Front Cover

Dumfries and Galloway Council



GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN

[2027-2032]

This plan has been prepared under Section 3 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and was approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on [approval date - tba]

The Bòrd na Gàidhlig logo should be added to the front cover
of the approved plan only and not to any drafts.

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Foreword

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1. Executive Summary

Our new Gaelic Language Plan aims to build on the progress made over the last five years and to further develop the following key areas:

- Increasing the profile and awareness of Gaelic and particularly the historical Gaelic connections and place names
- Gaelic learning within our schools
- Gaelic learning within our communities
- Integration of Gaelic into community events
- Capitalising on cultural and tourism links to Gaelic through our partners
- Increasing opportunities for our staff to learn Gaelic

Gaelic Language Plan 2022 to 2027 | Dumfries and Galloway Council



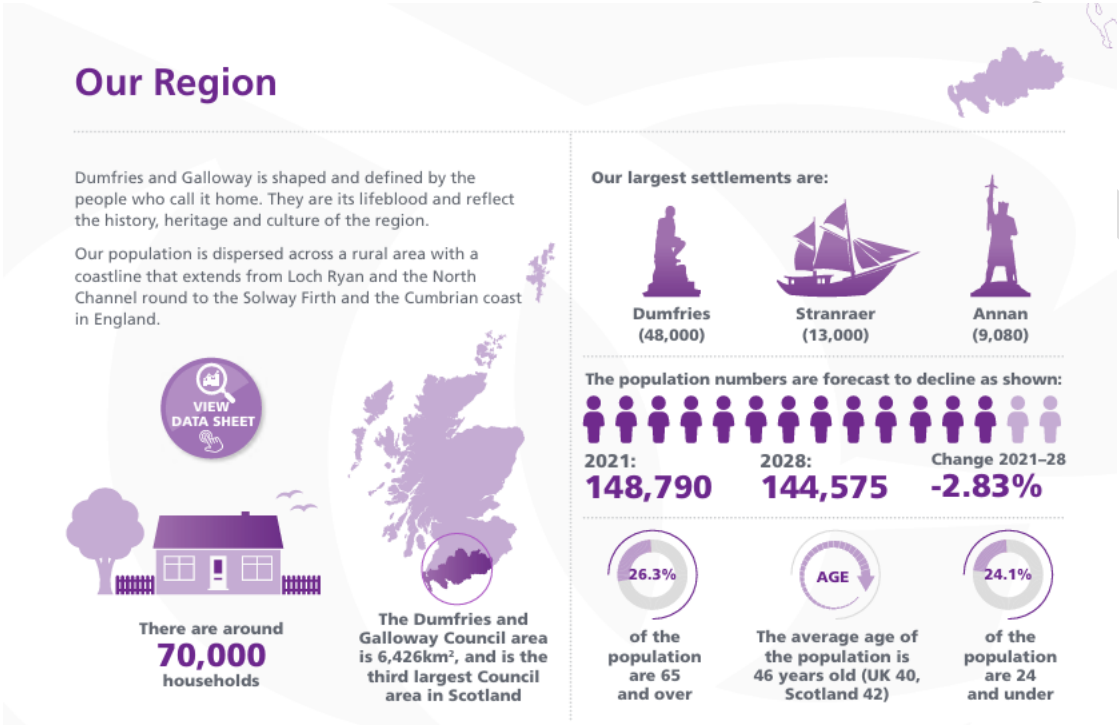
Local Gaelic song group 'Gabh Òran'.



Gàidhlig Dumgal Family Ceilidh in Locharbriggs

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2. Introduction



Principles - delivering the outcomes

These principles are **how** we will deliver the outcomes in this plan.

Safeguard our future

Address the climate emergency: urgently respond to climate change and transition to a carbon neutral region.

Protect our natural capital: protecting and enhancing our region's natural capital and habitats through conservation and sustainable development.

Support our citizens

Put customers at the heart of services: provide responsive and reliable services that achieve high standards of customer care.

Support the most vulnerable and in need: target resources to have a positive impact for the most vulnerable, people in need and those who are disadvantaged.

Address inequalities: assess the impact of change to ensure inclusivity, accessibility, celebrate diversity and secure social benefits of change.

Offer digital services: embrace the opportunities and potential of digital technologies to improve outcomes and services for citizens and staff.

Principles - delivering the outcomes (cont'd)

Support our communities

Empowering communities and individuals: empower customers, communities and staff and build skills and confidence to enable people and communities to achieve their ambitions.

Focus on local and place: use places, wards and school clusters as the basis of local planning and delivery; and embrace the creativity and resilience of our places and people.

Work in partnership: ensure that service delivery is achieved, working alongside communities and with local, regional and national partners.

Invest to enable change: encourage and attract inward investment to deliver the ambitions of communities and local people.

Be a responsive Council

Communicate openly: share ideas and invite contribution to decision making.

Maintain sustainable finances: balance spending and income to ensure finances are sustainable over the longer term and budgets are spent on achieving the Council Plan.

Be organised to deliver: be creative and responsive, organising services and workforce to ensure we deliver our Council Plan's strategic outcomes.

Maintain high standards: ensure transparency in decision-making and treat others with kindness and respect.

Make best use of resources: ensure that there is good governance and effective management of resources, with a focus on improvement, to deliver the best outcomes for local people.

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OUR THEMES

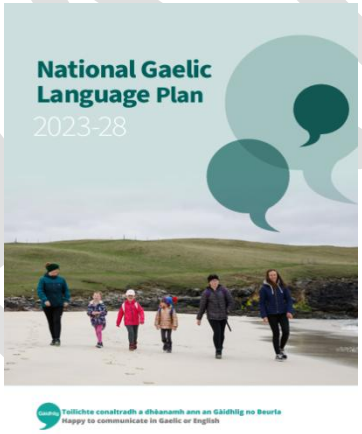
Economy	Travel Connectivity and Infrastructure	Education and Learning	Health and Wellbeing
There is a diversified and growing local economy that benefits all	Roads, paths, cycling and walking networks in the region are improved	Places of learning are inclusive, sustainable and meet the needs of local communities	Prevention and early intervention assist people to have independent lives
Our workforce and their skills base are growing	Communities are protected from the impact of floods	We get it right for every child	Access to personal support and care helps keep people safe
Rural communities and places are vibrant and thriving	Sustainable travel in the region contributes to net zero	Children, young people and adults transition successfully through all life stages	People are active, resilient and improving their health and wellbeing
Businesses are supported to start and grow	The Council is a low carbon organisation	Young people and adults succeed in what they want to achieve	Help is provided to tackle the causes and effects of poverty, inequality and increased cost of living
Investment in the region benefits communities and the local economy	People have access to services that are modern, efficient and responsive	Participation in creativity and play is part of early and lifelong learning experiences	People have access to high quality, affordable housing that supports their independence, prosperity and wellbeing
	Digital connectivity supports thriving rural communities	Local people can build their skills and confidence	

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In developing this Plan we have we have considered our legal obligations through the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, as amended by the Scottish Languages Act 2025. We have also reflected on the progress made against the targets outlined in our previous editions of the plan in partnership with voluntary group Gàidhlig Dumgal; and:

- Undertaken a Gaelic skills audit with our staff and our communities
- Discussed future opportunities for increasing Gaelic in schools with the Education Management team
- Discussed future ambitions for increasing Gaelic learning and awareness with Gàidhlig Dumgal and cultural partners
- Held workshops and consultation events
- Sought guidance from our Gaelic Plans Officer within Bòrd na Gàidhlig
- Considered the National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-2028











Gaelic within Dumfries and Galloway

It is thought that Gaelic came to Dumfries and Galloway between the 5th and 9th century when Scots who spoke Gaelic moved across the Irish sea. It was they who named most of the landscape features, especially in the west of this area (Rhins and Machars, but also the Glenkens); these names remain a distinctive feature of our area, even though their spelling has often been altered to suit Scots and English speakers, who no longer understand the meaning of place names that surround them.

Around the 9th century Dumfries and Galloway lay in territory where people spoke a Celtic language thought to be similar to that which has survived in Wales today.

Evidence of the Gaelic in the region comprises places names evidence from everywhere west of the River Annan and a disputed song said to have been written in this area and which mentions Dalry, Carsphairn and Lochinvar.

Until recently it was thought that Gaelic arrived in the region about AD 500, lasted over a thousand years and was dead by 1600. Research from the book 'Galloway: The Lost Province of Gaelic Scotland' published in 2022, shows that the language did not arrive till AD 870 at the earliest, but survived in pockets to as late as 1770. We can see from the survival of many more Gaelic place-names that most of these were coined in more recent centuries. Indeed, there are a great many Gaelic topographical elements in the West of the council area especially baile (Balmaghie, Balmaclellan) and achadh (Auchencairn, Auchenmalg).



Mull of Galloway Lighthouse

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The following links provide evidence of Gaelic topographical elements in the place names of Dumfries and Galloway:

Gaelic place names of Scotland website: Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba (AÀA) – Gaelic Place-names of Scotland

You can further explore some of our Gaelic Place names within Dumfries and Galloway through the following link:
Gaelic Dumfries & Galloway Map:
https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=198OkaIPcWQoKQ0yssJbIOrrSNIniQUs&hl=en&usp=sharing

Gaelic Dumgal website: Gàidhlig Dumgal helps develop and promote Gaelic culture and learning in SW Scotland



Clatteringshaws Loch

Census information (individuals within Dumfries and Galloway with Gaelic Skills)

Year	Number
2001	985
2011	968
2022	2058



Adult learners with Gàidhlig Dumgal tutor John Howieson.



Local school pupil Jack Tremble, winner of the Lifelong Learning Achievement Award for his outstanding progress in learning Gaelic.

Progress made over last 5 years and success stories

- Secured funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig to employ our first Gaelic Development Officer
- Strengthened relations and joint working with voluntary group Gaelic Dumgal
- Helped to increase the number of learners accessing Gaelic classes in the community in partnership with Gàidhlig Dumgal
- Integrated Gaelic content into key cultural/music events (i.e. Youth Beatz, Stranraer Oyster Festival, Wigtown Book Festival) and activities
- Increased awareness amongst Cultural Partners on how they can help support the development of Gaelic through linkages to place names, referencing historical connections in information/interpretation panels and through websites
- Developed and expanded our participation in World Gaelic Week 2023 -2026
- Installed our first bi-lingual Gaelic signs on the main entry points to our region
- Developed a new Dumfries and Galloway Gaelic Place-names map
- Supported establishment of early years group Coorie Intae Ceòl
- Strengthened relations with Fèis an Iar Dheas





New signage at entry point to Dumfries and Galloway from South Ayrshire

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3.Strategic Commitments (Aligning with most recent National Gaelic Language Plan)

Strategic Aim	Current Practice	Actions	Responsibilitity	Target Date
Increasing the use and learning of Gaelic in Communities	A new interactive Gaelic Place names map was developed during 2025/26 and promoted to schools and the community as a learning resource. Gaelic content has been integrated into major events from 2024 including the Youth Beatz Music Festival, Stranraer Oyster Festival and Wigtown Book Festival. Increased and growing involvement in World Gaelic week 2024, 2025 and 2026. The Council has supported Gàidhlig Dumgal with free/discounted access to facilities for classes and helped create a new class in Thornhill during 2025 to complement other existing classes in Eastriggs, Dumfries, Castle Douglas and Stranraer.	Building on existing good practice by raising awareness of the historical Gaelic connections in our region through place names and working with partners to realise any opportunities linked to the Scottish Languages Act for designating areas of linguistic significance.	Gaelic Language Plan Implementation Group (GLPIG)/ Gàidhlig Dumgal	**2027/28**
		Developing a Service Level Agreement between the Council and Gàidhlig Dumgal to further strengthen relationships.	Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC)/Gàidhlig Dumgal	**2027**
		Exploring opportunities linked to areas of Linguistic Significance once the statutory guidance is finalised, particularly linked to historical Gaelic connections within our region.	Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC)/Gàidhlig Dumgal	**2027/28**

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	6 week pilot of Gaelic learning course delivered to students in Dalbeattie High School through their Modern Languages Teacher. Supporting and involvement in Fèis an Iar Dheas.	Ensure examples of Gaelic activity, including case studies are included in the annual Community Learning and Development annual report and reports to the relevant Council Committee.	Dumfries and Galloway Council	**2027**

Strategic Aim	Current Practice	Actions	Responsibilitity	Target Date
Increasing the use and learning of Gaelic in Homes	There are 24 libraries across Dumfries and Galloway with 22 being deemed suitable to host Gaelic Bookbug sessions. During 2025 five Gaelic Bookbug sessions took place in libraries in Dumfries (Georgetown and Ewart), Castle Douglas, Thornhill, Annan and Newton Stewart. Four Gaelic Bookbug sessions took place in 2026 in Castle Douglas, Gretna and Dumfries (Ewart) and Wigtown libraries. Sessions so far have been programmed as part of World	Increase the number of Gaelic Bookbug sessions which run in our libraries throughout the year enabling more libraries across the region to provide this free opportunity to local families.	DGC Libraries/Customer Services Centres	**Incremental increase each year from 2027**
		Support local Early Years Group ‘Coorie Intae Ceòl’ to expand their offering across Dumfries and Galloway by facilitating use of Council venues to run community classes in Gaelic and Scots language for pre-school children and their parent/carers.	DGC Lifelong Learning	**From 2027**

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	Gaelic Week and Wigtown Book Festival. 'Coorie Intae Ceòl' sessions already taking place at The Bridge, Dumfries provide a learning opportunity for parents/carers and their pre-school children to hear, speak and sing in Gaelic.	Integrate Gaelic content into our Family Learning offer (in communities and school settings) by providing training to key delivery staff such as the Lifelong Learning team. Staff to be trained in basic greetings, phrases and simple Gaelic songs that could be used/taught in their sessions with learners and colleagues in community and school settings.	DGC Lifelong Learning	**Training to take place 2027-2029**
		Develop (free) support resources for parents who participate in our Family Learning Offer. Support packs to contain printed booklet of learnt vocabulary and songs with QR link to online audio files and signposting to further learning sites/Gaelic organisations and Dumfries & Galloway Google Place-name map.	DGC Lifelong Learning	**Resources to be develped during 2027/28**

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Strategic Aim	Current Practice	Actions	Responsibilitity	Target Date
Increasing the use and learning of Gaelic in Creative Industries, Business and Economic Development	A new Gaelic Place-names map was created during 2025/26 and promoted to schools and the community to help raise awareness of historical Gaelic connections and to be used as a learning resource. Previous engagement with cultural partners took place between 2023-2025 as part of the Gaelic Heritage Value Study which was funded through Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Gàidhlig Dumgal. Local festivals and arts venues are encouraged to include Gaelic content in their programming year-round. We have already established a group of key contacts to help explore and develop Gaelic related tourism including South of Scotland Enterprsie, South of	Build on our relationship with the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership and Business Sector to help promote Gaelic opportunities and positively influence partners across the region by helping them understand how they can integrate Gaelic content into their existing activities including Gaelic connections through events, culture, heritage and festivals. **Target minimum of two opportunities per year.**	GLPIG	**From Summer 2027**
		Using our new Gaelic Place-names map to evidence the Gaelic connections to places within our region and continue to add more place-names to the map as and when research progresses. **Target to add further content each year over the lifetime of the Plan.**	DGC Lifelong Learning/ Gàidhlig Dumgal	**Ongoing from 2027**

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	Scotland Destination Alliance and Visit Scotland.	Create opportunities to invite those working in this sector to attend informative talks and workshops on our Gaelic heritage. **Pilot to be developed 2028/2029**	GLPIG	**2028/2029**

Strategic Aim	Current Practice	Actions	Responsibilitity	Target Date
Increasing the use and learning of Gaelic in Education 0-18	The authority is aware of its statutory obligations as per the Education Scotland Act and Gaelic Language Act. An initial audit of primary and secondary schools to assess interest in developing Gaelic within schools was undertaken in May 2023 and refreshed in late 2025, however no firm interest was identified at that point. In early 2026 three Primary Schools and one nursery setting received Gaelic taster sessions so following an offer	Engage with DGC Education and key stakeholders regarding the following: Work with our Head Teachers and Educations Officers in order to increase awareness of Gaelic as part of the 1+2 modern languages offer and develop a plan to support any expressions of interest within our schools. **Target to undertake formal consultation with Head Teachers and Education Officers every two years.**	DGC Education/Lifelong Learning	**Commence from 2027/28**

	of support made by the Gaelic Development Officer. Dumfries and Galloway Council's Youth Music Initiative (whole class) project 'Ram Tam' ensures pupils are receiving an element of Gaelic language and song as part of their learning around traditional music.	Support the development of Gaelic Learners Education (GLE) at primary and secondary level, including the use of e-Sgoil provision. **Target to undertake formal consultation with Head Teachers and Education Officers every two years.** Options to meet any identified demand will be assessed with proposals being considered by the Education, Skills and Community Well-Being Committee.	DGC Education/Lifelong Learning	**Commence from 2027/28**
		Alongside establishing Gaelic Language provision in interested primary schools, assess the potential to develop Gaelic Early Years provision and support families and community groups interested in promoting Gaelic Early Years education. Options to meet any new demand identified will be assessed with proposals being considered by the Education,	DGC Education/Lifelong Learning	**Commence from 2027/28**

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		Skills and Community Well-Being Committee.		
		Build on and increase our offer of Gaelic taster sessions in our nursery, primary and secondary settings across the region, where possible.	DGC Education/Lifelong Learning/ Coorie intae Ceòl’	**2027/28**
		Work with Education Officers to build positive relationships with Head Teachers and explore meaningful ways where Gaelic can be introduced into schools such as Gaelic content tailored to topics being studied. For example, inviting Gaelic Development Officers from other organisations to provide outreach activity across a range of subjects in secondary schools (such as Keep Scotland Beautiful, Historic Environment Scotland and Sportscotland) to work with pupils on outreach projects.	DGC Education/Lifelong Learning	**2028/29**
		Raise awareness and promote (with school staff and parents) the statutory requirements placed on Local Authorities and the expectations placed	DGC Education	**2028/29**

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		on schools around Gaelic Medium Education and Gaelic Medium Primary Education. **ACTION:** Circulate a proactive communication to all School Head Teachers to refresh knowledge and awareness of expectations around Gaelic linked to the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, Education (Scotland) Act 2016 and the Scottish Languages Act 2025.		
		Hold annual GME information sessions in partnership with Comann nam Pàrant.	DGC Education	**2028/29**

Strategic Aim	Current Practice	Actions	Responsibilitity	Target Date
Increasing the use and learning of Gaelic in Post School and Adult Learning	The Council are already supporting Gàidhlig Dumgal to sustain and develop new Gaelic classes. They currently offer nine in person classes, one online class and one self study	Work with Gàidhlig Dumgal to sustain the existing Gaelic classes and support them with expanding this to include further classes subject to demand from the community.	GLPIG/ Gàidhlig Dumgal	**2028/29**

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	group running across the region. A weekly Gaelic post is promoted through our Lifelong Learning Facebook Page which has over 12,000 followers. Gaelic Development Officer attended fresher's week activities at the University of west of Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway College to promote Gaelic.	Use the Council's Adult Learning Service to help share resources and promote Gaelic such as using social media to increase awareness of historical Gaelic connections within the region; learning Gaelic words and phrases; as well as publicising Gaelic related events in the region.	DGC Lifelong Learning	**2028/29**

4.Corporate Commitments

ENHANCING OUR CORPORATE IDENTITY

Area of Focus	Current Practice	Actions	Responsibilitity	Target Date
Logo and Brand Render the corporate logo and branding in both Gaelic and English at the first opportunity and as part of any renewal process. The logo should	Strapline made bilingual on Council website during early 2021 following agreement at Dumfries and Galloway Full Council meeting.	Establish a policy/procedure for including Gaelic on building signage and livery on a renewal basis.	GLPIG Appropriate Council Committee	**2028/29**

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demonstrate equal prominence for both languages.	Optional E-mail disclaimers in Gaelic have been rolled out to staff.	Work with Elected Members to assess appetite in expanding logo/branding options through Seminars and Commitee processes.	GLPIG Appropriate Council Committee	**Target by 2029**
Signage Prominent signage will include Gaelic and English as part of any renewal process.	26 trunk road "Welcome to Dumfries and Galloway" signs were replaced with bi-lingual Gaelic signage in 2026. A procedure was also agreed for local communities who may wish a bi-lingual sign within their town/village.	Work with Elected Members to assess appetite in expanding Gaelic through seminars and committee processes.	GLPIG Appropriate Council Committee	**Target by 2029**
		Consider requests as they are submitted from **2027** and add narrative on procedure to the Gaelic Plan landing page.	GLPIG Appropriate Council Committee	**Target by 2029**

ENHANCING OUR COMMUNICATIONS

Area of Focus	Current Practice	Actions	Responsibility	Target Date
Reception Where Gaelic speaking staff can provide this service, they are supported to do so, and the service is promoted to the public.	At the moment there are no Gaelic speaking staff who can provide this service. Customer Service's staff have been offered Gaelic Language training and some staff have completed a selection of online learning Gaelic modules.	Support staff to undertake online Gaelic modules and encourage the use of basic Gaelic phrases.	DGC Lifelong Learning	**2027-2032**

Front Line Service Delivery	The overall Council lead for Gaelic sits with the Lifelong Learning Service and as such actvity is included with our Community Learning and Development Partners' Plan. We have worked in partnership with other Council Services to develop Gaelic as follows: **Libraries/Customer Services**: To facilitate Gaelic Bookbug sessions. **Lifelong Learning:** Through promoting Gaelic through social media outlets and attendance at events. **Arts and Culture**: Through working with cultural partners to increase awareness of how Gaelic can be integrated into regular activities and events. To promote Gaelic related artifacts in museums. **Communications:** To help promote good news stories	Expand Gaelic activities within libraries such as increase in Gaelic Bookbug sessions to times of year outwith World Gaelic Week and promoting the Council's Gaelic book selection.	DGC Lifelong Learning	**2027-2030**
		Promote Gaelic through Social Media. Increase from one weekly Gaelic related facebook post on lifelong learning social media page to 6 per month. Attend events as part of World Gaelic Week programme and major festivals throughout the year. (minmum of 2 per year).	DGC Lifelong Learning	**2027-2030**

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	and publicise the programme for World Gaelic Week. **Economy and Environment:** By working with the Environment Team at local events.	Identify 2 new development opportunities each year working with partners.	DGC Lifelong Learning	**2027-2030**
		Develop a specifc annual Gaelic comms plan.	DGC Lifelong Learning	**2027/28 and each year thereafter**
Use of Gaelic by staff in the conduct of their work	We promote Gaelic learning and awareness modules to staff. We use World Gaelic Week to promote Gaelic learning opportunities to staff. We have established strong links with a range of other Council Services. Gaelic actvity is included with our Community Learning and Development Partners' Plan. Staff are not yet experiencing demand from customers to interact in Gaelic.	Regularly review Gaelic skills audit results to ensure we can utilise internal Gaelic language skills and provide development opportunities to those who wish to undertake classes.	DGC Lifelong Learning DGC Lifelong Learning/Gàidhlig Dumgal	**From 2027 and each year thereafter**
		Promote available online modules each year.	DGC Lifelong Learning	**From 2027 and each year thereafter**
		Pilot Gaelic learning taster sessions at lunchtimes.	DGC Lifelong Learning/ Gàidhlig Dumgal	**From 2027/28 and each year thereafter subject to interest/demand**

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Correspondence Written communication in Gaelic is always accepted (post, email and social media) and replies will be provided in Gaelic in accordance with the general policy.	All key officers are aware that communication in Gaelic is welcome and that replies will be provided in Gaelic through internal translation.	Monitor and refresh staff training as required.	DGC Lifelong Learning/Comms	**Ongoing as required through the Lifetime of the Plan**
		Ensure that a positive message confirming that written Gaelic communication is welcome is maintained on our website.	DGC Lifelong Learning/Comms	**Ongoing as required through the Lifetime of the Plan**
Social media Gaelic content distributed regularly through social media, guided by the level of actual and potential users.	Gaelic content features on the Council's Lifelong Learning Social Media page on a weekly basis (over 12,000 followers). This includes a weekly "Gaelic word/phrase of the week," good news stories, promotion of classes organised through Gàidhlig Dumgal and other relevant Gaelic events and activities. The main Council Social Media pages have supported World Gaelic Week and work linked to developing our new Gaelic Language Plan.	Use our Social Media channels to promote Gaelic related events, activities, place-names and classes. This will ensure a weekly social media post as a minimum combined with promoting the following at regular intervals: - Gaelic Place names - Good news stories/case studies - Events and activities	GLPIG/ Gàidhlig Dumgal	**From 2027**

Public engagement	Consultation and engagement activity has taken place as part of the development of our Gaelic Language Plan. We have ongoing dialigue and discussion with voluntary group Gàidhlig Dumgal around Gaelic opportunities and promotion. Opportunities to interact with the public have also been enhanced through attendance at major cultural events held across the region.	Work with Gàidhlig Dumgal to increase engagement with local groups and individuals interested in Gaelic. Continue to have a presence at cultural events such as Youth Beatz, Stranraer Oyster Festival, Wigtown Book Festival and other music, arts and language festivals across the region.		**From 2027/28**

PUBLICATIONS

Area of Focus	Current Practice	Actions	Responsibilitity	Target Date
Public relations and media	All key officers are aware that communication in Gaelic is welcome. A positive message that Gaelic communication is	Monitor interest from the public in increasing Gaelic related communications.	DGC Lifelong Learning/Comms	**From 2027**

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	welcomed is included on our website. Gaelic updates have been included in the Community Bulletin which reaches over 15,000 people.	Increase the use of Gaelic within the community bulletin. Target mimimum of 2 articles per year.	DGC Lifelong Learning/Comms	**From 2027**
Incremental increase in the use of Gaelic within corporate publications	The Council Plan and current edition of the Gaelic Language Plan have been translated to Gaelic and are available on our website.	Indentify the main publications which would be most useful to translate to Gaelic.	DGC Lifelong Learning	**From 2027**
		Translate at least one new document in Gaelic biannually.	DGC Lifelong Learning	**2028 - 2032**
Websites	The Council uses a bi-lingual logo on its main website. Each Stratgeic Plan recognised by the Council has its own landing page with a dedicated page being allocated to the Gaelic Langugae Plan. Gaelic Language Plan The main Council Social Media pages have supported World Gaelic Week and work	Expand Gaelic content on the Council's Gaelic Plan landing page each year to include: - Bi-lingual documents - Place name maps - Case studies/success stories - Include Gaelic narrative/translation on Adult Learning landing page	DGC Lifelong Learning/Comms	**From 2028**

	linked to developing our new Gaelic Langugae Plan.			
Exhibitions	Where we have organised events we have used notice boards/displays to promote Gaelic in libraries, community facilities and outdoor events. This includes major tourism related events such as the Wigtown Book Festival, Stranraer Oyster Festival and Dumfries Youth Beatz music event.	Integrate Gaelic content into local events and exhibitions such as Wigtown Book Festival and Stranraer Oyster.	DGC Lifelong Learning/GLPIG	**From 2028**

STAFFING

Area of Focus	Current Practice	Actions	Responsibilitity	Target Date
Training	A new Gaelic Lanugage Plan awareness module was launched in 2025 for staff.	Promote the awareness module at regular intervals and monitor uptake.	DGC Lifelong Learning/Corporate Development Units.	**From 2027/28**
		Review of induction process and pack to include Gaelic and the Gaelic Plan.	DGC Lifelong Learning/Corporate Development Units.	**From 2027/28**

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Language Learning	The Council has a series of short Gaelic Langugae learning modules available through the internal online learning portal.	Utilise the findings from the staff skills audit to inform future Gaelic training/learning needs.	DGC Lifelong Learning/Corporate Development Units.	**From 2027/28**
		Identify demand for internal Gaelic classes/explore partnership opportunities with neighbouiring authorities.	DGC Lifelong Learning/Corporate Development Units.	**From 2027/28**
Designation of posts in which Gaelic is an essential or a desirable characteristic	We have only identified the Gaelic Development Officer position as requiring Gaelic either as essential or desirable at the moment.	Monitor and re-assess on an annual basis.	DGC Lifelong Learning/Organisational Development	**From 2027/28**
Recruitment of Gaelic-speaking staff	We have not identified a specific need to recruit additional Gaelic speaking staff.	Monitor and re-assess on an annual basis.	DGC Lifelong Learning/Organisational Development	**From 2027/28**
		Use finding of internal staff skills audit to assess whether individual staff members who speak Gaelic wish to support Council Gaelic activities.	DGC Lifelong Learning/Organisational Development	**From 2027/28**

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4.Resourcing the plan

The overall lead responsibility for the Gaelic Language Plan sits with the Education, Skills and Community Well-Being Directorate through the Council's Lifelong Learning Manager. Resources to take forward the Plan are incorporated into normal business wherever possible, however external funding will be required in order to realise the ambitions of this Plan.

5. Gaelic Language Plan within the authority

Whilst the Plan cuts across many departments within the Council, the named lead sits with the Education, Skills and Community Well-Being Directorate with updates being provided to the respective Service Committee. A Gaelic Language Plan Implementation Group has been established for many years and co-ordinates the various Council services who have contributions to make to the Plan.

Gaelic Language Plan Implementation Group (Remit)

- To bring together lead officers from relevant Council Services who have a key role to play in supporting the delivery of the Gaelic language plan
- To ensure partners such as Gàidhlig Dumgal and Coorie Intae Ceòl can work together with the Council in the delivery of the Gaelic language plan
- To jointly plan a programme of activity for World Gaelic Week
- To identify and support funding opportunities to develop Gaelic activity
- To develop a Communications Plan to help promote Gaelic
- To build on and explore opportunities linked to Gaelic Heritage and Place names

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An internal Gaelic language skills audit of staff was undertaken between 4th June and the 10th July 2026. This generated 153 responses across the following Council Directorates:

Enabling and Customer Services (44)

Economy and Infrastructure (32)

Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing (58)

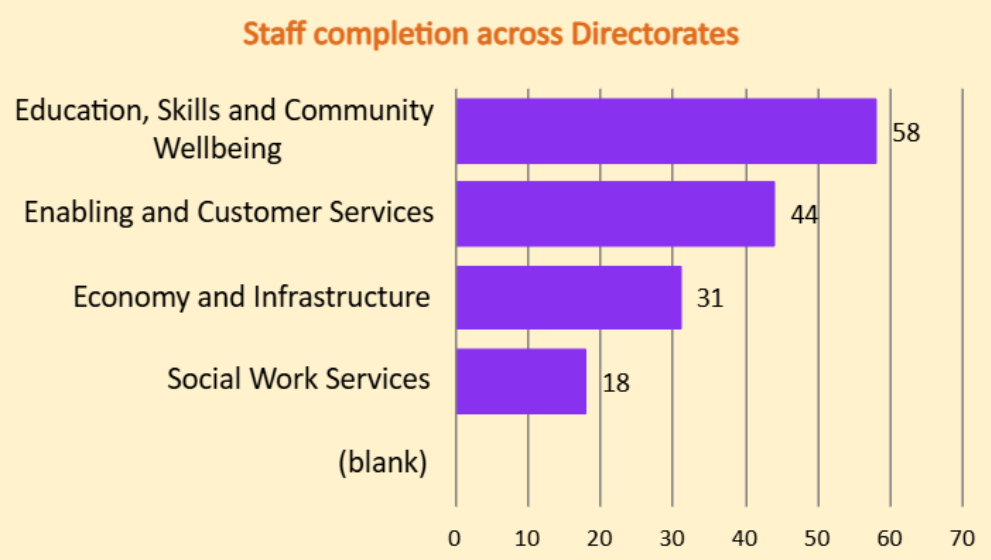
Social Work Services (18)

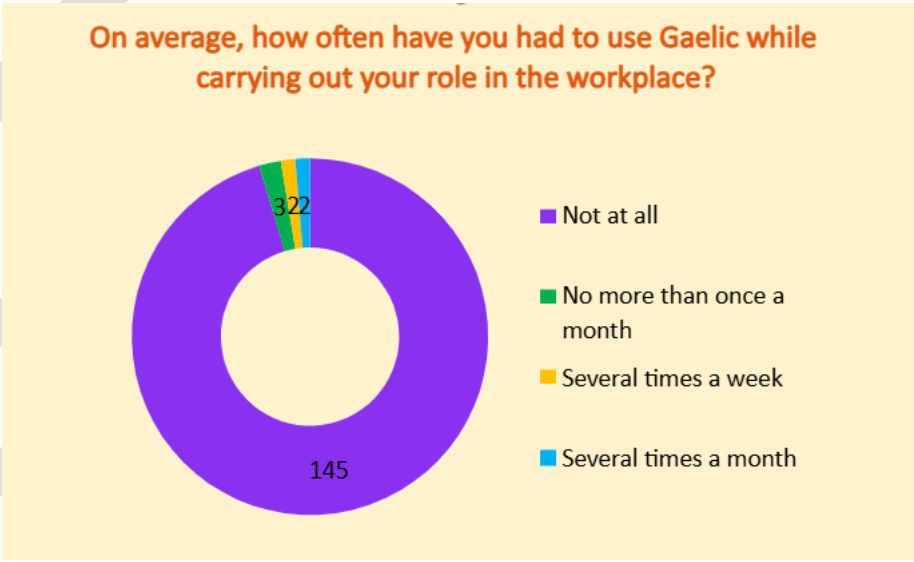
Key Findings on Summary of Gaelic Skills:

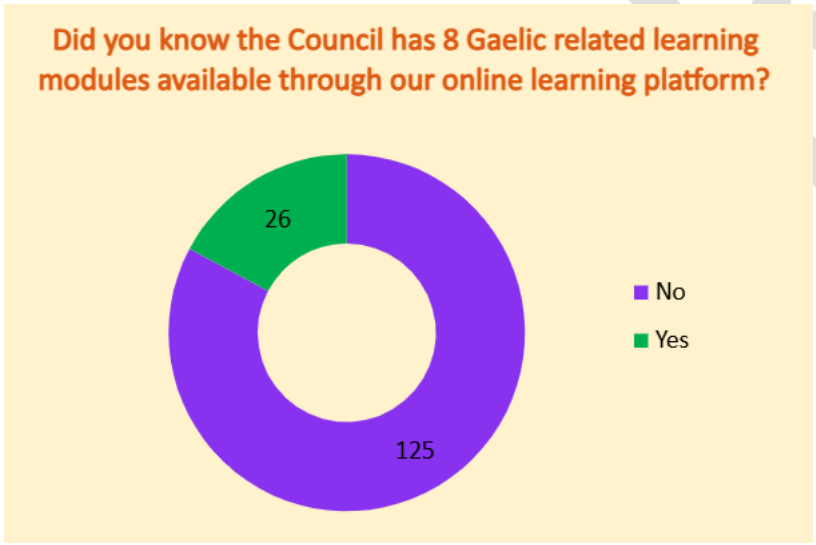
58 (50%) were interested in developing their Gaelic Language Skills through further training.	30 (20%) were aware of the new Gaelic Language Plan Awareness Module being launched for staff in February 2026.
2 (1%) have had to use Gaelic skills as part of their role within the workplace several times per week.	34.8% were interested in attending a Gaelic Awareness session on understanding the relevance of Dumfries & Galloway Council's Gaelic Language Plan.
26 (17%) were aware of the 8 internal Gaelic Language skills modules available online.	51% felt that Gaelic was important to the work of D&G Council.
7 (5%) of staff have completed the Gaelic Language Plan Awareness Module since its launch.	26.2% felt that it was not important with 22.8% 33.9% of responses being neutral.
53 (29%) were interested in Gaelic classes.	7 (8%) of staff were interested in becoming a Gaelic Volunteer.
31 (17%) would be interested in taking part in Gaelic conversation classes.	32.1% were interested in learning more about the Gaelic Language Act.
25 (16%) have undertaken any Gaelic language training/attended a class out with the Council's online learning opportunities.	60 (39%) were aware that the Scottish Language Act came into force in November 2025 giving official status to Gaelic and Scots language.
16 (9%) were interested in Gaelic social activities.	

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Appendix 1 – Internal Gaelic Skills Audit

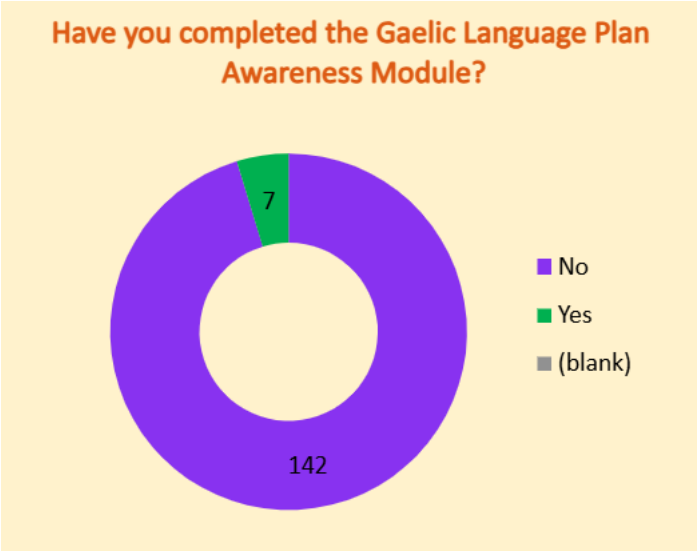






Modules Completed by Staff:

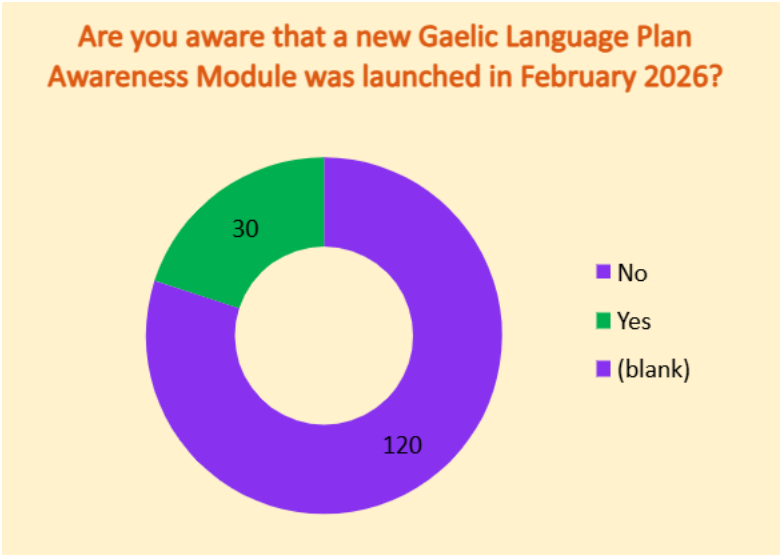
- Self 13
- Friends, home, routine 6
- Hobbies 5
- Food & Drink 4
- Festivals 5
- Family 4
- School 6
- Animals 4

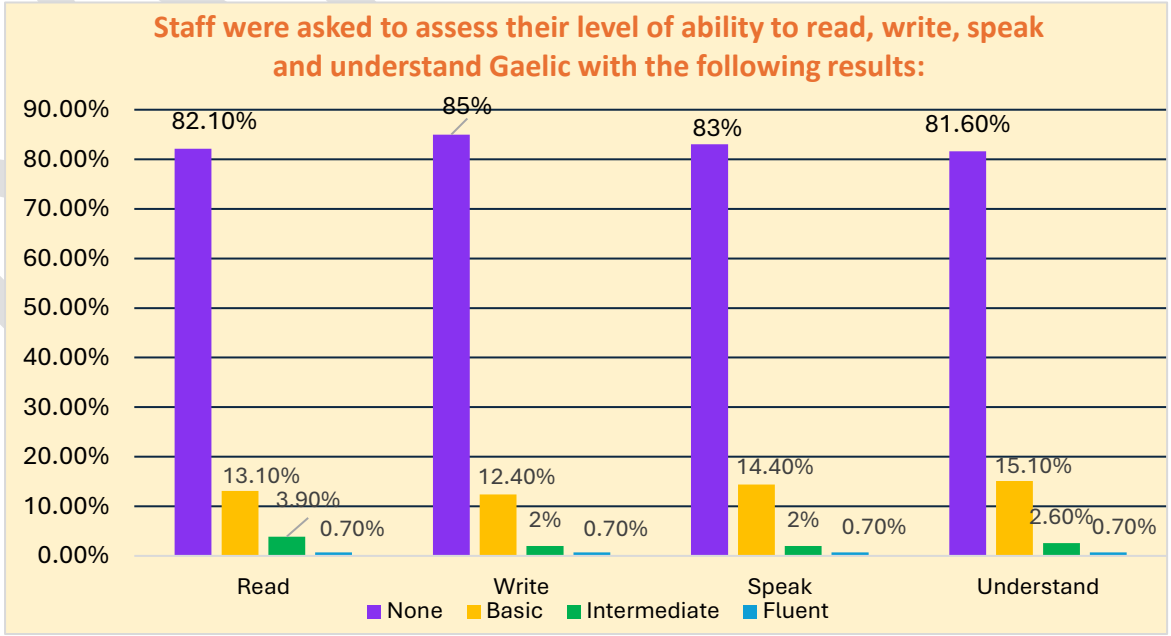


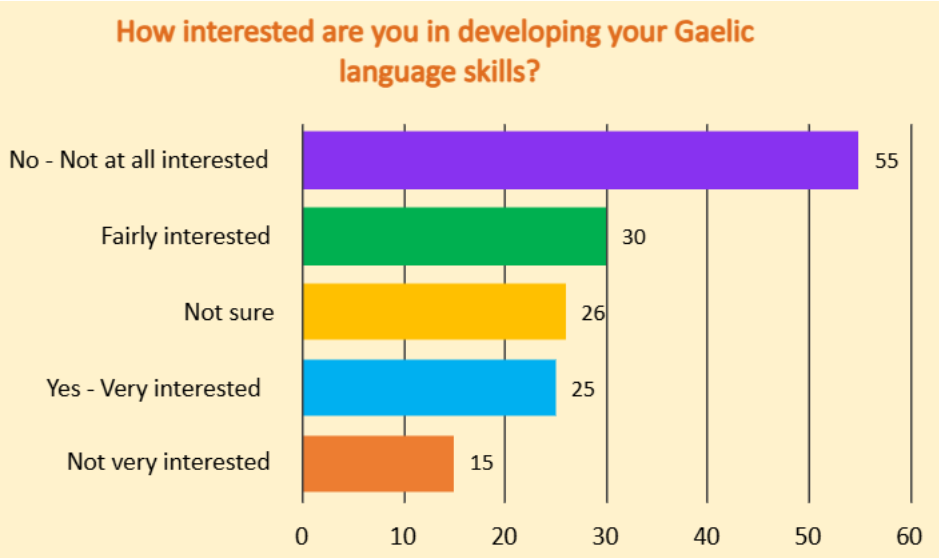
Staff Comments:

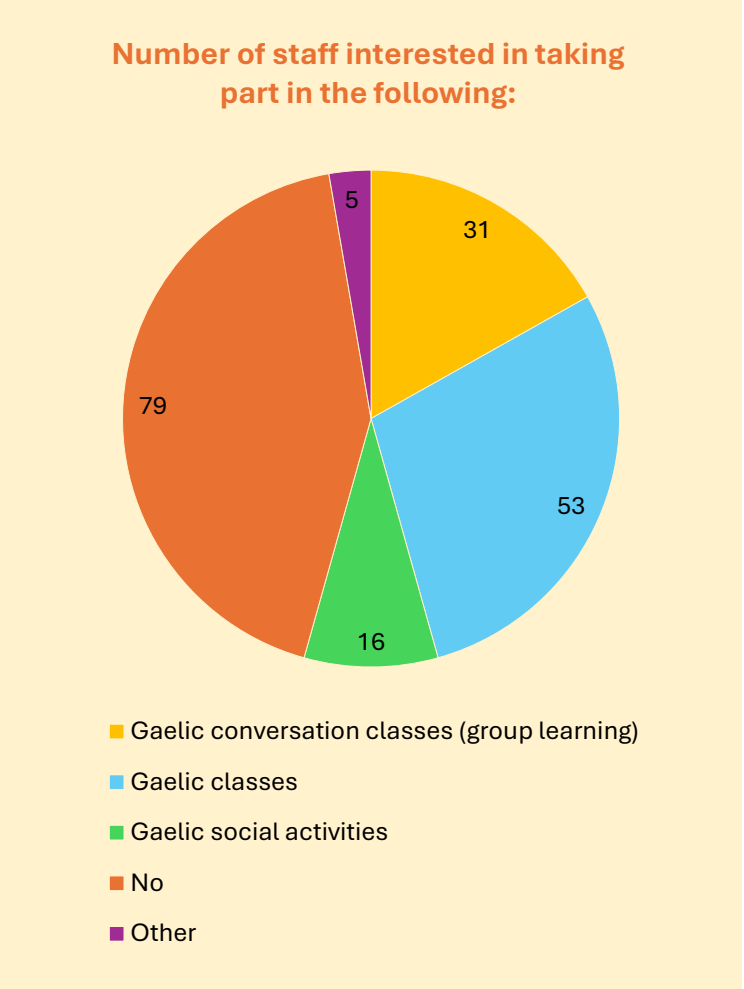
"I have experience living in Wales, learning Welsh, teaching in a bilingual school and training as an educational psychologist in wales with English/Cymraeg/bilingual schools so I've a good awareness and working knowledge of how a language can be supported and grown and be viewed positively in education and culturally. I went to the recent Gaelic week Ceilidh with 2 of my children and they were interested and keen to consider Gaelic but it would need to be accessible."

"We have had Gaelic music sessions through Fèis Rois and Ram Tam which children have enjoyed."









Feedback on sessions/training requested to support understanding of the role of the organisation and implementation our Gaelic Language Plan:

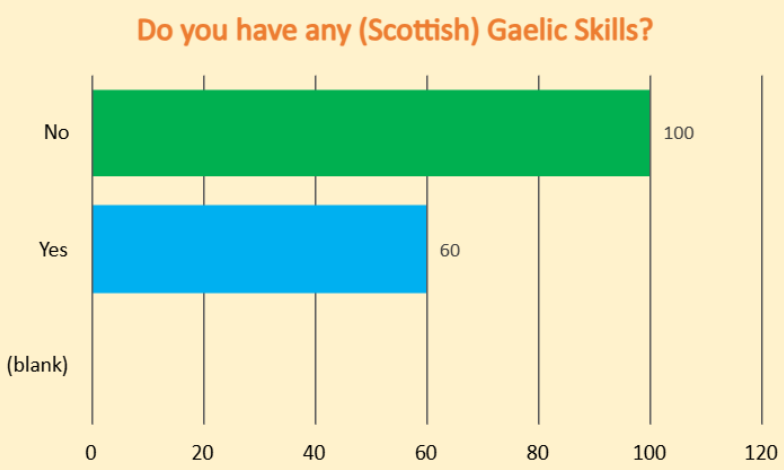
"Introduce simple greetings and phone introductions in Gaelic as do in they do in Welsh in Wales - they say good morning in Welsh on all council Council calls etc"

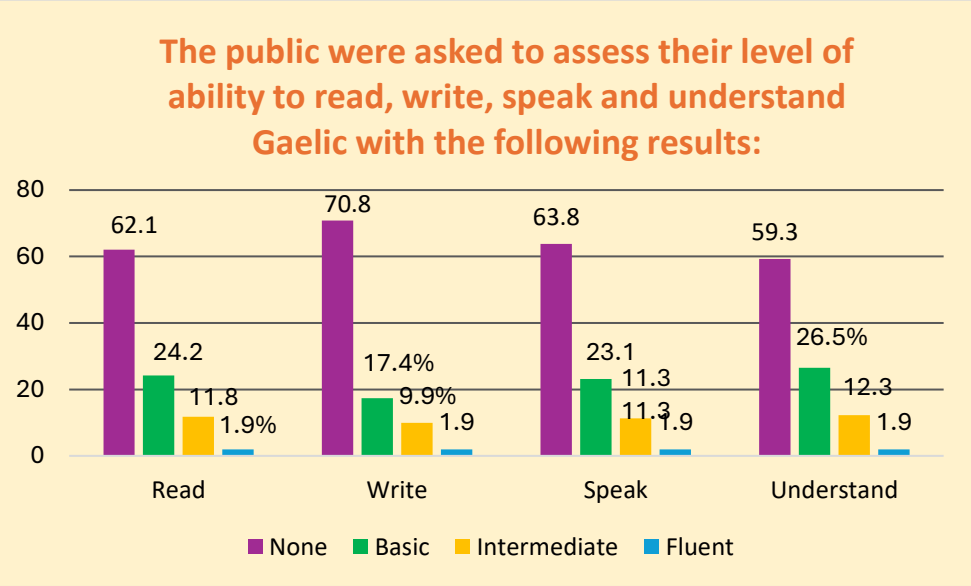
- *"Basic Gaelic for communication with customers"*
- *"An online, in your own time option"*
- *"Informative webinars would be helpful"*
- *"A more structured, possibly like duolingo type sessions, short but informative"*
- *"Lectures, presentations and lessons"*

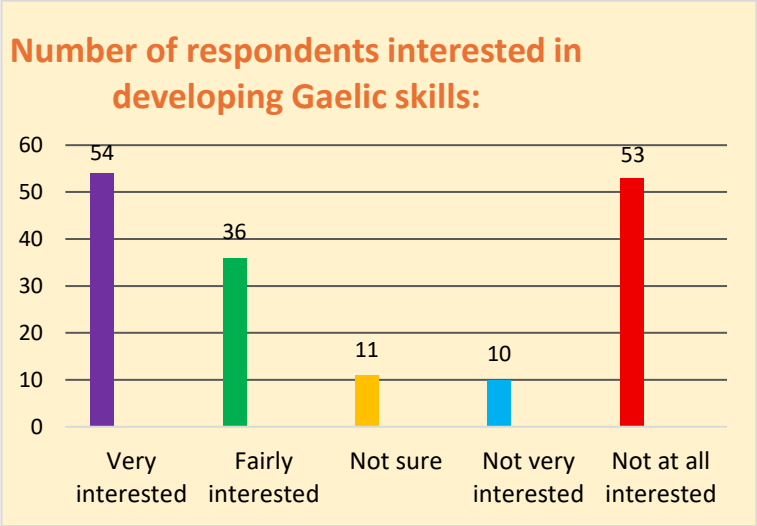
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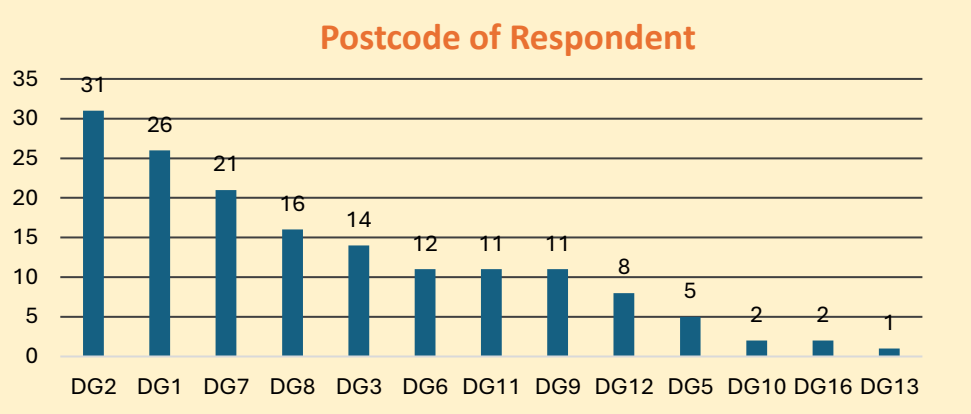
Appendix 2 – Community Gaelic Skills Audit

A Community Gaelic language skills audit was undertaken between 4th June and the 10th July 2026. This generated 165 responses.



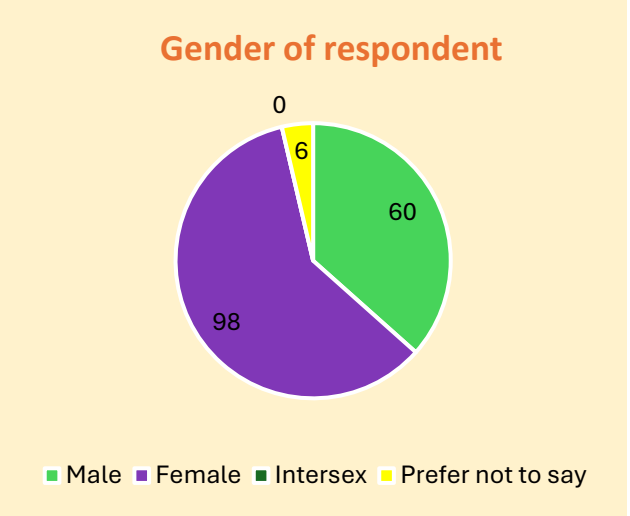


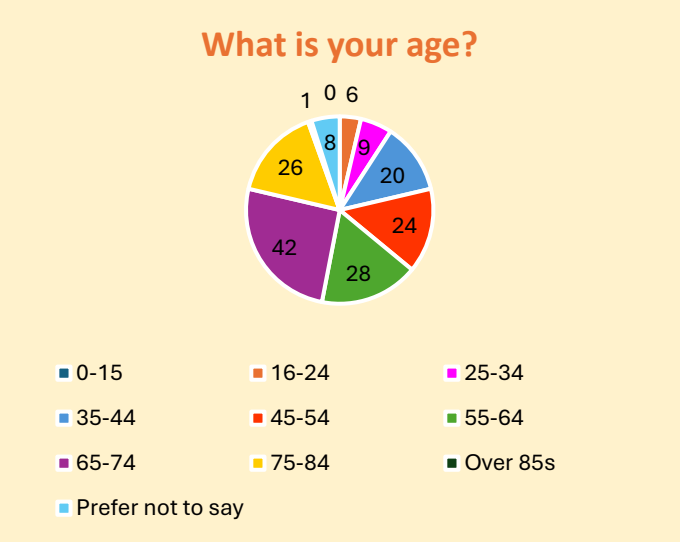




General feedback from public consultation on Gaelic skills:

• *"Delighted with the quality of the classes run by Gaelic DumGal. I also participate with Gaelic singing which is so enjoyable and helps with language skills."*
• *"I just want to add support that if there was going to be a Gme school in the area that I would absolutely send my future children to it over the current options."*
• *"It would be good if basic Gaelic was introduced in primary schools."*
• *"Would love for Gaelic place name signs"*
• *"The language is part of the heritage of this region and present in our place names . There is also a connection between Gaelic song and the tunes chosen by Robert Burns for some of his settings."*
• *"I appreciate that the language may not be of majority use within the region in modern times but feel representation is important, marking our history with the language and offering support to those learning / keen to learn is visible."*
• *"Gaelic should be encouraged as a second language in primary school, staff should be trained to deliver beginning skills in Gaelic and encourage an interest in Gaelic culture through books and songs starting from Bookbug in local libraries."*





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• *"Gaelic should be encouraged as a second language in primary school, staff should be trained to deliver beginning skills in Gaelic and encourage an interest in Gaelic culture through books and songs starting from Bookbug in local libraries."*
• *"Although not a speaker, I belong to two choirs and very occasionally sing parts of songs in Gaelic with guidance or phonetic help. I find it most enjoyable."*

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