na molaidhean "ag àrdachadh sluaigh ann an sgìrean dùthchail". 'S e sin a bhith a' beachdachadh air an ìre is gum bi iad a' cruthachadh pròifil aoisean nas cothromaiche is nas seasmaich

young people. This should be addressed in its final version.

We welcome the proposed targeted investment in tourism infrastructure, including the Outer Hebrides Destination Development Project. This will support and complement the growing demand for Gaelic-related tourism. That represents a tremendous opportunity for parts of the Northern revitalisation action area as, in general, does Gaelic as an economic asset.

We welcome the reference to "greater efforts to ensure young people have more influence in decisions that affect their future places". This should extend beyond housing. Notably, to Transport Scotland introducing free ferry travel for under 22s rather than this being limited to bus services.

There is an urgent need to improve the capacity, reliability and resilience of ferry services in the CalMac network. These have been lacking in recent years with negative impacts on islanders' ability to travel and general economic activity.

NPF4 should recognise the ways that buildings and other physical assets can support activities based on intangible cultural assets - notably Gaelic language and culture.

We recommend that the Committees' deliberations should:

- Consider the extent to which NPF4 will contribute to the sustainability and development of the Gaelic language.
- Go beyond simply considering the extent to which the proposals will repopulate rural areas. That is, to consider the extent to which they will produce more balanced, sustainable populations.



- Eadar-dhealachadh a dhèanamh eadar diofar sheòrsaichean de sgìrean dùthchail, a' gabhail a-steach coimhearsnachdan iomallach.

- Distinguish between different types of rural area - particularly including remote communities.

