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# Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership Gaelic Policy

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## Contents

Foreword.....	3
Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership .....	3
Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Policy .....	4
The Public: Core Commitments .....	5
Bilingual Service .....	5
Written Communication .....	5
Stationery.....	5
Advertising .....	5
Media .....	6
Implementation and monitoring .....	6
Timetable .....	6
Translation and Interpretation .....	6
Publicising the Policy.....	6
Administrative arrangements for implementation.....	6
Accountability for the OHCPP Gaelic Policy .....	7
Contact details .....	7

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## Foreword

By Cllr Norman A MacDonald, Chairman of OHCPP

## Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership

Public Bodies in the Outer Hebrides have a statutory duty to carry out planning for their area to improve outcomes by provision of services. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 details these duties and also ways in which communities can engage with these Public Bodies (Community Partnership Planning) and participate in decisions which affect them.

Community Planning in the Outer Hebrides brings together the public, private sector, voluntary sector partners and the community to agree priorities on the planning and provision of services. This will ensure the most effective delivery of services and increase the benefits to the community. The Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (OHCPP) helps co-ordinate initiatives and partnerships that will improve public services for the Outer Hebrides. One of the ways that this takes place is through the implementation of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

OHCPP is made up of a number of key partners representing the public, private and voluntary sector at the highest level. In September 2012 OHCPP approved a Partnership Agreement with the following parties to the signatory agreement:

- ❖ Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar
- ❖ Community Land Scotland
- ❖ Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Third Sector Interface)
- ❖ Hebridean Housing Partnership
- ❖ Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- ❖ Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service (Now Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)
- ❖ Lews Castle College
- ❖ NHS Western Isles
- ❖ Northern Constabulary (now Police Scotland)
- ❖ Skills Development Scotland
- ❖ Scottish Natural Heritage

Each partner committed to collaborate to develop, agree and achieve the objectives of Community Planning in the Outer Hebrides. Community Planning ensures people and communities are genuinely engaged in the decisions made on public services which affect them; allied to a commitment from organisations to work together, not separately, in providing better public services. Further information about Community Planning in the Outer Hebrides can be found at [www.ohcpp.org.uk](http://www.ohcpp.org.uk)

## Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Policy

Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership recognises that Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's heritage, national identity and cultural life and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the Gaelic Language and its use. The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was passed by the Scottish Parliament with a view to securing the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland, commanding equal respect as the English language. One of the key features of the Act is the provision enabling Bòrd Na Gàidhlig (the Scottish Government's principal Gaelic development body) to require public bodies to prepare Gaelic Language Plans (GLPs). This provision was designed to ensure that the public sector in Scotland plays its part in creating a sustainable future for Gaelic, by raising its status and profile and creating practical opportunities for its use.

OHCPP consist of several public bodies, however the Partnership as a unit is not a public body within the terms of The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act, thus there is no requirement to prepare and consult on a Gaelic Language Plan.

Following public consultation in October 2017 in relation to the draft Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) feedback received expressed disappointment that the draft was not available in Gaelic. It further suggested that there be more emphasis in the Plan itself on the unique Gaelic culture of the Outer Hebrides and the opportunities this and the Gaelic language provide. On 22 November 2017 the OHCPP agreed to adopt a formal Gaelic Policy to demonstrate the partnership's commitment to Gaelic and recognise its central role as a unique selling point of the Outer Hebrides as well as the potential economic opportunities.

This Policy is complementary to OHCPP Partners' Gaelic Language Plans required by legislation. Partners' Plans are available at the following links:

- ❖ Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar - <https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-culture/gaelic-language-and-culture/sgjoba-na-gaidhlig/bilingual-policy-and-language-plan/>
- ❖ Community Land Scotland - <http://www.communitylandscotland.org.uk/about-us/documents/policy-documents/>
- ❖ Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Third Sector Interface)
- ❖ Hebridean Housing Partnership
- ❖ Highlands and Islands Enterprise - <http://www.hie.co.uk/about-hie/policies-and-publications/gaelic-plan.html>

- ❖ Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service (Now Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) - <http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news-campaigns/news/2016/11/gaelic-language-plan-consultation.aspx>
- ❖ Lews Castle College - <https://www.lews.uhi.ac.uk/news/lcc-launches-consultation-for-2018-22-gaelic-plan>
- ❖ NHS Western Isles - <http://www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk/publications/annual-reports?view=document&id=2733>
- ❖ Northern Constabulary (now Police Scotland) - <http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/police-scotland/strategic-planning/gaelic-language-plan>
- ❖ Skills Development Scotland - <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/42084/sds-gaelic-language-plan-public-consultation.pdf>
- ❖ Scottish Natural Heritage - <https://www.nature.scot/about-snh/working-snh/access-information-and-services/gaelic>

## The Public: Core Commitments

OHCPP is committed to playing an active part in working collaboratively to implement the National Gaelic Language Plan. The following headings identify the contribution OHCPP can make.

### Bilingual Service

The Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership's objective is where technically possible to enable everyone who engages with the partnership or contributes to the democratic process, to do so through the medium of Gaelic or English, according to personal choice.

### Written Communication

Members of the public who write to the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership in Gaelic will receive a reply in Gaelic.

Responses in Gaelic to any public consultations or engagements by the OHCPP be welcomed. All final activities will be published in both Gaelic and English, other than notices appearing in Gaelic language publications which will appear in Gaelic only.

### Stationery

Stationery will be bilingual and templates will be available to facilitate this.

### Advertising

Advertising in Gaelic will be used as appropriate.

## Media

The Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership will encourage Gaelic broadcasting companies to base their operations in the Outer Hebrides. We will work with media services (broadcast, print and electronic) in order to exploit the opportunities that these services provide, not only in communication in Gaelic but in job creation and support of other Gaelic initiatives. The OHCPP would welcome engagement with the media in medium of Gaelic.

## Implementation and monitoring

### Timetable

This Gaelic Policy will formally remain in place for a period of five years from the date it is approved by OHCPP. By no later than the end of that period we will review the Policy and make necessary amendments.

### Translation and Interpretation

We will ensure that any translation services we use, in assisting with the implementation of this Policy, are provided by experienced translators, and that the Gaelic used is of a high standard, and correct in terms of the Gaelic Orthographic Conventions (GOC). If necessary, we will liaise with any of our Community Planning Partners who provide translation services, to ensure that correct translations from English to Gaelic are made in all instances where this is required in terms of the implementation of this Policy, such as in the areas of bilingual signage, bilingual press releases or bilingual website content.

### Publicising the Policy

Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership Gaelic Policy will be published bilingually in a prominent place on our website [www.ohcpp.org.uk](http://www.ohcpp.org.uk) In addition, we will:

- arrange for media interviews to be offered in Gaelic and English
- use Gaelic in social media posts
- make the Policy known
- make printed copies available on request

### Administrative arrangements for implementation

This Policy is the policy of OHCPP and has been approved by the Board (when confirmed).

All partners are responsible for ensuring the delivery of the commitments set out in this Policy.

In monitoring the implementation of OHCPP Gaelic Policy, we will focus on the following:

- the implementation of our core commitments
- our contribution towards implementing the National Gaelic Language Plan
- Gaelic enquiries received
- Gaelic materials published

## Accountability for the OHCPP Gaelic Policy

### Contact details

The senior officer with operational responsibility for overseeing preparation, delivery and monitoring of the OHCPP Gaelic Policy is:

Ms Lesley McDonald  
Head of Executive Office  
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
Sandwick Road  
Stornoway  
Isle of Lewis  
HS1 2BW  
01851 822604  
[lmcdonald@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:lmcdonald@cne-siar.gov.uk)

Queries about the strategic operation of the Plan should be addressed to:

OHCPP  
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
Sandwick Road  
Stornoway  
Isle of Lewis  
HS1 2BW  
01851 822617  
[ohcpp@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:ohcpp@cne-siar.gov.uk)