

Meeting: Policy and Resources Committee
Date/time: 05 May 2026 at 09.30m
Location: Microsoft Teams

Minutes – Open Session

1. Opening Items

1.1. Welcome and Apologies

Committee Members present:

Seonaidh Charity [SC] Cathraiche

John MacDonald [JND]

Michelle Macleod [MNL]

In Attendance:

Ealasaid MacDonald [ED] Ceannard/Accountable Officer

Stewart Dunmore [SD] Planning and Statutory Functions Manager

Calum Munro [CR] Head of Education and Plans

Nicola Pearson [NP] Head of Finance & Corporate Affairs

Minutes

Jamie MacLean [JMG] Corporate Co-ordinator

Apologies:

All members present.

1.2. Declaration of Interests

There were no interests to declare.

1.3. Any Other Competent Business (AOCB)

There was no other competent business to be discussed.

2. Gaelic Language Plans

2.1. Gaelic Language Plan - Crofting Commission

CR provided a summary of the committee paper outlining the fourth edition of the Crofting Commission's Gaelic Language Plan.

A question was raised about Areas of Linguistic Significance and why they were not mentioned in the plan. SD explained that the formal assessment of the plan had been carried out before the Scottish Languages Act came into effect. The organisation will be asked to make an edit to refer to Areas of Linguistic Significance.

There was praise that the plan shows that the use of Gaelic in the organisation is a priority which will be discussed at management team level.

Decision:

Members agreed the fourth iteration of the Crofting Commission's Gaelic Language Plan. The Crofting Commission will be asked to make an amendment to refer to Areas of Linguistic Significance.

2.2. Gaelic Language Plan - East Dunbartonshire Council

CR provided a summary of the third iteration of the East Dunbartonshire Council Gaelic Language Plan, stating that this draft had gone before the committee in February 2026 and that the Committee had requested revisions.

The Committee was pleased that the local authority had worked effectively with Bòrd na Gàidhlig officers and that they had incorporated the recommendations made by the committee into their plan..

The Chair thanked Officers for making such rapid progress with this plan so that it could be brought before the Committee again.

Decision:

Members agreed the third iteration of East Dunbartonshire Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

2.3. Gaelic Language Plan - South Ayrshire Council

CR provided a summary of the third iteration of South Ayrshire Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

It was noted that there was an error in the information on page 9 of the plan (p. 67, CPG-01-2627) and that it should read "100,000" rather than "1,000". The authority will be asked to correct this.

A question was raised about the authority's action on page 7 of the plan (p. 66, CPG-01-2627) regarding opportunities for Gaelic input for fourth year students. The authority will be asked to make this action clearer.

A question was raised about the way in which the first action under the 1+2 scheme was stated on page 6 of the plan (p. 66, CPG-01-2627). SC explained that the wording was consistent with the language used by the His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe).

Decision:

Members agreed the third iteration of South Ayrshire Council Gaelic Language Plan. The authority will be asked to correct and clarify the information included within the plan.

2.4. Gaelic Language Plan – Skills Development Scotland

CR provided a summary of the fourth iteration of the Skills Development Scotland Gaelic Language Plan.

Questions were raised about the organisation's bilingual advertising. It was acknowledged that Skills Development Scotland is a very large organisation with locations across Scotland, but it was highlighted that they have a good digital presence.

It was raised that with the establishment of Areas of Linguistic Significance, a review of Gaelic plans would be undertaken to identify the new responsibilities in those areas, particularly for organisations that have a presence in the recognised areas.

A point was raised regarding their consultation on the draft Gaelic plan in July 2025, noting that they received four responses. It was acknowledged that low response rates can occur in consultations and surveys because so many are issued, and as a result, the public can lose interest.

Decision:

Members agreed the fourth iteration of Skills Development Scotland Gaelic Language Plan.

SD left the meeting.

3. Governance

3.1. Policy & Resources Committee Annual Report

ED provided a summary of the substance of the Policy and Resources Committee's annual report, highlighting decisions arising from the Committee's work during 2025/26.

The Chair thanked Bòrd na Gàidhlig officers for their hard work throughout the year.

Decision:

Members agreed the Policy & Resources Committee Annual Report

4. Committee Work Plan

4.1. Policy & Resources Committee Work Plan

ED provided a summary of the Policy and Resources Committee Work Plan and ED discussed the proposal that will be presented to the Bòrd-stiùiridh in June 2026 to change the format of the Committee to a panel.

Questions were raised about the logic behind the change and the timeline for the change. ED explained that the proposal will go before the Bòrd-stiùiridh and that the Committee Chair will receive an update within two to three weeks on the procedure the panel will follow. It was explained that the new format of the Committee will provide consistency so that there is appropriate analysis of plans and policies.

Decision:

Members agreed the Policy & Resources Committee work plan

5. GISBE

No other competent business was noted.

The Chair thanked the Bòrd na Gàidhlig officers and the meeting was closed at 10:07am.

End of Session