



# CULTURE, HERITAGE & ARTS ASSEMBLY.

ARGYLL & ISLES

## GAELIC POLICY

### Background

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 (“the 2005 Act”) was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 21 April 2005 and commenced on 13 February 2006 with the aim of securing the status of Gaelic in Scotland. The 2005 Act has three main and inter-related elements:-

It establishes a statutory Gaelic body, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (“the Bòrd”) to encourage the use and understanding of Gaelic and to facilitate access to Gaelic and Gaelic culture, **with the ultimate aim of working towards increasing the number of Gaelic speakers and extending the everyday use of the language.**

It requires the development by the Bòrd of a National Plan for Gaelic (“the National Plan”) to promote the use and understanding of Gaelic, Gaelic education and Gaelic culture.

It gives the Bòrd authority to issue a statutory notice to any relevant public authority (namely, a Scottish public authority, cross-border authority or the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body), requiring that authority to develop a Gaelic language plan.

CHARTS is not such a public body, but has chosen to develop a formal Gaelic Language Policy, and has received strong support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig in making this decision, and in the development and subsequent implementation of the policy.

### **The National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2023**

The 2018-2023 National Language Plan developed by Bòrd na Gàidhlig raises the following aims that An Lanntair will attempt to satisfy through the delivery of this policy:

- Increasing the use of Gaelic
- Increasing the learning of Gaelic
- Promoting a positive image of Gaelic

As a SCIO, CHARTS has the following strategic objectives:

- developing cultural and heritage practitioners and organisations by working co-operatively and in partnership with others;
- developing and utilising effective communication across geographic and sectoral boundaries;
- co-operatively growing our audiences and customers by marketing ourselves and others locally, nationally and internationally;
- developing and delivering partnership projects that will excite, educate and entertain our communities and our visitors; and
- accessing and sharing resources and training in order to bring culture and heritage to a wider audience.

Central to these objectives is the promotion a positive image of Gaelic, which is to be delivered in three key ways:

- Promoting a positive image of Gaelic and raising awareness through: Gaelic media and other media, and Gaelic arts
- Promoting the social, economic and cultural value of Gaelic
- Giving positive messages about Gaelic, bilingualism, and about diversity and inclusion

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

1. CHARTS will actively and demonstrably support the Gaelic language and culture throughout all its activities, acknowledging that it is a key part of their corporate identity.
2. CHARTS will act as an ambassador on a national and international level in the promotion of the Gaelic arts and will promote their value as a cultural asset.
3. CHARTS will encourage Gaelic speaking membership on its staff, Board, committees or groups.

4. CHARTS will seek to work closely with the local authority, Bòrd Na Gàidhlig, Creative Scotland and other stakeholders in promoting a positive image of Gaelic.
5. An Lanntair will engage a Gaelic Cultural Co-ordinator for an initial period on 12 months to:
  - Represent the CHARTS network on the Argyll and Bute Gaelic Gathering working group.
  - Support the CHARTS Heritage working group in delivering *Heritage Horizons* – increasing opportunities for young people to become involved in community heritage across six hubs in Argyll and Bute.
  - Organise webinars around themed topics aimed at Gaelic communities, supported by CHARTS staff and the Gaelic Development Worker of Argyll and Bute Council, as appropriate.
  - Support Gaelic members of CHARTS including artists across all art forms, heritage and cultural organisations and local businesses.
  - Oversee the implementation of this Gaelic Policy and improve CHARTS access to Gaelic speakers via social media.
  - Administration of virtual diary for simultaneous translation for subscribing organisations.
  - Promote CHARTS to Gaelic cultural, artistic and heritage communities
  - Support Gaelic/English interactions across Argyll and Bute and representing CHARTS projects nationally as required
  - Work collaboratively with other CHARTS staff on projects that cut across team responsibilities