



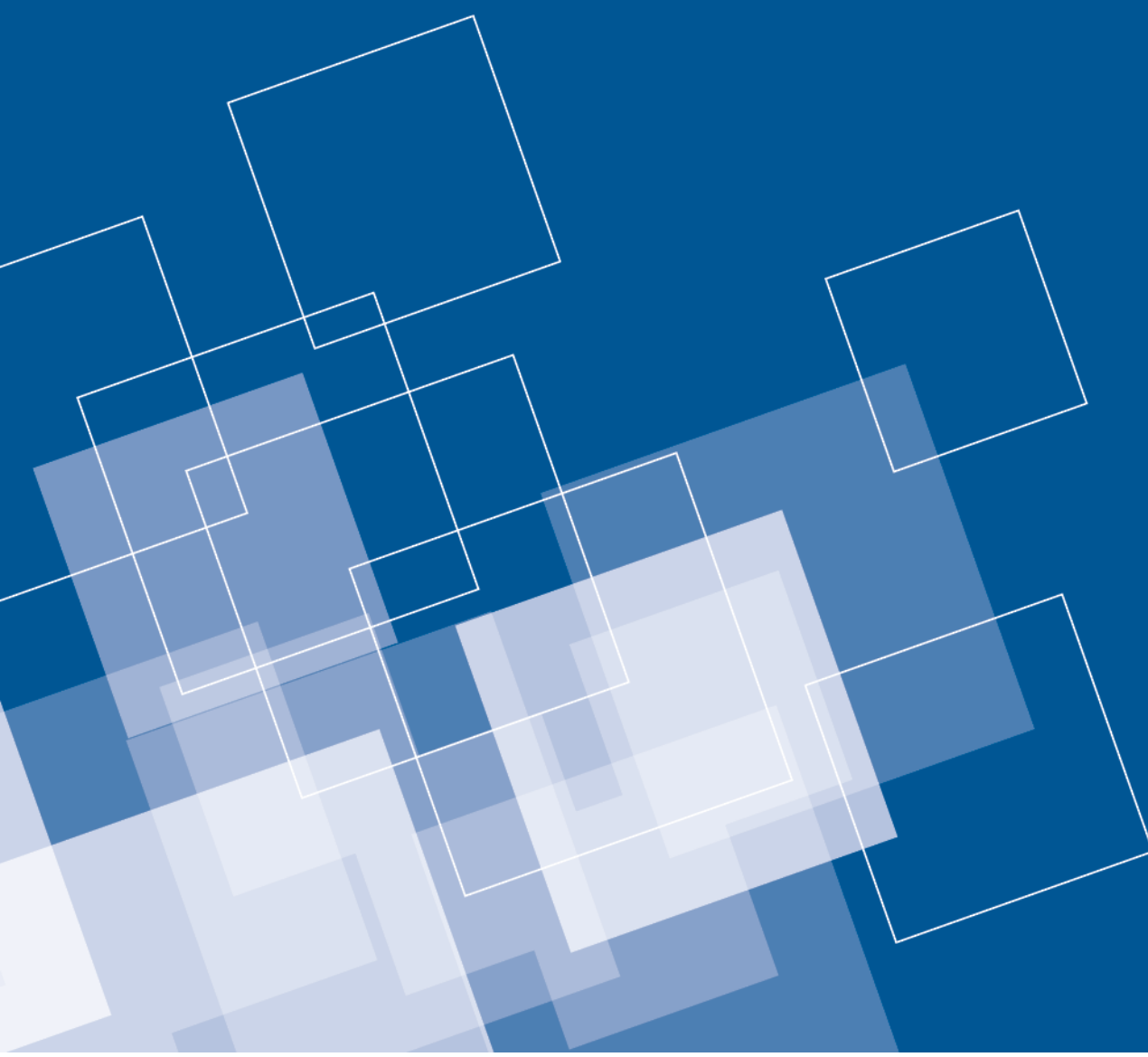
**East Lothian**  
Council

Comhairle Lodainn An Ear

DRAFT

# **GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN** 2025–30

Making Gaelic more visible, valued  
and accessible – ensuring it thrives  
as part of our diverse and inclusive  
cultural landscape.



# FOREWORD

This is East Lothian Council's second Gaelic Language Plan. It sets out our ambitions for Gaelic over the next five years, to 2030. It builds on our first Gaelic Language Plan, which covered the period 2020-25, in recognition of the Scottish Government ambition to see an increase in the number of people speaking learning, using and supporting Gaelic.

East Lothian Council is committed to making Gaelic more visible, valued and accessible — ensuring it thrives as part of our diverse and inclusive cultural landscape.

It is recognised that good progress has been made across Scotland in the use and promotion of Gaelic in recent years. Since 2011, there has been an increase in the number of people with Gaelic language skills in East Lothian. This has coincided with a period in which East Lothian has consistently been one of Scotland's fastest growing areas.

Gaelic, however, continues to face a number of challenges and that is why organisations such as East Lothian Council are required to play their part in supporting collective efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of the language.

Our new Gaelic Language Plan has been prepared in the context of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act and National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28. This highlights that the promotion of Gaelic is a shared responsibility and that a significant number of local authorities and public bodies make an important contribution to support for the language.

We believe that, through a partnership approach including increased community engagement, we can build on the progress of recent years by continuing to develop Gaelic language provision in East Lothian in a proportionate way. This plan will help us to meet our commitment to the aspirations and objectives included in the National Gaelic Language Plan and the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurence Rockey', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Laurence Rockey**  
Chief Executive  
East Lothian Council

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# SUMMARY

East Lothian Council's first Gaelic Language Plan, covering the period 2020-25, recognised that Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's heritage, national identity and cultural life.

While there have been a number of initiatives and interventions led at a national level to sustain Gaelic – focused on enhancing its status, promoting its acquisition and increasing its use – and some progress has been made at a local level in East Lothian, the council recognises that the position of the language remains fragile.

Since publication of our previous Gaelic Language Plan, there have been significant constraints affecting the delivery of local government services. Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic has been compounded by a number of financial, economic and demographic challenges, which have impacted on council resources and the delivery of essential public services.

Our second Gaelic Language Plan is therefore an opportunity for renewed impetus in ensuring East Lothian Council plays a leading role, working in partnership with others in our community, to boost the number of people speaking learning, using and supporting Gaelic whilst ensuring equal respect for the language.

It is an opportunity to set out our commitments and ensure we have the necessary structures and initiatives to ensure that Gaelic has a sustainable future in Scotland.

This Gaelic Language Plan has been prepared in accordance with statutory criteria set out in Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, and having regard to the National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28 and associated guidance. In doing so, the plan sets out how we will use Gaelic in the operation of our functions, how we will enable the use of Gaelic when communicating with the public and key partners, and how we will promote and develop Gaelic.

The vision for our Gaelic Language Plan is:

*The council is committed to making Gaelic more visible, valued and accessible — ensuring it thrives as part of our diverse and inclusive cultural landscape.*

The key components of our Gaelic Language Plan are:

## **Chapter 1 – INTRODUCTION**

This chapter provides the background and context relating to the preparation of Gaelic Language Plans under the 2005 Act and the structure of East Lothian Council's main areas of operation. It also provides some background information on the use of the Gaelic language in East Lothian.

It shows how we intend promoting the use of Gaelic in service planning and delivery and how we will take account of Gaelic and our Gaelic Language Plan when drafting new policies and considering new strategies.

## **Chapter 2 – COMMITMENTS**

This chapter sets out how East Lothian Council will use, and enable the use of, Gaelic in relation to our main business functions.

The commitments are set out under four strategic aims - increasing community engagement opportunities, the sustainability of Gaelic education (GME), progression of Gaelic Learner Education (GLE), increased visibility of Gaelic resources and materials; and with each aligned to at least one of the seven priority areas set out in the National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28.

It covers key areas of operation such as corporate identity, signage, communication with the public and the use of Gaelic on our website. This chapter sets out the level of Gaelic language provision to which we are committed to providing in the lifetime of the Plan.

## **Chapter 3 – IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING**

This chapter sets out how the implementation of our Gaelic Language Plan will be taken forward, and how implementation and outcomes will be monitored.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 (The Act)

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 (The Act) seeks to secure the status of the Gaelic language as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to the English language.

The Act builds on and sits beside other measures to support the rights of minority languages, including: the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992); and, the Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (1992).

The Act established Bòrd na Gàidhlig as an executive non-departmental public body, responsible through Ministers to the Scottish Parliament with responsibility for promoting Gaelic development and providing advice to the Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues. The Act requires Bòrd na Gàidhlig to prepare a National Gaelic Language Plan and gives it the power to request that public authorities, including local authorities, prepare and publish Gaelic Language Plans. 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.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig provides public authorities with official notification of when they must prepare their Plan and details of the high level aims which should be met by the Plan.

## East Lothian Gaelic Language Plan 2020-25

East Lothian Council's previous Gaelic Language Plan covered the period 2020-2025. It was prepared in accordance with the official notification from Bòrd na Gàidhlig in May 2018 that the council had to prepare a statutory Gaelic Language Plan under the framework of the Act. The plan set out to meet corporate service aims and seven high level aims the Plan under three headings as set out in the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23:

**Using Gaelic** – support existing and new Gaelic language and culture groups in East Lothian to help grow the profile and use of Gaelic.

**Promoting Gaelic** – undertake the duty outlined in the Education (Scotland) Act 2016 to promote, in such manner as it thinks appropriate, the potential provision for Gaelic medium and Gaelic learner education to East Lothian residents, including the opportunity that exists under this Act for parents to request the establishment of Gaelic medium education.

Once approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, promote the plan and its key commitments to residents of the council area.

Include aspects of Gaelic language and culture to pupils educated by East Lothian Council, with the aim of attracting more young people to learn and use Gaelic.

**Learning Gaelic** – establish a dialogue with the Gaelic Learning in the Primary School (GPS) consortium, with a view to establishing Gaelic Learner Education within the council area during the lifetime of the plan.

Support families and groups of families within the council area to access opportunities for Gaelic early years and/ or primary school provision.

Support and encourage Gaelic learning opportunities for adults in East Lothian Council area, including an active and on-going dialogue with Newbattle Abbey College.

The Act requires public bodies to bring the preparation of their Gaelic Language Plan to the attention of all interested parties. East Lothian Council has consulted publicly on the draft of its Gaelic Language Plan and has taken into account representations made to it during the consultation process.

## Development of the East Lothian Gaelic Language Plan 2025-30

The National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28 highlights the current priorities for the development of the Gaelic language. It sets out a vision for: 'A measurable increase in the numbers of people, speaking, learning, using and supporting Gaelic'. Whilst the National Gaelic Language Plan seeks to build on the successes of previous years and sets out opportunities, it highlights that a number of Gaelic challenges remain.

It sets out a number of priority areas where progress can be made by increasing the use of Gaelic and increasing the learning of Gaelic. Public authorities are asked to have regard to these as they construct their Gaelic language plans.

The priority areas identified are:

- **Community support**
- **Support in the home**
- **Creative industries**
- **Business and economy**
- **Public authorities**
- **0-18 education**
- **Post school and adult learning**

With these in mind, East Lothian Council's Gaelic Language Plan 2025-2030 has been developed with a focus on four strategic aims - increasing **community engagement opportunities, the sustainability of Gaelic education (GME), progression of Gaelic Learner Education (GLE)** and **increased visibility of Gaelic resources and materials**.

An internal working group, comprising representation from across key council services, was established to contribute to and develop East Lothian Council's Gaelic Language Plan 2025-2030. The working group has taken account of progress in fulfilling the actions in the previous Gaelic Language Plan, as well as the legislative framework as set out in the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 (The Act) and the National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28.



## About East Lothian Council

One of Scotland's most scenic areas, East Lothian covers some 270 square miles and includes some 43 miles of coastline. It extends from Musselburgh, its largest town, eastwards to Dunbar and beyond to its boundary with Scottish Borders. Other principal towns in East Lothian are Haddington, Tranent, North Berwick and Prestonpans. A new settlement at Blindwells, to the north of Tranent, is under construction.

East Lothian is one of Scotland's fastest growing areas. According to the Mid-2023 Population Estimates Scotland, East Lothian had a population of 113,740.

The East Lothian Council Plan 2022-2027 continues the journey towards realising our vision for an even more prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian, with a dynamic and thriving economy, that enables our people and communities to flourish. The Council Plan has four thematic objectives - Grow our Economy, Grow our People, Grow our Communities, Grow our Capacity

The plan retains two of its original overarching objectives:

- **Reduce poverty and Inequality – supporting our communities to deal with the growing levels of poverty and inequality**
- **Respond to the Climate Emergency – meeting our net zero climate change targets**

The Council Plan originally had a third overarching objective in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic – Recovery and Renewal. Work in support of this has since become 'business as usual', embedded within key strategies and service plans.

East Lothian Council operates from two main offices: John Muir House (Haddington) and Penston House (Macmerry), whilst also providing services from a number of local buildings within communities as well as schools.

As of February 2025, the council employs 4936 employees (full-time equivalent 4,072).

In 2023, the council carried out a staff survey which included a question about Gaelic language skills. This found that 11 staff, including nine teachers, speak Gaelic. Thirteen respondents, including nine teachers, said they can read Gaelic while another six people – five of them being teachers – said they can write Scots Gaelic.

## Gaelic in East Lothian

Lowland Scots rather than Gaelic would have been spoken in East Lothian. However, there are some examples of place names in East Lothian having Gaelic origins, such as:

- **Cuil Choinnich – Cockenzie (the neuk of Coinneach – Kenneth)**
- **Craobhbarraidh – Carberry (at the palisade)**
- **Fan Taisidh – Phantassie (at the damp slope)**
- **An garbh-Allt – Garvald (the rough burn)<sup>1</sup>**

The Jacobite army that fought in the Battle of Prestonpans (1745) was largely made up of Gaelic speaking Highland clansmen and the interest in commemorating the Battle has resulted in the provision of some bi-lingual road signs and place names around the battlefield site.

The 2022 census recorded 1,396 people – or 1.3% of the East Lothian Council area population – as having ‘any Gaelic skill (age 3+)’. This represents a 91.8% increase since 2011.

Of those, 634 said they could speak Gaelic – which is 0.6% of the area’s population and 45.4% of those with a Gaelic skill. This represents a 58.9% increase since 2011.

There were 452 people who said they could speak and read but not write Gaelic (71.3% of those who can speak Gaelic and a 106.4% increase since 2011), while there were 385 Gaelic-literate speakers (60.7% of those who can speak Gaelic and a 122.5% increase since 2011). Fifteen people said that Gaelic was their main language.

## Gaelic in an education setting

East Lothian Council recognises and values the importance of the Gaelic language as part of strategic planning and the development of language learning, and, in line with Article 30 of the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child), upholds the rights of our young people to access education in Scotland’s indigenous languages.

In terms of education, Gaelic is defined by two distinct approaches to development; Gaelic Medium Education (GME) and Gaelic Learners Education (GLE).

*“Gaelic Medium Education is high-quality learning through immersion. Alternative models lead to the dilution of standards and as such are non-compatible with the development of strong and sustained GME.”* Education Scotland Lead Inspector for GME, Joan Esson, June 2015

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<sup>1</sup> Research by Ainmean-Alte na h-Alba & Bord na Gaidhlig

Nationally, GME is defined by Education Scotland as follows: GME is based on the principle of language immersion. GME provision should encompass the four contexts of the curriculum within Curriculum for Excellence:

- the ethos and life of the school as a community
- curriculum areas and subjects
- interdisciplinary learning
- opportunities for personal achievement

Education Scotland strongly advises that GME is not merely language learning, it is also the delivery of subjects through the medium of Gàidhlig and Gàidhlig at the heart of the life, culture and ethos of the school.

The Education Scotland Act (2016) and Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education include three key proposals regarding GME:

1. Authorities have a duty to promote and support GME
2. Establishment of a statutory process for authorities to assess parental requests for GME
3. Development of statutory guidance arrangements for the delivery of Gaelic education in schools and by authorities

## **Gaelic Medium Education in East Lothian Council**

East Lothian Council currently provides GME through a partnership arrangement with City of Edinburgh Council. Partnership arrangements support developing capacity and effective resourcing across the region and high-quality Gaelic Medium learning for children and young people. This provision will be planned and assessed by East Lothian Council and local partners with local demand being assessed and monitored as part of ongoing future planning. This provision is supported by East Lothian Council and available on application by parents. Support and communications for parents wishing their children to access Gaelic Medium Education has been identified as an aim of the East Lothian Gaelic Language Plan and is included in the actions listed below.

In 2024/2025 a total of 22 primary school learners from East Lothian attended City of Edinburgh GME provision at Parkside Primary / Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce), and 18 secondary learners attended James Gillespie's High School.

Parents also have access to Gaelic Medium Playgroups in City of Edinburgh through partner providers and at a range of locations across the city.

East Lothian Council Education service officers support the ongoing development of effective partnership working with City of Edinburgh Council and leads support for schools in developing Gaelic learning.

### ***Gaelic Learners Education (GLE)***

Gaelic Learners Education (GLE) refers to Gaelic learning as an additional language in an English Medium Education context.

According to the Education Scotland advice and guidance on GLE: “In English medium education, Gaelic language learning is part of children’s and young people’s entitlement to learning a language. Gaelic Learner Education is an overarching term which spans across 3-18 provision.” ([Gaelic Education 3-18 in Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach](#))

Gaelic Learner Education (GLE) provides young people with progressive opportunities to learn Gaelic language and experience Gaelic culture as part of the wider offer of languages across East Lothian Council schools. GLE is an area which is currently undeveloped in East Lothian schools, but is planned through the Gaelic Language Planning process. This includes seeking opportunities to promote the use of our own locally developed Gaelic resources and national resources such as the Stòrlann 1+2 Languages website and resources, Go Gaelic (<https://go-gaelic.scot/>). This area is being developed in collaboration with key local and national partners including Bòrd na Gàidhlig, thExe GLPS Local Authority Consortium, regional local authority partners, higher and further education establishments, schools and parents.

Through the Gaelic Language Plan planning process, we have identified a need to re-establish a local or regional Gaelic Education Steering group. The aim would be to support the strategic development of Gaelic language in schools and would include local authority officers, primary and secondary teachers, parents and local partners. Teachers who have experience or an interest in Gaelic learning are being identified and training opportunities are being developed.

Furthermore, we have identified a need to seek the views of young people as part of future planning, establishing where there is an interest in developing Gaelic language learning and exploring approaches and opportunities which can support this e.g. digital offerings for Senior Phase learners.

## **Gaelic in a non-education setting**

East Lothian Council Library Services now have 36 books within their catalogue related to the Gaelic language. These titles are aimed at a mix of adults and children. The team also have another 20 books, donated to the council, which require to be catalogued. While no requests have been so far, promotional work will be undertaken to promote the availability of and generate interest in this additional stock. Gaelic Bookbug sessions aimed at families and children have been offered in the past, although there was very limited interest in these. However, Library Services would be willing to explore the future potential for this, subject to resource availability. Library Services hold a stock of Gaelic Bookbug Bags available to families on request. The service promotes the availability of these bags through the website and further promotional work will be undertaken to generate interest and increase take up. Museum Services have previously facilitated a dual language exhibition from an outside

provider and will factor further scope for this into future programming and interpretation requirements.

In terms of community learning, there are no current classes for adults though East Lothian community learning programmes. However, courses are currently offered by Newbattle Abbey College in Celtic Studies.

Within the local community, there are some partners and groups with an expressed interest in developing further links to the Gaelic language, with the Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust playing a particularly proactive role. The Battle of Prestonpans Jacobite Museum, which officially opened in April 2023, aims to tell the story of the battle and its context, containing a diorama of the battlefield landscape, historical and archaeological artefacts, and a display of artworks from across the centuries. The museum includes Gaelic signage and interpretation, as does the battlefield. The Trust also works to encourage Gaelic cultural content in its publications and programming. Working with the developer/landowner of the Blindwells new town development, the Trust is progressing plans for an interpretative trail around the battlefield, featuring dual language signs in addition to linguistic engagement with residents of the growing new community.

Since publication of the council's last Gaelic Language Plan, new arrangements have been put in place for translation service delivery. This supports the council's commitment to providing excellent customer service and part of this is making sure we meet the communication needs of our customers as far as we can. This includes providing information on our services in other languages for those customers who speak or write little or no English, as well as providing communication support for customers who have hearing or visual impairments.

Services/teams who receive a request for translation or interpretation can now liaise directly with one of our approved suppliers by filling in an order form which is then sent to one of a number of identified suppliers.

This means that the process of arranging translation is now mainstreamed, rather than having to go through one centralised team. It should enable teams to receive faster delivery/fulfilment of the translation or interpretation service they are requesting, as well as enabling prompt and efficient payment to be made by dealing directly with the supplier.

The council's Integrated Impact Assessment process has been amended to include screening questions relating to Gaelic. We will continue to ensure the process signposts to this document as well as the National Gaelic Language Plan to ensure that policies are developed in line with the Plan.

## Implementing the National Gaelic Language Plan

At a local level and through harnessing opportunities to collaborate with other public bodies and community planning partners, East Lothian Council is committed to playing its part in implementing the National Gaelic Language Plan. In this section, we set out how we will achieve that aim.

Whilst the various priority areas identified in the National Gaelic Language Plan will be primarily implemented through the council's Gaelic Language Plan, opportunities can arise to promote and develop the language through other policy measures and developments. East Lothian Council will examine policy commitments to identify areas where Gaelic can be proactively incorporated and the priorities of the National Gaelic Language Plan initiated through additional methods. We see this development as corresponding to the normalisation principle which aims to include Gaelic as an everyday part of life in Scotland.

East Lothian Council recognises that a sustainable future for Gaelic requires more people to learn the language and that attention requires to be focused on the home, education and adult learning as the key means of achieving this. Actions to help create a supportive environment for growing the number of Gaelic speakers in East Lothian are detailed in Gaelic Language Acquisition and Usage section of our commitments (section 2.5).

## 2. COMMITMENTS

East Lothian Council is committed to ensuring that the National Gaelic Language Plan is implemented, and in this section we set out how we will achieve that aim. To ensure consistency with the presentational approach to our previous Gaelic Language Plan, the actions East Lothian Council will take to meet its commitment to the objectives of the National Gaelic Language Plan for Gaelic are set out under five headings:

**Identity and status** including, corporate identity and signage and expanding visibility, audibility, recognition and respect for Gaelic

**Communications**, including, reception, telephone, mail and e-mail, forms and complaints procedures

**Publications**, including, public relations and media, printed material and websites

**Staff**, including, recruitment and training.

**Gaelic language acquisition and usage**: enabling people to develop speaking, reading and writing skills in Gaelic and enabling the use of Gaelic in a range of social, formal and work settings.

These support the strategic themes previously outlined - increasing **community engagement opportunities, the sustainability of Gaelic education (GME), progression of Gaelic Learner Education (GLE)** and **increased visibility of Gaelic resources and materials**.

East Lothian Council recognises that action in each of these areas can help raise the visibility and profile of Gaelic and bring greater opportunity for Gaelic speakers to use the language.

The council will ensure that Arms-Length External Organisations, community partners and third-party service providers are aware of the council's plan and expectation that they will adhere to the principles and / or commitments in the plan.

Any developments or initiatives to promote Gaelic will be undertaken within existing resource capacity. For example, the provision of bi-lingual 'Welcome to East Lothian' road signs would be done on a renewal/ replacement basis.

When necessary, the council will refer to the Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba database of authoritative information on Gaelic forms of place-names, to reflect Gaelic orthographic conventions.

### 2.1 Identity and status

The presence of Gaelic in the corporate identity and signs of a public authority greatly enhances the visibility of the language, increases its status and makes an important statement about how Gaelic is valued and how it is given recognition. Developing the use of Gaelic

through signage can also enrich the vocabulary of Gaelic users, raise public awareness of the language and contribute to its development. East Lothian Council recognises the importance of raising the visibility of Gaelic, increasing its status and creating a positive image of the language.

Function	Current position	Proposed action	Proposed outcome/ indicator	Lead service/ officer	Time scale
<b>Corporate identity</b>	East Lothian Council's corporate identity has not previously included any Gaelic language elements. While this has been reviewed since the last Gaelic Language Plan, change has yet to be implemented.	Electronic versions of the council logo will be updated to include a Gaelic reference on a bilingual basis. This will ensure that, when the logo is requested/required for use in future (whether for digital or physical display), Gaelic will be incorporated. Existing logos on display, such as on public buildings, will be replaced on a renewal basis	All versions of the council logo stored for future use will incorporate Gaelic, with this referenced accordingly within the brand guidelines	Service Manager - Communications	January 2026
<b>Signage</b>	Very little bilingual signage exists in East Lothian	An audit of 'Welcome to East Lothian' signs on roads East Lothian Council is responsible for has indicated that all such signs are currently in a good condition and do not require replacement. Any such replacement signs, required on a renewal basis (for example if damaged), will incorporate Gaelic	Welcome signs at the main entry points into East Lothian will include Gaelic, demonstrating equal respect for Gaelic and English	Service Manager - Roads	January 2030



## 2.2 Communications

The use of Gaelic in interactions with the council through a combination of engagement online, in person or over the telephone is important in creating practical opportunities for the use of the language, and in contributing to the sense that its use is possible and welcome. East Lothian Council recognises the importance of continuing to create opportunities for the practical use of Gaelic in communications with its citizens and will increase its level of provision on an incremental basis.

Function	Current position	Proposed action	Proposed outcome/indicator	Lead service/officer	Timescale
<b>Email signatures</b>	The council has not previously included a Gaelic option as part of a corporate email signature	The option of bilingual email signatures is available and promoted to all employees	All employees have the option of incorporating Gaelic within their email signature	Service Manager - Communications	December 2025
<b>Reception</b>	Whilst the council does not have specific Gaelic provision in reception areas, provision is made for access to translation and interpretation services including Gaelic	Building on work already done, training will continue to be provided for reception and customer facing staff to ensure customer needs are met in languages other than English, including Gaelic  The provision of Gaelic within the Translation and Interpretation service will continue to be promoted to ensure equal respect for Gaelic. Customers who speak Gaelic will be able to request translation in the Gaelic language	Customers coming into reception areas in Council offices will be engaged with appropriately no matter what language they speak  All customer services / contact centre staff will be aware of how to access support for communicating in Gaelic	Service Manager - Customer Services  Service Manager - Governance	Ongoing
<b>Telephone</b>	The council does not have	Training will continue to be provided for contact centre staff to	Customers contacting the council	Service Manager -	December 2026

	specific provision for telephone call handling in Gaelic	<p>ensure customer needs are met in languages other than English, including Gaelic</p> <p>The provision of Gaelic within the Translation and Interpretation service will continue to be promoted to ensure equal respect for Gaelic. Customers who speak Gaelic will be able to request translation in the Gaelic language</p>	<p>by telephone will be engaged with appropriately no matter what language they speak</p> <p>All customer services / contact centre staff will be aware of how to access support for communicating in Gaelic</p>	<p>Customer Services</p> <p>Service Manager - Governance</p>	
<b>Written correspondence, digital communications and meetings</b>	Following previous review, the council has new arrangements in place for the provision of translation and interpretation support	<p>The council will carry out further work to ensure there is training made available/awareness of the arrangements to provide translation and interpretation support wherever required, including for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing information about access to services</li> <li>• Helping with face-to-face meetings</li> <li>• Translation documents needing a customer's signature eg a tenancy agreement</li> <li>• Consulting with customers to obtain their views,</li> </ul>	All staff will be aware of the provision to translate mail and email from and into Gaelic and understand the arrangements for how to arrange this	<p>Service Manager – Governance</p> <p>Service Manager - Communications</p>	January 2027

		<p>comments and opinions</p> <p>This ensures information/communications can be translated and responses will be provided in Gaelic within an agreed timescale when required, demonstrating equal respect</p> <p>The council website will include a message to advise that correspondence from the public in Gaelic is welcomed</p>			
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## 2.3 Publications

The use of Gaelic in a range of printed material can assist Gaelic development in a variety of ways. It helps increase the visibility of the language, it enhances Gaelic's status by being used in high profile publications, and it can help develop new and enhance existing terminology. The use of Gaelic in the media helps demonstrate a public authority's commitment to making important information available through the medium of Gaelic, as well as enhancing the visibility and status of the language. As more people access information about public authorities through their websites, making provision for the use of Gaelic can significantly enhance the status and visibility of the language.

East Lothian Council is committed to increasing the use of Gaelic in areas where the subject matter is of most interest to the general public or relates specifically to Gaelic issues.

Function	Current position	Proposed action	Proposed outcome/indicator	Lead service/officer	Timescale
<b>Website</b>	The council website has an accessibility and translation facility that enables content to be translated into Gaelic	<p>The council's website, due to be refreshed/re-launched in 2026, will include a bilingual East Lothian Council logo/identity for the first time</p> <p>A translation facility enabling web content to be translated into Gaelic will be maintained and developed</p> <p>We will explore opportunities to further enhance the functionality of digital forms and third party customer-focused systems to which the website signposts</p>	Web content and branding on the council's corporate website will be available in Gaelic	Service Manager – Customer Services	December 2026
<b>Public relations</b>	Limited press/social	Key news releases and social media	Media and social media followers	Service Manager -	December 2025

<b>and social media</b>	media content is produced by the council in Gaelic	updates in relation to council budget decisions will be published proactively in Gaelic as well as English  News releases and social media updates in relation to relevant events/consultations will be published proactively in Gaelic as well as English	will receive information in Gaelic as well as English on budget decisions and other appropriate events/consultations  All news releases on the council website will remain translatable into Gaelic	Communications	
<b>Printed material – council documents and papers</b>	The council does not routinely produce printed material in Gaelic	The council will highlight and actively promote that all printed material is available in Gaelic on request	A statement highlighting the ability to provide all printed material in languages other than English will be provided	Service Manager - Communications	December 2025
<b>Printed material in libraries</b>	Library Services now have an increased stock of titles related to Gaelic	The Library Service will catalogue additional titles in relation to Gaelic which have been received  The Library Service will carry out promotional work highlighting the increased availability of books in relation to Gaelic	The Library Service will maintain a stock of printed and digital resources in Gaelic  Promotional work highlighting this will have been undertaken	Service Manager - Customer Services and Senior Librarians	January 2026
<b>Links between libraries and schools</b>	There are limited connections between	Identify links between the Library Service and schools where GME or GLE	Enhanced connections and sharing of Gaelic-related resources between East	Service Manager - Customer Services and	January 2028

	libraries and schools where GME/GLE is delivered	(Gaelic Learner Education) is being delivered.	Lothian libraries and schools	Senior Librarians	
<b>Public exhibitions and heritage</b>	The council has made some provision for dual language exhibits	<p>Museum Services will factor further scope for Gaelic provision into future programming and interpretation requirements</p> <p>The council will explore appropriate partnership opportunities with community organisations such as the Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust to promote community-led initiatives which recognise and promote the Gaelic language</p>	Museums and Library services exhibitions policies make provision for Gaelic in exhibitions as appropriate	<p>Service Manager - Customer Services</p> <p>Service Manager - Communications</p>	December 2026

## 2.4 Employees

In 2023, the council carried out an employee survey which included a question about Gaelic language skills. This found that 11 staff, including nine teachers, speak Gaelic. Thirteen respondents, including nine teachers, said they can read Gaelic while another six people – five of them being teachers – said they can write Scots Gaelic.

In order to deliver services through the medium of Gaelic, it is necessary to develop the requisite job skills and language skills of staff. The provision of language learning for staff helps promote adult Gaelic learning and promotes Gaelic as a useful skill in the workplace. The identification of jobs in which Gaelic is a designated skill will contribute greatly to the status of the language and to identifying it as a positive skill to acquire.

The use of Gaelic in advertising also helps recognise that Gaelic should be used in public life and that Gaelic users have an important role to play within a public authority. Whatever the

level of Gaelic skills required it is important that authorities ensure that Gaelic is a genuine occupational requirement.

East Lothian Council recognises the importance of seeing Gaelic as an important job skill and of identifying situations in which its use is essential or desirable and we recognise the importance of enabling staff to develop their Gaelic skills if they can and want to deploy them in support of the council's Gaelic Language Plan.

Function	Current position	Proposed action	Proposed outcome/ indicator	Lead service/ officer	Timescale
<b>Internal communications</b>	There is limited promotion of the Gaelic language through the council's main internal communications channels	The council promote its work to sustain and develop the Gaelic language internally on an annual basis, and highlight progress in delivering the Gaelic Language Plan, as part of World Gaelic Language Week	Articles will be published through Inform, the council's monthly e-magazine for employees	Service Manager - Communications	February 2026
<b>Recruitment</b>	All council jobs are advertised on the myjobscotland website which does not have a language translation function	The council will seek agreement translation functionality to be added to the myjobscotland website operated by COSLA so that all job adverts can be available in Gaelic  In the meantime, if a job has Gaelic	Subject to COSLA agreement, bilingual adverts for posts requiring Gaelic will appear on myjobscotland  Job adverts with a Gaelic requirement will be available on the council website	Service Manager – People & Council Support	December 2026

		<p>as a requirement, the council will make its own arrangements for the role profile and associated information to be available in Gaelic via the council website and suitably promoted</p> <p>COSLA (responsible for the myjobscotland website) will be approached to consider adding a language translation facility to the website and application forms</p>			
<b>Training and language learning</b>	There has been limited demand for Gaelic training from employees	<p>Continue to explore/assess demand for Gaelic learning for employees</p> <p>Make available and promote a 'Gaelic and Scotland' e-learning essentials module to employees, as part of the council's</p>	Improved staff engagement in and awareness of Gaelic language	Organisational Development Manager	January 2026



		suite of learning and development opportunities  Promote LearnGaelic digital resources for beginners internally amongst council employees			
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## 2.5 Gaelic language acquisition & usage

We will take the following steps to help create a supportive environment for growing the number of Gaelic speakers in East Lothian.

East Lothian Council recognises that a sustainable future for Gaelic requires more people to learn, use and value the language across all areas of life. To this end, we are committed to embedding Gaelic more widely through community participation, sustainable education provision, and pathways for progression.

Our strategic aims in this area are to:

- **Increase community engagement opportunities** – by supporting local initiatives that raise awareness of Gaelic, encourage participation in Gaelic language and cultural activities, and create visible spaces for Gaelic in everyday life. This includes supporting Gaelic learning in community settings.
- **Secure the long-term sustainability of Gaelic education (GME)** – by ensuring that Gaelic Medium Education continues to grow with clear pathways from early years through to secondary and beyond. This includes maintaining and growing GME provision, identifying opportunities to work regionally and ensuring appropriate staffing, support, and transitions.
- **Promote progression of Gaelic Learner Education (GLE)** – by supporting all schools to offer Gaelic as an additional language (L3) within the 1+2 Languages Policy, ensuring high-quality, age-appropriate resources and professional learning for teachers, and encouraging creative approaches to teaching Gaelic.
- **Increased visibility of Gaelic resources and materials** – by ensuring Gaelic has greater visibility and presence within council material such as branding and email signatures.

As corporate parents the council will where possible ensure Gaelic speaking care experienced children and young people face no barriers to access Gaelic speaking education. This section aligns with Article 30 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which upholds the right of children to learn and use their own language, including minority and indigenous languages such as Gaelic.

Function	Current position	Proposed action	Proposed outcome/ indicator	Lead service/ officer	Timescale
<b>Gaelic Medium Education (GME)</b>	<p>Currently delivered through partnership agreement with City of Edinburgh Council. This is under review to respond to increased numbers of ELC learners requesting GME provision.</p> <p>A renewed local strategic steering group is planned and will be convened to support ongoing planning and development.</p> <p>GME learner data is being gathered</p> <p>Contact with parents will be sought to support</p>	<p>Track and monitor uptake of GME and evaluate council information regarding GME provision.</p> <p>Promote GME through communications channels &amp; networks</p> <p>Review existing provision to respond to increasing numbers of GME requests in ELC</p> <p>Work with a range of regional and local partners to develop a regional integrated and sustainable strategy and delivery model</p>	<p>Data on numbers of pupils attending GME</p> <p>To support, sustain and monitor provision arrangements</p> <p>To ensure clear information is available regarding ELC GME provision In line with the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education and the Education (Scotland) Act 2016</p> <p>To increase uptake of GME in line with local</p>	ELC lead officers Gaelic Strategic group	April 2030

	<p>collaborative planning</p> <p>Partnership planning is being undertaken in consultation with Scottish Government and Bòrd na Gàidhlig.</p>	<p>Conduct a parental engagement survey for parents of 3 to 4 year-olds.</p> <p>Work in partnership with City of Edinburgh and other neighbouring local authorities to support and sustain arrangements and to align planning around GME</p> <p>Promote / support pre-school and school age GME – mainly through existing partnership provision</p> <p>Families: Create a local GME information pack for families; review website information; engage with parents</p> <p>Capture the views of young people as part of any future planning and development</p>	<p>and national plans</p>		
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		Review planning processes following the enactment of the Scottish Languages Bill (expected 2025) to ensure the council meets all future statutory requirements			
<b>Gaelic Learners Education (GLE)</b>	<p>There has been limited uptake of GLE in East Lothian.</p> <p>Interested teachers are being identified</p> <p>Teacher introduction to Gaelic courses have been offered and taken place in 2019, 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>Partnership development of GLE resources was undertaken in partnership with a local partner (Togi Gaelic). These are now available to all</p>	<p>Support schools with planning and development of GLE through provision of learning and teaching resources and professional development for teachers</p> <p>Promote uptake of regional SQA accredited courses</p> <p>Develop Gaelic learner opportunities as part of 1+2 and via partners (e.g. The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust)</p> <p>Continue to promote use of Gaelic materials, such as the Stòrlann Go Gaelic</p>	<p>Increased numbers of schools and pupils engaging with GLE</p> <p>Increased numbers of teachers taking up opportunities for development in Gaelic language</p> <p>Locally developed Gaelic teaching resources available for teachers and schools</p>	ELC lead officers Gaelic Steering Group	April 2030

	<p>East Lothian schools.</p> <p>Partnership working has been established with the Local Authority GLE Consortium Group.</p>	<p>website, to support teacher development in basic Gaelic language skills.</p> <p>Capture the views of young people as part of future planning, identifying interest in Gaelic language learning and exploring approaches and opportunities to support this — for example, through digital offerings for Senior Phase learners. Explore possibility of working with regional partners in this area</p>			
<b>Adult learning</b>	No Gaelic currently is being offered	Work with training partners to identify opportunities for adult learning, leading to suitable awareness raising/signposting as appropriate	Increased offer of local community Gaelic language learning opportunities in line with availability from delivery partners, subject to	Service Manager – Employability and Service Manager Connected Communities	Through the lifetime of this plan

		<p>Identify Gaelic speaking members of the community interested in the promotion and development of Gaelic language</p> <p>Find out more about promotion of adult learning and what happens in other authorities, with consideration of equity</p>	<p>them increasing their offer</p> <p>Engagement with the Gaelic speaking local community as required</p>		
<b>Gaelic in communities, partnerships and networks</b>	<p>Engagement and partnership working underway with local Gaelic language partners</p> <p>Partnership representation on the ELC Gaelic steering group</p> <p>ELC is represented by lead officers on national Gaelic networks e.g. Gaelic Language</p>	<p>Continue to engage with local and national partners to support the development of local Gaelic learning opportunities and GME provision</p> <p>Engage with the GLE consortia to evaluate opportunities for Gaelic language staff development</p> <p>Identify key local partners (business, tourism etc.)</p>	<p>Enhanced provision of Gaelic learning and development</p> <p>Increased engagement with and awareness of Gaelic language</p>	<p>ELC lead officers</p> <p>Gaelic language working group</p>	Through the lifetime of the plan

	Network (GLAN)	Continue to attend national network events, communicate opportunities and information relating to Gaelic language and promote staff development			
<b>Gaelic in the arts</b>	The council recognises there is interest/demand for music and cultural activities linked to Gaelic	Subject to budget availability, the council's Arts team will make provision for Gaelic through its programme, with a potential focus on Gaelic Language Week in February. There will be opportunities to this to the council's press/social media output	The arts service's policies will make provision for Gaelic arts activities  Promotion of Arts programme and Gaelic Language Week activities through the council's press and social media output	Service Manager - Connected Communities and Arts Manager	January 2027
<b>Printing and media services for local businesses</b>	The council has an in-house print unit which is keen to develop an increasingly commercial focus	The council will promote the existence of its in-house print unit, with the potential to produce materials in Gaelic for local businesses requiring them	Local businesses will be aware of the council's ability to produce printed material on a commercial basis,	Service Manager – Communications	January 2025

			including in Gaelic		
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### 3. IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING

East Lothian Council's Gaelic Language Plan will be published bilingually on our website and copies will be made available on request. In addition, we shall make the plan known to the public via a press release and social media and to employees via our Intranet.

This plan is the policy of East Lothian Council and has been endorsed both by our Council Management Team and council members.

The council's Integrated Impact Assessment process will be amended to include screening questions relating to Gaelic and signposting those who are developing relevant new policies to this policy and the National Gaelic Language Plan to ensure that policies are developed in line with the Plan.

The Chief Executive will be ultimately responsible for ensuring that the council delivers on the commitments set out in this Plan.

Individual responsibility for various actions set out in Chapter 2 of the Plan has been assigned to relevant staff members and we have set out the individual target dates for when we expect to implement specific commitments.

The council will monitor the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan through a bi-annual update on progress in implementing the actions set out on Chapter 2. These monitoring reports will be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

## CONTACT DETAILS

The senior officer with operational responsibility for overseeing preparation, delivery and monitoring of East Lothian Council's Gaelic Language Plan is:

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Queries about the day-to-day operation of the plan should be addressed to:

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Versions of this leaflet can be provided in Braille, large print, audiotape, or your own language. For assistance please call: **01620 827 827** British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us via **[www.contactscotland-bsl.org](http://www.contactscotland-bsl.org)**

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