

Consultation Questions

Section 1

1. Do you agree with the reasons given for promoting and learning languages on pages 4 and 5, and that these are the main reasons for supporting current language initiatives in

The Authority welcomes the focus on the main languages of English, Gaelic, Scots, British Sign Language (BSL) and minority/community languages. At a time of significant mobility in the population both within the UK and internationally, it is important to ensure that learners have opportunities to develop fluency in more than one language. This will promote:-

Scotland? If not, why not?	i, § Celebrating cultural diversity i, § Promoting respect and confidence i, § Encouraging mobility and communication i, § Facilitating access and inclusion i, § Increasing economic opportunity i, § Enriching education
2. Do you agree that the language initiatives described on pages 6 – 12 and elsewhere are the key areas for language promotion in Scotland? If not, why not?	There are a significant range of language initiatives currently taking place. It is important that the consultation draws these into an overall coherent programme for Scotland’s languages. The due attention given to Gaelic is of particular importance for Highland and neighbouring authorities as is the emphasis on Scots. In addition the needs of key groups including EAL, ESOL and BSL require to be addressed and further developed.
3. Do you agree that the key principles listed on pages 14 and 15 should shape language activity in Scotland? If not, why not?	The key principles stated are appropriate. In particular, the Authority welcomes the commitment to protect and promote the Gaelic language and to develop the profile of Gaelic in public life in Scotland. It is also important to ensure that the use of the Scots language should be encouraged. The rapidly changing position with regard to ensuring linguistic access and linguistic diversity is part of the challenge of ensuring One Scotland – Many Cultures is a reality for communities across the Highlands. In a time of increased mobility of families including a significant influx of migrants from Eastern European states there is a need to ensure a coherent strategy for Scotland’s language. Language developments within A curriculum for Excellence have the potential to enable learners to access other cultures and economic opportunities. However, these aspirations can only be delivered through the development of services which has significant resource implications in meeting the needs of a range of client groups eg EAL, ESOL, BSL, etc.
4. Are there any other comments you would like to offer on this strategy in relation to the promotion of languages in Scotland?	In an age where learners live locally but think and act globally fluency in languages is a required life skill. This is true for the indigenous population in developing bilingualism and multilingualism. It is equally true for members of local communities where the prevailing community language is not their first language. It is important therefore that the strategy addresses the key language groups detailed on pages 7 to 12 of the consultation paper.
	The Authority is currently developing a

5. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, how do you think you may be able to contribute to the success of the strategy?

language plan for Gaelic in collaboration with BÃ²rd na GÃ²idhlig. This process will assist the Council in considering the wider agenda of developing a plan for Scotlandâ€™s languages in a Highland context However, such developments will require significant allocation of resources which require to be supported both nationally and locally.

A Strategy for Scotland's Languages
Scottish Executive Education Department
Cultural Policy Division
Area 1-A North
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH
EH6 6QQ

Please ask for: Mr D R J MacDonald
Direct Dial: (01463) 702804
E-mail: donnie.macdonald@highland.gov.uk
Your Ref:
Our Ref: DRJM/PA
Date: 12 March 2007

Dear Sirs

A STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND'S LANGUAGES

Please find attached the response of Highland Council to the above consultation.

Following discussion at our Education, Culture and Sport Service Committee on 8 March members were of the view that resourcing the delivery of A Strategy for Scotland's Languages is a key issue – see our response to key question 5.

Yours sincerely



D R J MacDonald
Acting Director
Education, Culture & Sport Service

**CONSULTATION ON A STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND'S LANGUAGES
RESPONSE FROM HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

<p>Question 1</p>	<p>Do you agree with the reasons given for promoting and learning languages on pages 4 and 5, and that these are the main reasons for supporting current language initiatives in Scotland? If not, why not?</p> <p>The Authority welcomes the focus on the main languages of English, Gaelic, Scots, British Sign Language (BSL) and minority/community languages.</p> <p>At a time of significant mobility in the population both within the UK and internationally, it is important to ensure that learners have opportunities to develop fluency in more than one language. This will promote:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Celebrating cultural diversity ▪ Promoting respect and confidence ▪ Encouraging mobility and communication ▪ Facilitating access and inclusion ▪ Increasing economic opportunity ▪ Enriching education
<p>Question 2</p>	<p>Do you agree that the language initiatives described on pages 6 - 12 and elsewhere are the key areas for language promotion in Scotland? If not, why not?</p> <p>There are a significant range of language initiatives currently taking place. It is important that the consultation draws these into an overall coherent programme for Scotland's languages.</p> <p>The due attention given to Gaelic is of particular importance for Highland and neighbouring authorities as is the emphasis on Scots.</p> <p>In addition the needs of key groups including EAL, ESOL and BSL require to be addressed and further developed.</p>
<p>Question 3</p>	<p>Do you agree that the key principles listed on pages 14 and 15 should shape language activity in Scotland? If not, why not?</p> <p>The key principles stated are appropriate. In particular, the Authority welcomes the commitment to protect and promote the Gaelic language and to develop the profile of Gaelic in public life in Scotland. It is also important to ensure that the use of the Scots language should be encouraged.</p> <p>The rapidly changing position with regard to ensuring linguistic access and linguistic diversity is part of the challenge of ensuring <i>One Scotland – Many Cultures</i> is a reality for communities across the Highlands. In a time of increased mobility of families including a significant influx of migrants from Eastern European states there is a need to ensure a coherent strategy for Scotland's language.</p>

	<p>Language developments within <i>A curriculum for Excellence</i> have the potential to enable learners to access other cultures and economic opportunities. However, these aspirations can only be delivered through the development of services which has significant resource implications in meeting the needs of a range of client groups eg EAL, ESOL, BSL, etc.</p>
Question 4	<p>Are there any other comments you would like to offer on this strategy in relation to the promotion of languages in Scotland?</p> <p>In an age where learners live locally but think and act globally fluency in languages is a required life skill. This is true for the indigenous population in developing bilingualism and multilingualism. It is equally true for members of local communities where the prevailing community language is not their first language. It is important therefore that the strategy addresses the key language groups detailed on pages 7 to 12 of the consultation paper.</p>
Question 5	<p>If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, how do you think you may be able to contribute to the success of the strategy?</p> <p>The Authority is currently developing a language plan for Gaelic in collaboration with Bòrd na Gàidhlig. This process will assist the Council in considering the wider agenda of developing a plan for Scotland's languages in a Highland context However, such developments will <u>require significant allocation of resources</u> which require to be supported both nationally and locally.</p>