

<p>Co-chomhairle a thaobh Stiùireadh nan Seann is Nuadh- Bhailtean aig Làrach Dualchas Cruinne Dhùn Èideann</p> <p>Freagairt le Bòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>03 Màrt 2024</p>	<p>Managing the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site Consultation</p> <p>Response by Bòrd na Gàidhlig</p> <p>03 March 2024</p>
<p>9. Thoiribh beachd gu h-ìosal ma tha fiosrachadh eile agaibh air an dreachd-phlana stiùiridh no an dreachd-phlana gnìomha.</p> <p>Ro-ràdh</p> <p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ cur fàilte air a’ chothrom freagairt a thoirt don cho-chomhairle seo. ’S e Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ phrìomh bhuidheann phoblach ann an Alba le uallach airson leasachadh na Gàidhlig a chur air adhart, a’ gabhail a-steach comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan na h-Alba air cùisean Gàidhlig.</p> <p>Tha Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005 ag iarraidh air Bòrd na Gàidhlig Plana Cànanain Nàiseanta Gàidhlig ullachadh agus a chur a-steach. Bu chòir molaidhean a bhith ann a thaobh cleachdadh agus adhartachadh na Gàidhlig le fòcas air feumalachdan agus prìomhachasan na Gàidhlig airson luchd-labhairt, luchd-ionnsachaidh agus luchd-taic na Gàidhlig.</p> <p>Ged a tha an Achd ag iarraidh air Bòrd na Gàidhlig am Plana ullachadh, tha an t-uallach airson adhartas a dhèanamh leis na h-amasan is targaidean a th’ ann air grunn ùghdarrasan, bhuidhnean agus choimhearsnachdan.</p> <p>Is e Lèirsinn Plana Cànanain Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2023-28¹ “Àrdachadh a ghabhas tomhas anns na h-àireamhan de dhaoine a’ bruidhinn, ag ionnsachadh, a’ cleachdadh agus a’ toirt taic don Ghàidhlig”. Tha prìomhachasan agus targaidean ann a bhuineas ris an dachaigh, a’ choimhearsnachd, na gnìomhachasan cruthachail, gnothach agus an eaconamaidh, foghlam, ionnsachadh às dèidh na sgoile agus beatha phoblach na h-Alba san fharsaingeachd.</p>	<p>9. Please comment below if you have any other feedback on the draft management plan or draft action plan.</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation. It is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development, including providing advice to Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues.</p> <p>The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 requires Bòrd na Gàidhlig to prepare and submit a National Gaelic Language Plan. That should contain proposals relating to the use and promotion of Gaelic with a focus on the needs and priorities of the Gaelic language for its speakers, learners, and supporters.</p> <p>While the Act requires Bòrd na Gàidhlig to prepare the Plan, the responsibility for making progress with its aims and targets sits with a number of authorities, organisations and communities.</p> <p>The Vision of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28⁷ is “A measureable increase in the numbers of people speaking, learning, using and supporting Gaelic”. The Plan includes priorities and targets relating to home, community, creative industries, business and economy, education, post-school learning and Scottish public life generally.</p>

¹ https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/FINAL_BnG_National_Gaelic_Language_Plan_ENGLISH.pdf

⁷ https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/FINAL_BnG_National_Gaelic_Language_Plan_ENGLISH.pdf

Chaidh dreachd Bhile nan Cànanan Albannach² fhoillseachadh san t-Samhain 2023. Tha e ag ràdh gu bheil “inbhe oifigeil aig a’ Ghàidhlig ann an Alba”. Bu chòir na gnìomhan a tha an dreachd Bhile a’ toirt do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig “a choileanadh le sùil ri dèanamh cinnteach gum faigh a’ Ghàidhlig an aon spèis ris a’ Bheurla”.

Bheir an dreachd Bhile “a-steach comas Sgìrean Cudromach a thaobh Cànan a stèidheachadh gus lìbhrigeadh iomchaidh a thoirt gu buil”³. Seo sgìrean far a bheil sgìlean Gàidhlig aig co-dhiù 20% den t-sluagh, no sgìrean far a bheil a’ Ghàidhlig ga cleachdadh ann an dòigh shònraichte eile, no àite far a bheil foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, no àite far a bheil gnìomhachd cudromach co-cheangailte ris a’ Ghàidhlig neo cultar na Gàidhlig.

Tha a’ Ghàidhlig na cànan nàiseanta a tha ga bruidhinn air feadh na h-Alba. Ann an Cunntas-sluaigh 2011 bha comas air choreigin sa Ghàidhlig aig 87,100 neach ann an Alba (mu 1.7% den t-sluagh), agus bha 57,600 dhiubh sin nan luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig.

Tha timcheall air 50% de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a’ fuireach air a’ Ghàidhealtachd is na h-Eileanan agus càch sa chòrr de dh’Alba. 'S iad na h-Eileanan Siar, a' Ghàidhealtachd agus Earra-Ghàidheal is Bòd na pàirtean de dh'Alba far as treasa a' Ghàidhlig sa choimhearsnachd.

Tha Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig a’ leudachadh air feadh na h-Alba. Tha e a-nis ri fhaighinn ann an dàrna leth nan 32 Ùghdarrasan Ionadail ann an Alba. Thòisich FMG ann an 1985 le 14 sgoilearan bun-sgoile. Tha a-nis còrr is 5,600 sgoilear san roinn thar foghlam Bun-sgoile agus Àrd-sgoile.

Mar a tha am Plana Cànan Nàiseanta Gàidhlig ag ràdh “Tha gnìomhachd na Gàidhlig ri lorg a-nis ann an iomadh roinn leithid foghlam sgoile, foghlam adhartach is àrd-ìre, anns na meadhanan agus craoladh, ann an turasachd, ann am foillseachadh, ann an dualchas, anns na h-ealain agus ann an ionnsachadh inbheach is coimhearsnachd. Tha iad sin deatamach don chànan agus a’ cruthachadh chothroman airson Gàidhlig a chleachdadh”.

The draft Scottish Languages Bill⁸ was published in November 2023. It states that “the Gaelic language has official status within Scotland”. The functions conferred on Bòrd na Gàidhlig by the draft Bill “are to be exercised with a view to ensuring that the Gaelic language is treated with equal respect to the English language”.

The draft Bill will “introduce the possibility of Areas of Linguistic Significance to allow for proportionate delivery”⁹. These are areas where at least 20% of its population has Gaelic language skills, or is an area historically connected with the use of Gaelic, or is one where there is Gaelic-medium education, or is one where there is significant activity relating to Gaelic language or Gaelic culture.

Gaelic is a national language which is spoken across Scotland. At the 2011 Census 87,100 people in Scotland had Gaelic skills (around 1.7% of the population), of which 57,600 were Gaelic speakers.

Around 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the remainder in the rest of Scotland. The Outer Hebrides, Highland and Argyll & Bute are the parts of Scotland where Gaelic retains the greatest community presence.

Gaelic Medium Education is expanding across Scotland. It is now available in half of Scotland’s 32 local authorities. Gaelic Medium Education began in 1985 with 14 primary pupils. There are now around 5,600 pupils in the sector across Primary and Secondary education.

As the National Gaelic Language Plan states, “Gaelic activity can now be found in many sectors such as school education, further and higher education, in media and broadcasting, in tourism, in publishing, in heritage, in arts and in adult and community learning. These are vital for the language and create opportunities for the use of Gaelic”.

² <https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/scottish-languages-bill/introduced/bill-as-introduced.pdf>

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-languages-bill-island-communities-impact-assessment/>

⁸ <https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/scottish-languages-bill/introduced/bill-as-introduced.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-languages-bill-island-communities-impact-assessment/>



Tha an t-**iarrrtas airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh** follaiseach anns na h-àireamhan anabarrach mòr de dhaoine a tha a' gabhail ris an app/làrach ionnsachadh cànan Duolingo. Tha mu 1.8 millean neach air tòiseachadh ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig bho chaidh an cùrsa a chur air bhog o chionn ceithir bliadhna, le 500,000 ag obair air an-dràsta. Tha sin a' riochdachadh fàs de 17% sa bhliadhna a dh'fhalbh, às dèidh fàs 12% sa bhliadhna ro sin.

Tha cur air bhog SpeakGaelic san t-Sultain 2021 cuideachd air cur gu mòr ri goireasan do inbhich a tha airson a dhol an sàs sa Ghàidhlig agus a h-ionnsachadh. Tha timcheall air 400,000 neach-ionnsachaidh air a chleachdadh bho chaidh a chur air bhog.

Lorg "Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021: Beachdan a' Phobaill a thaobh na Gàidhlig ann an Alba⁴ gu bheil:

- Gàidhlig a' cur ri sunnd, le 70% de dh'inbhich ag ràdh gu bheil ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig a' toirt dhaibh faireachdainn gu bheil iad air rudeigin a choileanadh.
- Dhùblaich an àireamh de dh'Albannaich as urrainn beagan Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn anns na deich bliadhna a dh'fhalbh.
- Tha 79% de dhaoine den bheachd gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig glè chudromach no meadhanach cudromach do dhualchas cultarail na h-Alba.

Freagairt

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' freagairt na co-chomhairle seo, oir bu mhiann leinn gun tèid Gàidhlig a ghabhail a-steach gu ceart sa Phlana Stiùiridh agus sa Phlana Gnìomha.

Chan eil iomradh air a' Ghàidhlig san dà phàipear ged a tha beagan iomraidhean air cànan agus dualchas cultarail do-bheantainn.

Mar cheanna-bhaile na h-Alba, **bu chòir do Dhùn Èideann taic a chumail ri cinneas cànan is cultar àraidh na Gàidhlig**, oir tha i na pàirt de dh'aithne nàiseanta na dùthcha.

Tha Dùn Èideann air àite cudromach ann am beatha nan Gàidheal a ghlèidheadh feadh nan linntean agus tha iomadh ainm-àite ann aig a bheil freumhan Gàidhlig. B' e *Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir* fear a b' aithnichte de Ghàidheil Dhùn

The **demand for learning Gaelic** is evident in the huge uptake of the Duolingo language learning app. Some 1.8 million people have started learning Gaelic since the course launched four years ago, with 500,000 people working on it at the present time. That represents growth in numbers of 17% in the last year, following 12% growth in the previous year.

The launch of SpeakGaelic, a multi-media course for Gaelic learners, in September 2021 has also greatly contributed to resources for adults who want to engage with and learn the language. It has seen around 400,000 learners since its launch.

The research report 'Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021: Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland',¹⁰ found that:

- Gaelic contributes to wellbeing, with 70% of adults stating that learning Gaelic gives someone a sense of achievement.
- The number of Scots who can speak some Gaelic doubled in the previous decade.
- Some 79% of people think Gaelic is either very or fairly important to Scotland's cultural heritage.

Response

Bòrd na Gàidhlig are responding to this consultation because we wish to see Gaelic properly included within both the Management Plan and Action Plan.

There is no reference to Gaelic in the two documents although there are some references to language and intangible cultural heritage.

As Scotland's capital city **Edinburgh should look to support the growth of the unique Gaelic language and culture** which is part of our national identity.

Edinburgh has played a key role in Gaelic life for centuries with many place names having Gaelic origins. One of Edinburgh's most famous Gaels is *Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir* one of the most

⁴ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/en/news/SSAS/>

¹⁰ <https://www.gaidhlig.scot/en/news/SSAS/>



Èideann, is tha e air fear de na [bàird](#) Ghàidhlig a b' iomraitiche cliù. Bha e na phàirt do-sgaraichte de aon de linntean an àigh aig [bàrdachd](#) Gàidhlig ann an Alba rè na 18mh linn.

Ga stiùireadh le Comhairle a' Bhaile, 's e leasachadh mòr a th' ann am pròiseact Gàidhlig a' Cheanna-bhaile a fhuair cuid de ionmhas bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig. Tha am pròiseact ag amas air obrachadh còmhla ri luchd-ùidh air feadh Dhùn Èideann gus **cothroman a chomharrachadh, eòlas is ealantas a cho-roinn, agus lèirsinn airson àm teachdail na Gàidhlig sa bhaile a dhealbhadh.**

Tha Plana Gàidhlig Comhairle Dhùn Èideann⁵ ag ràdh an-dràsta gun "...iarr am Plana air adhartas a dhèanamh a thaobh...cultair, ealain is dualchais."

Is iad na Prìomhachasan Ro-innleachdail aige:

Seasmhach: Tha Gàidhlig faicsinneach, ga brosnachadh agus tha àm teachdail seasmhach aice ann am Baile Dhùn Èideann. Gabhaidh seo a-steach obair gus faicsinneachd agus taic don Ghàidhlig a mheudachadh sa mhòr-bhaile.

Ga brosnachadh: Tha cultar is ealain Gàidhlig a' bhaile air àrach agus air a dhìon-ghleidheadh gu sòisealta agus gu h-eaconamach.

Gheibhear Gnìomh sa Phlana cuideachd - *Leantainn ag obair còmhla ri VisitScotland, Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil Alba is Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann* gus dòighean a chomharrachadh sam faodar Gàidhlig adhartachadh ann an turasachd, eachdraidh is dualchas.

Tha na puingeann seo a' soillseachadh nan ceanglaichean comasach eadar rùintean Comhairle Dhùn Èideann agus gabhail a-steach na Gàidhlig anns a' Phlana Stiùiridh agus sa Phlana Gnìomha. Seo ann an suidheachadh sa bheil coimhearsnachd Gàidhlig a' sìor fhàs beothail ann an Dùn Èideann.

Tha an Dreachd-phlana Stiùiridh a' soillseachadh grunn raointean sam faod dòchas a bhith ann do chànan is cultar na Gàidhlig.

Eadar-mhìnich agus taisbean eachdraidh agus brìgh Seann is Nuadh-Bhailtean Dhùn Èideann chun na h-ìre mathais as motha agus broснаich cothroman co-ionann airson so-ruigsinneachd agus tlachd.

renowned [Scottish Gaelic](#) poets. He formed an integral part of one of the golden ages of [Gaelic](#) poetry in Scotland during the 18th century.

Led by the City Council, the Capital Gaelic project is a major development which has been part funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The project seeks to work with stakeholders across Edinburgh to **identify opportunities, share knowledge and expertise, and shape a vision for the future of Gaelic in the city.**

City of Edinburgh Council's current Gaelic Language Plan¹¹ states that "The Plan...will seek to make progress on...culture, arts and heritage."

Its Strategic Priorities include:

Sustainable: Gaelic is visible, encouraged and has a sustainable future within the City of Edinburgh. This includes activity to **improve the visibility and support for Gaelic in the city.**

Encouraged: The city's Gaelic culture and arts are nurtured and preserved socially and economically.

The Plan's also contains an Action - *Continue work with VisitScotland, Historic (Environment) Scotland and Edinburgh University to identify ways in which Gaelic in tourism, history and heritage can be promoted.*

These points highlight the potential links between City of Edinburgh Council's commitments and the inclusion of Gaelic within the Management Plan and Action Plan. This is in a context of an increasingly vibrant Gaelic community in Edinburgh.

The Draft Management Plan highlights a number of areas with potential for Gaelic language and culture.

Interpret and present the history and significance of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh to the highest quality and promote equality of opportunity to access and enjoyment.

⁵ <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/24286/gaelic-language-plan-2018-22>

¹¹ <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/24286/gaelic-language-plan-2018-22>



Tha seo a' soillseachadh cùisean compàirteachais agus sunnd. 'S e sin a chionn 's gu bheil cànan is cultar a' cruthachadh fèin-mheas, ag altram fèin-mhisneachd, a' mìneachadh fèin-aithne agus a' meudachadh cor na beatha. Cuiridh seo ri sunnd luchd-labhairt, luchd-ionnsachaidh agus luchd-taice na Gàidhlig – a tha fìor uasal às a' chànan 's a cultar.

Tha turasachd cudromach sna Seann is Nuadh-Bhailtean... mar sin, tha e cudromach smaoinichadh oirre nuair a nithear beachdachadh air a' mhìneachadh is an tuigse air Làrach Dualchas na Cruinne.

*Tha e mar phrìomh-neart aig a' Phlana Stiùiridh gum faod e...ruith a thoirt air raon nas fharsainghe de chuspairean.... leithid stiùireadh luchd-turais, **foghlam agus mìneachadh is cultar ann an seagh nas fharsainghe.***

Tha sinn a' toirt fa-near gur e Comhairle Dhùn Èideann, Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil na h-Alba (HES) agus Dualchas Cruinne Dhùn Èideann a tha a' deasachadh agus a' stiùireadh a' Phlana Stiùiridh. Tha Plana Gàidhlig HES⁶ ag ràdh gu bheil:

Dualchas cultarail beartach Gàidhlig fuaighte ann an cànan, òrain, sgeulachdan, nòsan is ainmean-àite a gheibhear air feadh Alba a' toirt sealladh domhain dhuinn air an t-seann aimsir agus gar cuideachadh gus tuigse fhaighinn air na cruthan-tìre agus an àrainneachd eachdraidheil a tha mun cuairt oirnn.

A-rithist, tha seo mar shanas dhuinn gum faod àite a bhith aig cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig sa Phlana Stiùiridh.

Tha sinn an dòchas gu bheil an fhreagairt seo feumail, agus bhìomaid toilichte mion-bheachd a thoirt air puingeann sònraichte sam bith.

This highlights the issues of inclusion and wellbeing. That is because language and culture create self-esteem, nurture self-confidence, define identity and improve quality of life. This increases wellbeing for Gaelic users, learners, and supporters - who have great pride in the language and culture.

*Tourism is an important activity in the Old and New Towns....it is **an important factor in considering the interpretation and understanding of the WHS.***

*A key strength of the Management Plan is that it...can cover a broader spectrum of subject areas.... such as visitor management, **education and interpretation and culture more broadly.***

We note that the Management Plan is prepared and managed by the City of Edinburgh Council, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Edinburgh World Heritage. HES's Gaelic Language Plan¹² states that:

The rich cultural heritage embedded in Gaelic language, songs, stories, music, traditions, and placenames found throughout Scotland, gives us an insight into the past and helps us to understand the landscapes and the historic environment that surrounds us.

Again, this suggests a potential role for the Gaelic language and culture within the Management Plan.

We hope that this response is useful, and we would be happy to discuss any specific points in more detail.

⁶<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=43a49068-6bf6-49c5-b535-b0dd01015083>

¹²<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=43a49068-6bf6-49c5-b535-b0dd01015083>

