

Beartas Gaeilge Irish Language Policy

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster District Council



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Clár Ábhair

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Intreoir

Reachtaíocht agus Treoir Ábhartha

An Chairt Eorpach um Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaigh

Sna críocha ina úsáidtear teangacha dá leithéid agus ag brath ar chúinsí gach teanga, éilíonn an Chairt Eorpach um Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaigh (Cuid 2 – a bhaineann leis an Ghaeilge agus an Ultais), ar Pháirtithe a bpolasaithe a bhunú ar:

- An gá le gníomh diongbháilte a dhéanamh chun teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh a chur chun cinn le hiad a chosaint; agus
- Úsáid teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh sa scríobh nó sa chaint sa saol príobháideach agus poiblí a éascú agus/nó a spreagadh.

Mionsonraíonn Cuid 3 Alt 10 go háirithe dualgais na Comhairle mar seo:

Laistigh de cheantar Riaracháin an Stáit ina gcosnaíonn líon na gcónaitheoirí ar úsáideoirí teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh iad na beartais a shainítear thíos agus ag brath ar chúinsí gach teanga, gabhann na Páirtithe orthu, de réir mar atá deo indéanta go réasúnta:

- Féachaint chuige gur féidir le húsáideoirí teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh iarratais scríofa nó béil a chur isteach sna teangacha seo;
- Ligean do na húdaráis riaracháin cáipéisí a dhréachtú i dteanga réigiúnach nó mionlaigh;
- Maidir leis na húdaráis áitiúla nó réigiúnacha a bhfuil líon na n-úsáideoirí teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ard go leor leis na beartais thíos a chosaint, gabhann na Páirtithe orthu an méid thíos a cheadú nó a spreagadh:
- An fhéidearthacht gur féidir le húsáideoirí teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh iarratais scríofa nó béil a chur isteach sna teangacha seo;
- Úsáid teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ag údaráis áitiúla sna tionóil s'acu, gan teanga oifigiúil an stáit a eisiáimh áfach.
- Úsáid nó glacadh, i gcomhair leis an leagan den ainm sa teanga oifigiúil, leis na foirmeacha cearta de logainmneacha sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh.

I dtaca leis na seirbhísí poiblí a sholáthraíonn an t-údarás riaracháin nó aon duine eile a ghníomhaíonn ar a son, gabhann na Páirtithe orthu, laistigh de na críocha ina úsáidtear na teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh, de réir cúinsí gach teanga agus chomh fada agus atá seo indéanta go réasúnta:

Introduction

Relevant Legislation and Guidance

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Part 2 – applies to Irish Language and Ulster Scots), within the territories in which such languages are used and according to the situation of each language, requires Parties to base their policies on:

- The need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them; and
- Facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages in speech and writing in private and public life.

In particular, Part 3 Article 10 details the Council's obligations as follows:

Within the Administrative district of the State in which the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below and according to the situation of each language, the Parties undertake, as far as this is reasonably possible to:

- Ensure that users of regional or minority languages may submit oral or written applications in these languages;
- Allow the administrative authorities to draft documents in a regional or minority language;
- In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of users of regional or minority languages is such as to justify the measures specified below, the Parties undertake to allow and/or encourage:
- The possibility for users of regional or minority languages to submit oral or written applications in these languages;
- The use by local authorities of regional or minority languages in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however the use of the official language of the state;
- The use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s) of traditional and correct forms of place-names in regional or minority languages.

With regard to public services provided by the administrative authority or other persons acting on their behalf, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which regional or minority languages are used, in accordance with the situation of each language and as far as this is reasonably possible, to:



Aithníonn Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh gur sochaí ilchultúrtha agus ilteangach

- Ligean d'úsáideoirí na teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh iarratas a chur isteach sna teangacha seo.

Agus aird ar na forálacha thuas ar ghlac siad leo a chur i bhfeidhm, gabhann na Páirtithe orthu ceann amháin nó níos mó de na beartais thíos a dhéanamh:

- Aistriúchán nó ateangaireacht de réir mar is gá.
- Gabhann na Páirtithe orthu úsáid nó glacadh le sloinnte sna teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh ar iarratas ó na daoine sin a mbaineann sé leo.

Maidir le imeachtaí cultúrtha agus áiseanna, mionsonraíonn Alt 12 den Chairt Eorpach dualgais na Comhairle féachaint chuige agus iad ag eagrú nó ag tacú le himeachtaí cultúrtha, go ndéanann siad soláthar cuí chun eolas agus úsáid teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh agus cultúr a chur san áireamh sna tograí a dtosaíonn siad nó a dtacaíonn siad leo.

In Airteagal 12 tá sonraí ann faoi na hoibleagáidí seo a leanas:-

Maidir le gníomhaíochtaí agus acmhainní cultúrtha, go háirithe leabharlanna, leabharlanna físe, ionaid chultúrtha, iarsmalanna, cartlanna, acadaimh, amharclanna agus pictiúrlanna chomh maith le saothar liteartha agus léiriúcháin scannáin, foirmeacha dúchasacha den chultúr, féilte agus na tionscadail chultúrtha, lena n-áirítear inter alia úsáid teicneolaíochtaí nua - geallann na Páirtithe, sna réimsí ina mbaintear úsáid as teangacha den chineál seo agus ag brath ar chumas na n-údarás, ar chumhacht nó ar ról na n-údarás poiblí sa ghort seo, geallann siad:

- Go dtacóidh siad le gach dóigh ina gcuirtear teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionteangacha chun tosaigh agus le gach tionscnamh a bhaineann leo agus go gcothóidh siad dóigheanna éagsúla rochtana ar shaothair a chuirtear ar fáil sna teangacha seo;

- Allow users of regional or minority languages to submit a request in these languages.

With a view to putting into effect the above provisions accepted by them, the Parties undertake to take one or more of the following measures:

- Translation or interpretation as may be required.
- The Parties undertake to allow the use or adoption of family names in the regional or minority languages, at the request of those concerned.

With regard to cultural activities and facilities, Article 12 of the European Charter also details the Council's obligations to ensure that when organising or supporting cultural activities, they make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of regional or minority languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing.

Article 12 details the following obligations:-

With regard to cultural activities and facilities, especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas as well as literary work and film productions, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the cultural industries, including inter alia the use of new technologies – the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used and to the extent that the public authorities are competent, have power or play a role in this field:

- To encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages;

- go gcinnteoidh siad go nglacann na forais atá freagrach as gníomhaíochta cultúrtha de chineálacha áirithe san áireamh mar is ceart eolas ar agus úsáid teangacha réigiúnacha agus mionteangacha agus cultúr sna gealltanais a dtugann siad fúthu nó a dtacaíonn siad leo;
- go gcuirfear bearta chun tosaigh lena chinntiú go mbíonn an fhoireann chuí ag na forais atá freagrach as gníomhaíochtaí cultúrtha a eagrú nó a thacú agus go mbíonn máistreacht iomlán acu ar an teanga réigiúnach nó ar an mhionteanga atá i gceist chomh maith le máistreacht ar theanga(cha) an chuid eile den phobal;
- go spreagfar rannpháirtíocht dhíreach ag ionadaithe na n-úsáideoirí teanga réigiúnaí nó mionteanga trí acmhainní a sholáthar agus trí ghníomhaíochtaí cultúrtha a phleanáil.

Moltar, in Airteagal 14 Transfrontier Exchanges, go gcothóidh an Chomhairle teagmháil idir úsáideoirí Gaeilge ar bhonn trasteorann “le leas teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionteangacha, le comhoibriú trasteorann a éascú agus/nó a chur chun cinn, go háirithe idir údaráis réigiúnacha nó áitiúla ina mbaintear úsáid as an teanga chéanna ar an bhealach chéanna nó ar bhealach cosúil leis”

Tá an Chairt Eorpach bunaithe ar choincheap neamh-idirdhealaithe, is é sin, nach ndéantar idirdhealú ar lucht na mórtheanga trí ghníomhaíochtaí a chur i bhfeidhm atá ann leis na mionteangacha dúchasacha a chosaint agus a chur chun tosaigh.

“Tugann na Páirtithe faoi, mura bhfuil sé déanta acu cheana féin, deireadh a chur le aon idirdhealú, eisiamh, bhac nó tosaíocht a dhéanamh maidir le húsáid teanga réigiúnaí nó mionteanga nó iarracht ar bith chun cothabháil ná forbairt na teanga a chur i mbaol nó a dhíspreagadh. Más amhlaidh go gcuirtear bearta faoi leith i bhfeidhm atá i bhfách le teangacha réigiúnacha nó mionlaigh agus atá dírithe ar chomhionannas a chur chun tosaigh idir úsáideoirí na dteangacha seo agus an chuid eile den phobal nó a thugann san áireamh na dálaí faoi leith a bhaineann leo ní hionann sin agus a rá gur gníomh idirdhealaithe é sin in aghaidh úsáideoirí atá in úsáid níos minice”.

- to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities of various kinds make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of regional or minority languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing;
- to promote measures to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the regional or minority language concerned as well as of the language(s) of the rest of the population;
- to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities.

Article 14, Transfrontier Exchanges encourages the Council to foster contacts between users of Irish on a cross border basis “for the benefit of regional or minority languages, to facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between regional or local authorities in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form”.

The European Charter is based on a concept of non-discrimination, that is, the majority language group is not discriminated against by the implementation of actions designed to promote and protect the minority indigenous languages.

“The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages”.





Tá an Ghaeilge mar chuid lárnach d'oidhreacht teangeolaíochta, chultúrtha agus stairiúil an cheantair seo.

Comhaontú Bhéal Feirste (1998)

De réir Chomhaontú Bhéal Feirste (1998) sa mhír: 'Cearta, Coimircí agus Comhionannas Deiseanna: Saincheisteanna Eacnamaíochta, Sóisialta agus Cultúir (Pointe 4)' tugtar aitheantas don Ghaeilge, go háirithe más cuí agus más mian le daoine amhlaidh:

- Gníomh diongbháilte chun an teanga a chur chun cinn;
- Úsáid na teanga a éascú agus a spreagadh sa chaint agus i scríbhneoireacht sa saol príobháideach agus sa saol poiblí mar a mbeidh éileamh cuí ann;
- Iarracht chun deireadh a chur, más féidir é, le srianta a chuirfeadh nó a d'oiubreodh in aghaidh chothú nó fhorbairt na teanga;
- Foráil maidir le hidirchaidreamh le pobal na Gaeilge, agus a gcuid tuairimí a léiriú d'údarás phoiblí agus gearáin a imscrúdú;
- Dualgas reachtúil a chur ar an Roinn Oideachais chun oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge aspreagadh agus a éascú de réir na socruithe láithreacha don oideachas comhtháite;
- An scóip atá ann chun Teilfís na Gaeilge a chur ar fáil ar bhonn níos forleithne i dTuaisceart Éireann a scrúdú, mar ábhar práinne, in éineacht le húdarás iomchuí na Breataine agus i gcomhar le húdarás chraolacháin na hÉireann;
- Bealaí níos éifeachtaí a lorg chun spreagadh agus tacú airgeadais a thabhairt do léiriú scannán agus clár teilifíse trí Ghaeilge i dTuaisceart Éireann; agus,
- Na páirtithe a spreagadh chun teacht ar chomhaontú go leanfaidh Tionól nua den tiomantas sin ar shlí a chuirfidh san áireamh mianta agus fógaireachtaí an phobail.

The Belfast Agreement (1998)

The Belfast Agreement (1998) under section 'Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity: Economic, Social and Cultural Issues (Point 4)' gives recognition to the Irish language, in particular where appropriate and where people so desire it to:

- Take resolute action to promote the language;
- Facilitate and encourage the use of Irish in speech and writing, in private and public life where there is appropriate demand;
- Seek to remove, where possible, restrictions which would discourage or work against the maintenance or development of the language;
- Make provision for liaising with the Irish language community, representing their views to public authorities and investigating complaints;
- Place a statutory duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate Irish medium education in line with current provision for integrated education;
- Explore urgently with the relevant British authorities, and in cooperation with the Irish Broadcasting authorities, the scope for achieving more wide spread availability of Teilifís na Gaeilge in Northern Ireland;
- Seek more efficient ways to encourage and provide financial support for Irish language film and television production in Northern Ireland; and,
- Encourage the parties to secure agreement that this commitment will be sustained by the new Assembly in a way which takes account of the desires and sensitivities of the community.

Acht Thuaisceart Éireann (Comhaontú Chill Rímhinn) 2006

De réir an Achta seo tá dualgas ar Fheidhmeannas Thuaisceart Éireann tabhairt faoin straitéis leis an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn agus a chosaint.

An Chairt Eorpach um Chearta Daonna Chomhairligh Coimisiún um Chearta an Duine Thuaisceart Éireann, maidir le cearta daonna de, go bhfuil sé doiligh fáthanna dlíthiúla nó inghlactha ar bith a thuiscint a mbainfeadh fostóir, nó ar bhonn níos ginearálta, foras poiblí, úsáid astu chun gan tacú le cur chun cinn mionteanga.

Ar cheisteanna níos leithe, tharraing an Coimisiún aird nach bhfuil aon “cheart...” má bhaineann páirtí eile leas as ceart. Prionsabal ginearálta is ea seo ar shaoirse tuairimíochta (Airteagal 10 ECHR) ar féidir a léamh i gcomhar le hAirteagal 14 ECHR ar neamh-idirdealú ar fhoras a bhaineann le teanga.

Chomhairligh an Coimisiún gur ceart dosháraithe é teanga réigiúnach nó mionteanga a úsáid sa saol príobháideach agus sa saol poiblí agus go gcloíonn sé leis na prionsabail atá i gCúntant Idirnáisiúnta na Náisiún Aontaithe ar Chearta Sibhialta agus Polaitiúla (ICCPR), agus go bhfuil sé de réir Choinbhinsiún Chomhairle na hEorpa um Chearta Daonna agus Shaoirsí Bunúsacha a chosaint.

Thug an Coimisiún le fios sa deireadh nach ionann mionteanga a aithint agus cearta na ndaoine sin nach n-úsáideann an teanga sin a shárú.

Cáipéis Chomhairliúcháin RCEF 2012 - Straitéis Dréachta le Forbairt na Gaeilge a Chosaint agus a Fheabhsú

I mí Iúil 2012 d’fhoilsigh RCEF cáipéis chomhairliúcháin ina bhfuil moltaí le haghaidh straitéise le forbairt na Gaeilge a chosaint agus a fheabhsú, agus mhair an tréimhse chomhairliúcháin tréimhse 20 seachtain, ón Chéadaoin 11 Iúil go dtí an Mháirt 27 Samhain 2012. Níl torthaí an chomhairliúcháin seo ar fáil go fóill.

Leagtar amach sa cháipéis chomhairliúcháin roinnt príomhaidhmeanna na straitéise dréachta ar an Ghaeilge:

- Creat a chruthú inar féidir leis an Ghaeilge bláthú agus a bheith in úsáid ag gach duine ar mian leo sin;
- Forbairt agus foghlaim na Gaeilge a chosaint agus tacaíocht a thabhairt dó seo; agus
- Tuiscint níos leithne ar an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn.

Northern Ireland (St Andrew’s Agreement) Act 2006

This Act places a duty on the Northern Ireland Executive to adopt a strategy for the enhancement and protection of the Irish language.

European Charter on Human Rights
The NI Human Rights Commission has advised that, from a human rights perspective, it is difficult to see any legitimate grounds for objecting to a minority language being promoted by an employer or, more generally, a public body.

On broader issues, the Commission has drawn attention to the fact that there is no “right to be offended” by another party exercising a right. This is a general principle of freedom of expression (ECHR Article 10) which can be read in conjunction with ECHR Article 14 on non-discrimination on grounds that include language.

The Commission has advised that the right to use a regional or minority language in private and public life is an inalienable right conforming to the principles embodied in the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and according to the spirit of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The Commission has concluded that official acknowledgement of a minority language cannot constitute a violation of the rights of those who do not use that language.

DCAL Consultative Document 2012 - Draft Strategy for Protecting and Enhancing the Development of the Irish Language

In July 2012 DCAL published a consultative document containing proposals for a strategy for protecting and enhancing the development of the Irish language, with a consultation period lasting for 20 weeks, from Wednesday 11 July until Tuesday 27 November 2012. The results of the consultation are not yet available.

The consultative document sets out a number of key aims of the draft Irish language strategy:

- To create a framework where Irish can flourish and be shared by all who wish to use it;
- To protect and support the development and learning of Irish; and
- To promote wider understanding of the background to the Irish language.

Tá na cuspóirí seo a leanas sa straitéis dréachta:

- Líon na ndaoine a bhfuil rochtain acu ar an Ghaeloideachas a mhéadú;
- Líon na ndaoine a bhaineann úsáid as seirbhísí poiblí trí Ghaeilge a mhéadú;
- Rochtain ar na meáin chumarsáide Ghaeilge a mhéadú.

I measc na réimsí gnímh, tá:

1. Oideachas
2. Seachadadh na Teanga sa Teaghlach - Idirghabh háil luath
3. Riarachán, Seirbhísí agus Cúrsaí Pobail
4. Na Meáin Chumarsáide agus Teicneolaíocht
5. Reachtaíocht agus Stádas na Teanga
6. An Saol Eacnamaíochta

Faoin cheannteideal riaracháin, luaitear sa straitéis dréachta go saineúil gur chóir go ndéanfaidh údarás áitiúla an méid seo a leanas:

- Polasaithe agus pleananna Gaeilge a ullmhú agus oifigigh Ghaeilge a cheapadh nuair is gá;
- Soláthar seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a mhéadú;
- Áiseanna a chur ar fáil le húsáid na Gaeilge a éascú i gcruinnithe comhairle/coistí nó cur leis na háiseanna seo;
- Sa chás go ndéantar comhcheangal, faoin Athbhreithniú ar Riarachán Poiblí, idir údarás áitiúil a chuireann seirbhísí ar fáil trí Ghaeilge agus a bhfuil beartas Gaeilge aige agus údarás eile nach fíor an méid sin ina leith, ní mór don údarás áitiúil a chinntiú nach dtiocfaidh maolú ar bith ar na seirbhísí Gaeilge.
- Leagan Gaeilge nó dátheangach de gach foil seachán, doiciméad oifigiúil agus foirm a chur ar fáil de réir chur chuige na Straitéise seo agus na Cairte Eorpaí um Theangacha Réigiúna cha nó Mionlaigh.
- Caomhnú ceart logainmneacha Gaeilge agus comharthaíocht a éascú agus ainmniú forbraíochtaí nua tithíochta ar bhealach a léiríonn an oidhreacht áitiúil ná náisiúnta a éascú fosta; agus
- Turasóireacht agus tionscnaimh chultúrtha trí Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn.

Meastar sa straitéis dréachta go gcuirfidh Foras na Gaeilge tacaíocht ar fáil d'údarás áitiúla chun tionscnaimh phleanála teanga a fhorbairt. Meastar fosta go n-ullmhófar Bille Gaeilge agus go gcuirfear faoi bhráid an Tionóil é chomh luath agus is féidir.

The draft strategy has the following objectives:

- To increase the number of those who can access Irish medium education;
- To increase the number of those that use public services through the Irish language; and,
- To increase access to Irish language media.

Key areas for action include:

1. Education
2. Family Transmission of the Language – Early Intervention
3. Administration, Services and Community
4. Media and Technology
5. Legislation and the Status of the Language
6. Economic Life

Under the administration heading, the draft strategy specifically states that local authorities should:

- Adopt Irish language policies and plans and appoint Irish language officers where needed;
- Maximise the provision of services through Irish;
- Expand/initiate facilities for the use of Irish in their council / committee meetings;
- Guard against any diminution of services provided through the Irish language as a result of those authorities with Irish language policies and services being merged under the Review of Public Administration (RPA) with those authorities that do not;
- Provide an Irish or bilingual version of all publications, official documents and forms in line with the approach of this Strategy and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;
- Facilitate the proper preservation and signposting of Irish place-names and the naming of new housing developments to reflect local or national heritage; and
- Encourage tourism and cultural initiatives through Irish.

The draft strategy envisages Foras na Gaeilge providing support to local authorities to develop language planning initiatives. It also envisages that an Irish Language Bill will be prepared and presented to the Assembly at the earliest possible time.



Aidhm agus Cuspóirí Beartais

Aithníonn Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh gur sochaí ilchultúrtha agus ilteangach í seo agus go bhfuil an Ghaeilge mar chuid lárnach d'oidhreacht teangeolaíochta, chultúrtha agus stairiúil an cheantair seo.

Is í an Ghaeilge príomhtheanga oifigiúil Phoblacht na hÉireann agus thug Rialtas na RA stádas mionteanga di i dTuaisceart Éireann í i Márta 2000. Rinneadh teanga oifigiúil oibre de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh den Ghaeilge ar an 1 Eanáir 2007.

Léiríonn Daonáireamh 2011 go bhfuil eolas áirithe ar an Ghaeilge ag 22,984 (17.4%) as 132,025 de phobal an cheantair. Bhí 8,063 (6.1%) de mhuintir an cheantair in ann Gaeilge a labhairt, a léamh, a scríobh agus a thuiscint. Chuige sin aithníonn an Chomhairle gur féidir le cur chun cinn gníomhach na Gaeilge, chomh maith le freastal a dhéanamh ar riachtanais phobail Ghaeilge atá ag fás, gur féidir leis cur le cultúr saibhir teanga an cheantair agus go gcuirfidh sé le tarraingt an cheantair mar sprioc turasóireachta. Déanfaidh an beartas seo úsáid na teanga a éascú agus a spreagadh sa chaint agus i scríbhneoireacht sa saol príobháideach agus sa saol poiblí.

Aidhm an Bheartais

Agus í ag feidhmiú de réir mheon na Cairte Eorpaí um Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaigh, agus aird chuí á tabhairt aici ar an stádas a thugtar don Ghaeilge sa Chairt sin, tá sé mar aidhm ag Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh gníomhú go diongbháilte agus go dearfach chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn, a fheabhsú agus a chosaint i sa Chomhairle agus sa Cheantar.

Cuspóirí an Bheartais

- Labhairt agus scríobh na Gaeilge a spreagadh sa Cheantar agus sa Chomhairle.
- Réimse tionscnamh a chur chun cinn a laghdóidh éadulaingt agus a chuirfidh chun cinn tuiscint ar an Ghaeilge sa Cheantar agus sa Chomhairle.
- Ainmneacha na mbailte fearainn a chaomhnú tríd an chomharthaíocht chuí a úsáid.
- An Ghaeilge a aithint agus a cheiliúradh i gcomhthéacs leathan den éagsúlacht teangeolaíochta agus chultúrtha sa Cheantar agus sa Chomhairle.
- Naisc a choinneáil agus a fhorbairt idir ghrúpaí a úsáideann an Ghaeilge le grúpaí eile a úsáideann an Ghaeilge agus/nó Ultais.

Policy Aim and Objectives

Mid Ulster District Council recognises that we live in a multi-cultural and multi lingual society and that the Irish language is an integral part of the linguistic, cultural and historical heritage of this area.

Irish is the first official language of the Republic of Ireland and was accorded minority language status in Northern Ireland by the UK Government in March 2000. Irish was made an official working language of the European Union on 1st January 2007.

The 2011 Census indicates that 22,984 people (17.4%) out of a district population of 132,025 have some knowledge of Irish. In particular 8,063 (6.1%) people could speak, read, write and understand Irish. As such the Council recognises that the proactive promotion of Irish, as well as catering for the needs of its growing Irish speaking population, can enhance the rich linguistic culture of the area and add to the appeal of the area as a tourist destination. This policy will facilitate and encourage the use of Irish in speech and writing, in private and public life.

Policy Aim

Operating within the spirit of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and having due regard to the status afforded to Irish within that Charter, Mid Ulster District Council aims to take resolute and positive actions that will aspire to promote, enhance and protect the Irish language within the Council and District.

Policy Objectives

- To encourage the use of Irish in both speech and writing within the District and Council.
- To promote a range of initiatives that will reduce intolerance and promote understanding of the Irish language across the District and within the Council.
- To preserve townland names through the use of appropriate signage.
- To recognise and celebrate the Irish language within the broader context of linguistic and cultural diversity across the District and Council.
- To maintain and develop links between groups using Irish with other groups using Irish and/or Ulster Scots.



Tá Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh tiomanta don Ghaeilge a chosaint agus a spreagadh.

Prionsabail Threoracha an Bheartais

Tá Beartas Gaeilge Chomhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh bunaithe ar na riachtanais i gCuid II agus III den Chairt Eorpach um Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaigh. Tugtar le fios sa bheartas roinnt prionsabal treoracha ónar féidir leis an Chomhairle réimse de ghníomhaíochtaí dearfacha a chur i bhfeidhm chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn, a fheabhsú agus a chosaint chomh maith le labhairt agus scríobh na Gaeilge a spreagadh sa saol príobháideach agus sa saol poiblí. Tá bearta faoi leith a bhaineann le cur chun feidhme na bprionsabal treorach uile in Aguisín 1.

Prionsabal Treorach 1: Tacaíocht don Ghaeilge

Tá Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh tiomanta don Ghaeilge a chosaint agus a spreagadh. Aithníonn an Chomhairle gur léiriú í an Ghaeilge ar shuibhreas cultúrtha agus gur gá don Chomhairle an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn chun í a chosaint agus a neartú.

Chuir seo:

- Ullmhóidh an Chomhairle plan do cheantar Chomhairle Lár Uladh faoin dóigh a gcuirfear agus a bhforbrófar an Ghaeilge sa cheantar. Aithneofar sa phlean deiseanna chun an Ghaeilge a fhorbairt agus a fhoghlaim; agus
- Spreagfaidh an Chomhairle, tríd an phlean seo a chur i bhfeidhm, tuiscint níos fearr ar oidhreacht choitianta na Gaeilge. Aithneofar ann fosta an dóigh ar féidir leis an Ghaeilge cur le sochaí bheoga i Lár Uladh.

Policy Guiding Principles

The Mid Ulster District Council Irish Language Policy is based on the requirements of Parts II and III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The policy presents a number of guiding principles from which the Council will implement a range of positive actions to promote, enhance and protect the Irish language whilst encouraging its use in speech and writing in private and public life. Specific measures for implementation relating to each guiding principle are included in Appendix 1.

Guiding Principle 1: Support for the Irish Language

Mid Ulster District Council is committed to the protection and encouragement of the Irish Language. The Council recognises that the Irish language is an expression of cultural wealth and there is a need for the Council to promote Irish in order to help safeguard and strengthen it.

To this end:

- The Council will prepare a plan for the Mid Ulster Council area on how it will promote the development and promotion of the Irish language. The development plan will identify opportunities to promote and learn the language; and
- The Council, through implementation of the plan, will encourage better understanding of the shared linguistic heritage of Irish. It will also recognise the contribution that the Irish Language can make to the vibrant society within Mid Ulster.

Prionsabal Treorach 2: Foilseacháin

Beidh féiniúlacht chorparáideach na Comhairle i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge cé go mbeidh an Béarla go fóill ina mhodh cumarsáide go himheánach. Éascófar fostaithe ar mian leo teagmháil a dhéanamh lena chéile i nGaeilge. Maidir le foilseacháin na Comhairle, beidh sé mar bheartas againn Gaeilgeoirí a éascú ionas gur féidir leo teagmháil ó bhéal agus scríofa a dhéanamh leis an Chomhairle trí mheán na Gaeilge. Beidh Gaeilge, nuair is cuí, i ngach ábhar scríofa/clóite atá foilsithe ag Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh agus a bhaineann leis an phobal.

Chuige seo:

- Cuirfear príomhcháipéisí corparáideacha, msh. Plean Corparáideach, Tuarascáil Bhliantúil ar fáil i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge;
- Beidh dearadh / foilsiú ábhair sa Ghaeilge ar chomhchaighdeán leis an ábhar céanna i mBéarla; agus
- Ba chóir go mbeadh litríocht agus foirmeacha na Comhairle ar fáil don phobal i bhformáid Bhéarla agus Ghaeilge nuair is cuí, de réir riachtanais agus áiseanna.

Prionsabal Treorach 3: Poiblíocht

Spreagfaidh agus tacóidh Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh le saothar raidió, Teilifíse agus físeáin a chraolann i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge.

Chuige seo:

- Tógfaidh an Chomhairle seo caidrimh leis na meáin Ghaeilge; agus
- Nuair is féidir é agus nuair is cuí, beidh Béarla agus Gaeilge i saothar na meán a dtugann Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh faoi.

Prionsabal Treorach 4: Comhfhreagras

Cinntoidh Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh go mbeidh úsáideoirí Gaeilge in ann comhfhreagras ó bhéal nó scríofa a dhéanamh i nGaeilge. Freagróidh Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh i rogha teanga an fhaighteora, nuair a bhíonn an rogha sin ar eolas.

To this end:

- Is féidir le húsáideoirí Gaeilge comhfhreagras ó bhéal nó scríofa a dhéanamh i nGaeilge chuig Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh;
- Tabharfar freagra i nGaeilge ar chomhfhreagras ar bith a fhaightear i nGaeilge; agus
- Beidh aistriúchán nó ateargairacht ar fáil do gach ball foirne de réir mar is gá.

Guiding Principle 2: Publications

The Council's corporate identity will be English and Irish although English will remain the language of communication internally. Employees wishing to communicate with each other in Irish will be facilitated. With regard to Council publications, our policy will facilitate Irish speakers to communicate with the Council orally and in written format through the medium of Irish. All written / printed materials produced by Mid Ulster District Council for public consumption will include Irish where appropriate.

To this end:

- Key corporate documents e.g. Corporate Plan, Annual Report will be made available in English and Irish format;
- Design / publishing of material in the Irish language will be of an equal standard with the same material in English; and
- Council literature and forms should be available to the public in English and Irish format where appropriate, according to need and as resources allow.

Guiding Principle 3: Publicity

Mid Ulster District Council will encourage and support radio, TV and video work that broadcast in English and Irish format.

To this end:

- The Council will build relationships with the Irish language media; and
- Where possible and appropriate, media work carried out by Mid Ulster District Council will contain English and Irish elements.

Guiding Principle 4: Correspondence

Mid Ulster District Council will ensure that users of Irish may submit oral or written communications in Irish. Mid Ulster District Council will correspond in the chosen language of the recipient, where this choice is known.

To this end:

- Users of Irish may submit oral or written correspondence in Irish to Mid Ulster District Council;
- Any correspondence received in Irish will be responded to in Irish; and
- Translation or interpretation will be available to all staff as may be required.

Prionsabal Treorach 5: **Cur i láthair / Óráidíocht Phoiblí / Ócáidí**

Cinntoidh Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh agus pleanáil á déanamh ar chur i láthair, ar ócáidí agus ar fhéilte go gcuirtear san áireamh eolas agus úsáid theanga agus chultúr na Gaeilge.

Chuir seo, déanfaidh Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh an méid seo a leanas:

- Beidh méadú ann in úsáid na Gaeilge i gcur i láthair;
- Cuirfear ar fáil seirbhísí aistriúcháin chomhuaineacha nuair a iarrtar iad; agus
- Nuair is cuí, cuirfear teanga agus cultúr na Gaeilge san áireamh in imeachtaí, i bhféilte agus i gceiliúradh sibhialta.

Prionsabal Treorach 6: **Cleachtais Foirne agus Riaracháin**

Cuirfidh Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh oiliúint ar oifigigh na Comhairle maidir le sonraí an bheartais seo ionas go mbeidh siad in ann freagra cuí a thabhairt ar fhiosrúcháin i nGaeilge. Spreagfar baill foirne chun úsáid a bhaint as cibé méid Gaeilge atá acu. Ní bheidh sé riachtanach bheith líofa sa Ghaeilge le haghaidh poist ar bith nach mbeadh gá le cainteoir líofa Gaeilge ann.

Chuir seo, déanfaidh Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh an méid seo a leanas:

- Cuirfear oiliúint agus treoir chuí ar fáil d'fhoireann;
- Cuirfear seirbhísí aistriúcháin ar fáil do bhaill foirne; agus
- Cuirfear leaganacha Gaeilge do cháipéisíocht inmheánach do bhaill foirne nuair a iarrtar iad.

Guiding Principle 5: **Presentations / Public Speaking / Events**

Mid Ulster District Council will ensure that in planning its presentations, events and festivals that appropriate allowance is made for incorporating the knowledge and use of the Irish language and culture.

To this end Mid Ulster District Council will:

- Use increasing amounts of Irish in presentations;
- Provide simultaneous translation services on request; and
- Where appropriate, incorporate the Irish language and culture within events, festivals and civic celebrations.

Guiding Principle 6: **Staff and Administrative Practices**

Mid Ulster District Council will train Council officers in the detail of this policy so that they will be able to respond appropriately to enquiries in Irish. Staff will be encouraged to use what Irish they have. Fluency in Irish will not be a requirement for any position that would not ordinarily justify the appointment of an Irish speaker.

To this end Mid Ulster District Council will:

- Offer appropriate training and guidance to staff;
- Provide translation services to staff; and
- Provide Irish versions of internal documentation for use by staff on request.



Prionsabal Treorach 7: **Infheictheacht na Gaeilge**

Méadóidh Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh infheictheacht na Gaeilge agus cothóidh bealaí éagsúla le rochtain a fháil ar an teanga mar chuid den ghnáthshaol.

Chuirge seo, déanfaidh Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh an méid seo a leanas:

- Ceapfaidh féiniúlacht chorpóraideach le go mbeidh an Ghaeilge le feiceáil ar an chaighdeán agus ar an stádas céanna leis an Bhéarla;
- Ceapfaidh plean céimnithe feidhmithe le comharthaíocht i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge a thógáil go himheánach agus go seachtrach ar gach sealúchas de chuid Chomhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh;
- Clár comharthaíochta i lonnaíochtaí a chur i bhfeidhm nuair a iarrtar é; agus
- Clár comharthaíocht sráide Bhéarla agus Ghaeilge a choinneáil.

Guiding Principle 7: **Visibility of Irish**

Mid Ulster District Council will enhance the visibility of Irish and foster different means of accessing the language as part of everyday life.

To this end Mid Ulster District Council will:

- Devise a corporate identity to include Irish reproduced in the same quality and presentational standards and status as English;
- Devise a phased implementation plan for the erection of English and Irish internal and external signage on all Mid Ulster District Council owned properties;
- Initiate a settlement signage programme on request; and
- Maintain an English and Irish street signage programme.

Aguisín 1

Bearta faoi Leith a bhaineann le cur chun feidhme na bPrionsabal Treorach

Appendix 1

Guiding Principles Specific Measures for Implementation

Aguisín 1 - Bearta faoi Leith a bhaineann le cur chun feidhme na bPrionsabal Treorach

Baineann fráma ama le Bliain 1 - Bliain 4 de chéad téarma Chomhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh.

Prionsabal Treorach	Bearta le haghaidh Cur chun Feidhme	Amlíne
Tacaíocht don Ghaeilge	Plean a ullmhú agus a chur i bhfeidhm maidir le forbairt agus cur chun cinn na Gaeilge.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
Foilseacháin	Cuirfear Tuarascálacha Bliantúla agus Pleananna Corparáideacha ar fáil i bhformáid Bhéarla agus Ghaeilge.	Bliain 1 agus gach bliain
	Beidh formáid Bhéarla agus Ghaeilge ar láithreán Gréasáin Chomhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh agus déanfar téacs na Gaeilge a uasdátú de réir an téacs Bhéarla nuair is féidir. Beidh na leathanaigh sin ar láithreán Gréasáin Chomhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh ar a dtugtar an líon is mó cuairteanna, mar shampla príomhleathanaigh tosaigh, beidh siad ar fáil ar dtús i bhformáid Bhéarla agus Ghaeilge. Beidh ceannlínte na rannán dinimiciúil i bhformáid Bhéarla agus Ghaeilge, agus sa deireadh beidh an láithreán Gréasáin iomlán i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	De réir riachtanais agus áiseanna cuirfear foirmeacha ar fáil i bhformáid Bhéarla agus Ghaeilge.	Bliain 1
	Beidh an fhormáid le haghaidh ábhar i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge sa dá theanga, taobh lena chéile, agus an dá theanga ar an méid chéanna.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	De réir riachtanais agus áiseanna, ba chóir go mbeadh bileoga eolais, fógraín agus litríocht eile de chuid na Comhairle ar fáil don phobal i bhformáid Bhéarla agus Ghaeilge nuair is cuí. Moltar gur chóir go mbeadh gach litríocht den chineál seo i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge in áit a bheith curtha amach go leithleach i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Is féidir go mbeidh ábhar atá dírithe ar úsáideoirí Gaeilge amháin curtha amach i nGaeilge amháin.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Beidh ailt i nGaeilge i nuachtlitreacha / i bhfeasacháin, nuair is cuí.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Beidh dearadh / foilsíú ábhair sa Ghaeilge ar chomhchaidreamh leis an ábhar céanna i mBéarla.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
Poiblíocht	Bunófar caidrimh leis na meáin Ghaeilge agus coinneofar iad le preasráitis á n-eisiúint i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla nuair is cuí.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Nuair is féidir é agus nuair is cuí, beidh Béarla agus Gaeilge i saothar raidió, teilifíse agus físeáin a dtugann baill de Chomhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh. Ní chuirfear as an áireamh fostaithe ó shaothar raidió, teilifíse agus físeáin toisc nach bhfuil eolas acu ar an Ghaeilge.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
Comhfhreagras	I gcomhfhreagras scríofa i bhformáid Bhéarla agus Ghaeilge, beidh an dá theanga taobh le chéile, leis an leagan Gaeilge ar thaobh na láimhe clé agus an leagan Béarla ar thaobh na láimhe deise, nó mura féidir seo a dhéanamh, an Ghaeilge a chur os cionn an leagain Bhéarla.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Beidh ceannchló agus lógó na heagraíochta i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Tabharfar freagra i nGaeilge ar chomhfhreagras ar bith a fhaightear i nGaeilge.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Nuair a bhíonn comhfhreagras á dhéanamh, freagróidh Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh i rogha teanga an fhaighteora, nuair a bhíonn an rogha sin ar eolas.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Cuirfear oiliúint ar gach ball foirne i ngach roinn sa Chód Cuirtéise don Ghaeilge ina mbeidh foráil ann chomh maith d'fhostaithe na Comhairle nach bhfuil Gaeilge acu ach a mbíonn teagmháil acu le ball den phobal ar mian leis cumarsáid a dhéanamh i nGaeilge. Cuirfear sonraí teagmhála do bhaill foirne a bhfuil Gaeilge acu ionas go mbeidh linn de chainteoirí líofa ann le fiosrúcháin ón phobal a láimhseáil.	Bliain 1
	Beidh aistriúchán nó ateangaireacht ar fáil do gach ball foirne de réir mar is gá.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4

Appendix 1 – Guiding Principles Specific Measures for Implementation

Timeframe relates to Year 1 – Year 4 of the first term of the Mid Ulster District Council.

Guiding Principle	Measures for Implementation	Timeline
Support for the Irish language	Prepare and implement plan on the development and promotion of the Irish language.	Year 1 – Year 4
Publications	Annual Reports and Corporate Plans will be made available in English and Irish format.	Year 1 and annually
	Mid Ulster District Council's website will include an English and Irish format with the Irish language text updated in line with the English text where possible. Those pages on Mid Ulster District Council's website receiving most user traffic, for example main front pages, will be available initially in English and Irish format. Headings of dynamic sections will also be of English and Irish format, while eventually the entire web site will be English and Irish.	Year 1 – Year 4
	According to needs and as resources allow forms will be produced in English and Irish format.	Year 1
	The format for English and Irish materials will be Irish and English, side-by-side, with both languages of equal size.	Year 1 – Year 4
	According to need and as resources allow, information leaflets, flyers and other Council literature should be available to the public in English and Irish format where appropriate. It is recommended that all such literature should be English and Irish as opposed to being separately produced, in Irish and in English.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Material aimed exclusively at users of Irish may be produced in Irish only.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Newsletters / bulletins will contain articles in Irish, where appropriate.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Design/ publishing of material in the Irish language will be of an equal standard with the same material in English.	Year 1 – Year 4
Publicity	Relationships with the Irish language media will be established and maintained with press releases being issued in Irish and in English where appropriate.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Where possible and appropriate, radio, T.V. and video work carried out by members of Mid Ulster District Council will contain significant English and Irish elements. Employees will not be excluded from radio, T.V. and video work because of a lack of knowledge of the Irish language.	Year 1 – Year 4
Correspondence	In written communications of English and Irish format, both languages will be placed side-by-side, with the Irish version on the left and the English on the right, or if this is not practicable, by placing the Irish version above the English.	Year 1 – Year 4
	The letterhead and logo of the organisation will be English and Irish.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Any correspondence received in Irish will be responded to in Irish.	Year 1 – Year 4
	When initiating correspondence, Mid Ulster District Council will correspond in the chosen language of the recipient, where this choice is known.	Year 1 – Year 4
	All staff within each department will be trained in the Courtesy Code for Irish which will also make provision for courtesy to employees of the Council who do not speak Irish but come in contact with a member of the public who wishes to communicate in Irish. Contact details for Irish speaking staff will be made known so that a pool of fluent speakers is available to handle enquiries from the public.	Year 1
	Translation or interpretation will be available to all staff as may be required.	Year 1 – Year 4

Aguisín 1 - Bearta faoi Leith a bhaineann le cur chun feidhme na bPrionsabal Treorach

Baineann fráma ama le Bliain 1 - Bliain 4 de chéad téarma Chomhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh.

Prionsabal Treorach	Bearta le haghaidh Cur chun Feidhme	Amlíne
Cur i láthair / Óráidíocht Phoiblí / Ócáidí	Beidh sé mar aidhm ag ionadaithe de chuid Chomhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh, iad siúd atá compordach leis, tuilleadh Gaeilge a úsáid agus cur i láthair á dhéanamh acu. Cuirfear chun cinn úsáid na Gaeilge ag ócáidí foirmiúla mar ghnáthchleachtas.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Beidh cur i láthair ar PowerPoint nó ar choráis eile i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge nuair is cuí. Nuair a bhíonn cur i láthair i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge le déanamh, cuirfear ar fáil seirbhísí aistriúcháin chomhuaineacha d'fhostaithe nach bhfuil Gaeilge ar bith acu.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Nuair a bheartaítear ócáidí poiblí ar mhórskála cuirfear córais aistriúcháin chomhuaineacha ar fáil nuair a iarrtar iad.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Cinnteoigh Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh agus pleanáil á déanamh ar fhéilte/cheiliúradh sibhialta go gcuirtear san áireamh eolas agus úsáid theanga agus chultúr na Gaeilge.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
Cleachtais Foirne agus Riaracháin	Cuirfear treoracha ar fáil d'fháilteoirí agus do theieafónaithe ionas go mbeidh siad in ann freagra cuí a thabhairt ar fhiosrúcháin i nGaeilge.	Bliain 1
	Cuirfear leaganacha Gaeilge do cháipéisíocht inmheánach do bhaill foirne nuair a iarrtar iad, msh. foirmeacha ordaithe, duilíní pá, bileoga ama, srl. Cuirfear ar fáil seirbhísí aistriúcháin chomhuaineacha d'fhostaithe nach bhfuil Gaeilge ar bith acu ach a mbíonn orthu cáipéisíocht inmheánach i nGaeilge a phróiseáil. Cinnteoigh foireann riaracháin go mbíonn an fhoireann ar fad eolach ar an ordú aicinn Ghaeilge (Alt Gr+ gutha) ar gach ríomhaire.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Cuirfear ar fáil seirbhísí aistriúcháin, ceartúcháin agus profléitheoireachta do gach ball foirne agus déanfar cáilíocht solathróirí na seirbhísí seo a dhearbhú.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Beidh ranganna Gaeilge ar leibhéal áirithe ar fáil mar chuid de chlár oiliúna inseirbhíse d'fhoireann ar mian leo leas a bhaint as.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Spreagfar baill foirne chun úsáid a bhaint as cibé méid Gaeilge atá acu. Tacófar le lóin neamhfhoirmiúla ina labhraítear Gaeilge, ranganna Gaeilge, srl a eagrú in am na bhfostaithe féin ach a thionólfadh Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh, agus le cuidiú ó ghrúpaí seachtracha/daoine aonair nuair a bhíonn gá leis.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Aithníonn Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh an tábhacht a bhaineann le suíomhanna nó poist a aithint ina bhfuil úsáid na Gaeilge mar chuid riachtanach den phost. Ní bheidh sé riachtanach bheith líofa sa Ghaeilge le haghaidh poist ar bith nach mbeadh gá le cainteoir líofa Gaeilge ann.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
Infheictheacht na Gaeilge	Ceapfaidh plean céimnithe feidhmithe le comharthaíocht i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge a thógáil go himmheánach agus go seachtrach ar gach sealúchas de chuid Chomhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh chomh maith le brandáil agus lógónna;	Céimnithe
	Bainfear feidhm as cur chuige Béarla agus Gaeilge a úsáid maidir le comharthaíocht nuair is cuí.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Coinneofar seirbhís innéacs aistriúcháin sráidainmneacha agus idirchaidrimh i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge le cónaitheoirí.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4
	Cuirfear tús le clár comharthaíochta lonnaíochta i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge nuair a iarrtar iad.	Bliain 1 - Bliain 4

Appendix 1 – Guiding Principles Specific Measures for Implementation

Timeframe relates to Year 1 – Year 4 of the first term of the Mid Ulster District Council.

Guiding Principle	Measures for Implementation	Timeline
Presentations / Public Speaking / Events	Representatives of Mid Ulster District Council, who are comfortable to do so, will aim to use increasing amounts of Irish in their presentations. Standard practice of using Irish at formal occasions and public meetings will be actively promoted.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Visual presentation on PowerPoint or other systems will be English and Irish where appropriate. When English and Irish presentations need to be made, simultaneous translation services will be made available to employees who have no knowledge of the Irish language.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Where large-scale public events are planned, simultaneous translation systems will be made available on request	Year 1 – Year 4
	Mid Ulster District Council will ensure that festivals/ civic celebrations which the Council organises or supports make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of the Irish language and culture.	Year 1 – Year 4
Staff and Administrative Practices	Guidance will be offered to receptionists and telephonists so that they will be able to respond appropriately to enquiries in Irish.	Year 1
	Irish versions of all internal documentation will be made available for use by staff on request e.g. order forms, pay slips, time sheets etc. Translation services will be made available to employees who have no knowledge of the Irish language but who are required to process internal documentation that is in Irish. Administrative staff will ensure that all staff can access the Irish language accent command (Alt Gr+vowel) on all computers.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Translation, correction and proof-reading services will be made available to all staff and external providers of these services will be quality-assured.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Irish classes at different levels will be available as part of an in-service training programme for staff who wish to avail of it.	Year 1 – Year 4
	All staff will be encouraged to use what Irish they have. Encouragement will be given to the establishment of informal Irish speaking lunches, conversation classes etc. in employees' own time to be convened by Mid Ulster District Council, with the assistance of external groups/individuals when required.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Mid Ulster District Council recognises the importance of identifying situations or posts in which the use of Irish is an essential duty of the job. Fluency in the Irish language will not be a requirement for any position that would not ordinarily justify the appointment of an Irish speaker.	Year 1 – Year 4
Visibility of Irish	An implementation plan will be devised for branding, logos and the erection of English and Irish internal and external signage on all Mid Ulster Council owned properties including buildings and offices.	Phased
	An approach using English and Irish will be taken to advertising where appropriate.	Year 1 – Year 4
	Council's street signage programme of English and Irish, resident-liaison and street-name translation index service will be maintained.	Year 1 – Year 4
	An English and Irish settlement signage programme will be initiated on request.	Year 1 – Year 4

Department of Business & Communities
Arts and Cultural Services
Mid Ulster District Council

Call 03000 132 132
www.midulstercouncil.org

Appendix 2 Irish Language Policy Review

1. To assess demand for Irish language services elsewhere, eg DCAL, and to modify the policy as appropriate;

Council Officers carried out a review on Irish language services and provision in other Council areas and government departments to consider the impact and to assess demand for Irish language services. Consultation was held with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, Derry Strabane District Council, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council as well as Líoifa.

Officers were provided with statistics and information which clearly demonstrate that there is a good demand for Irish language services. As part of this information we were provided with a list of Irish language primary school and secondary schools, Irish language groups with and without an Irish Language Development Officer as well as a summary of the Irish language activity of the responder.

Encouraged by this feedback the Irish Language Development Officers collated statistics from Straitéis Gaeilge/Irish Language Strategy 2023-27, outlined below: The District currently has a diverse and growing Irish language community including:

- 7 naíonraí or early years centres
- 6 gaelscoileanna or Irish-medium primary schools
- 1 secondary school in the southern part of the Council area; Scoil Iosáef, which provides Irish-medium immersion education for the south of the district.
- In the north of the Council area children currently travel outside the district receive immersion education, Gaelcholáiste Dhoire in Dungiven.
- Ulster University provides a locally based diploma course which serves as a foundation year for their Irish Studies degree course
- 2 Cultúrlann/language centres at Carn Tóchair near Maghera and Ballinascreen
- Adult language services delivered through our arts and heritage centres.
- 11 community venues providing regular Irish language services
- 4 area-based language officers funded by Foras na Gaeilge in Coalisland, Magherafelt/Ballinascreen and Carn Tóchair
- 'Gaeilge Lár Uladh', designated Irish language Facebook page for Mid Ulster District Council currently as of 21/06/23 has 1.3k likes and 1.5k followers.

2. To consider the impact of the policy on the profile of job applicants by community background;

There is no information available to state if the policy has had any impact on community background.

The Council is required to keep under review and develop policies and practices that support equal opportunities in accordance with the various employment equality codes of practice. The Council as a registered concern is required to complete an Article 55 Review Report which includes an assessment of fair participation. There are a range of factors which will help to determine the relevant labour market pool to assist making this assessment including e.g., rates of pay, method of notifying job vacancies, specific qualifications, or specialized abilities,

travelling conditions, availability of alternative employment. An employer is required to deal positively with any factors which have the effect of restricting the potential applicant pool for any type of job or work location.

There is currently no available data in respect of the impact of Council's Irish Language Policy on the profile of job applicants by community background. Section 75 of NI Act 1998 requires Council as a public authority to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, sexual orientation, between men and women, between persons with a disability and persons without and between persons with dependents and persons without. There are restrictions on the processing of special category personal data e.g., religious belief in respect of GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. See the below hyperlink to conditions for processing special category personal data in respect of employment obligations.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/schedule/1/enacted>

District Profile

2011 Census

63.77% of the population were brought up in the Catholic religion and 33.46% belong or were brought up in a Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religion. Other religions comprised 690 (0.5%) and None 3,153 (2.28%) of the population.

2021 Census

64.74% of the population were brought up in the Catholic religion and 30.23% belong or were brought up in a Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religion. Other religions comprised 1,012 (0.67%) and None 6,561 (4.37%) of the population.

Equality Commission Annual Staff Return

2016

Employees - The Annual Staff Return for Mid Ulster District Council was 307 (45.9%) of Protestant Religion, 362 (54.1%) of Catholic religion and other religion/none was 28. Total staff return was 697.

Appointees – In 2016 there were 33 appointees of which 11 were of Protestant Religion, 21 were of Catholic religion and 1 were of other religion/none.

2021

Employees - The Annual Staff Return for Mid Ulster District Council was 330 (40.5%) of Protestant Religion and 484 (59.5%) of Catholic religion and other religion/none was 46. Total staff return was 860.

Appointees – In 2021 there were 43 appointees of which 13 were of Protestant Religion, 24 were of Catholic religion and 6 were of other religion/none.

3. To monitor uptake of Irish language services and to obtain qualitative feedback on benefits that people perceive and/or complaints registered;

No complaint had been received to date in relation to the Irish Language Policy.

However, there is a current Equality/GR complaint in with ECNI against the Council's Dual Language Street Signage Policy. It initially wasn't investigated because it was outside the 12mth timescale but the complainant has appealed this decision and we should know in June if ECNI decide to investigate or not. The basis of the complaint is that Irish Language street signage has negatively impacted on Good Relations in the complainant's area.

4. To monitor any decrease in the usage of Council facilities by the Protestant / Unionist community in response to the introduction of the policy;

A review was completed and whilst community background is not held of Council service users, there has been growth (taking account of Covid) in our leisure facilities.

5. To gather and analyse feedback from staff on the policy on an annual basis.

The Council process for policy engagement was used. The policy is brought to the Council Policy Engagement Forum with the Union and then issued to Council employees for comment.

No comments were received.



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh
Plean na Gaeilge

2023-2027

Mid-Ulster District Council
Irish Language Plan

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2. The strategic framework – mission, vision and values
3. Strategic objectives
4. The delivery framework
5. Structure and governance
6. Monitoring and review
7. Action plan
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1. Introduction

Mid Ulster District Council recognises the Irish language as an integral part of the heritage, identity and cultural life of the District. We have a strong, vibrant, growing Irish Language community living, working, visiting and socialising in the area.

The Council remains committed to the objectives set out in its Bilingualism Policy and have put in place the necessary structures to ensure that the Irish language and Irish language community has a sustainable future.

Building upon our Irish Language Policy adopted in 2015 and associated Irish Language Plan 2015-2019, an updated Plan for the period 2023-2027 has been developed, building on previous work and experiences. Council will continue to:

- increase the use of Irish language within its services;
- facilitate the use of the Irish language when communicating with the public and relevant stakeholders; and
- support and encourage the promotion and development of the Irish language across the Council area.

Irish is the first official language of the Republic of Ireland and was accorded minority language status in Northern Ireland by the UK Government in March 2000. Irish was made an official working language of the European Union on 1st January 2007. As of November 2022, an **Identity and Languages Bill (Northern Ireland)** is being enacted by the UK Government to provide official recognition of the status of the Irish language in Northern Ireland by—

- (a) providing for the appointment of an Irish Language Commissioner,
- (b) providing for the development of standards of best practice relating to the use of the Irish language by public authorities, and
- (c) requiring public authorities to have due regard to such standards.

It is envisaged that Local Councils will be at the top of the scale regarding the category and scope of “best practice standard” issued. This expectation should direct current policy formation.

NI Executive's Irish Language Strategy

The Department for Communities is leading on the development of the Executive's Irish Language Strategy. The Language Strategies Team within Culture Division is taking this work forward. In March 2022 the Department of Communities published an Expert Advisory Panel (EAP) Report regarding recommendations for the Irish language strategy. That report included provisions relating to local authorities, legislation, public services, community development and other themes relevant to this Strategy. The EAP can be read in full here: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/irish-language-strategy-expert-advisory-panel-recommendation-report>

There is a commitment under New Decade New Approach to adopt the key principals and practice of citizen and community engagement to co-design and co-production of the development and delivery of the strategy.

There is also a statutory commitment to developing the strategy under Section 28D of the NI Act 1998.

Background

According to the 2021 Census, Mid-Ulster has the highest percentage of Irish speakers of any local government district in the North of Ireland.

The 2011 Census indicated that 22,984 people (17.4%) out of a district population of 132,025 have some knowledge of Irish. In particular, 8,063 (6.1%) people could speak, read, write and understand Irish.

The 2021 Census now indicates that 29,397 people (20.4%) out of a district population of 144,036 have some knowledge of Irish. 9,544 (6.63%) people could speak, read, write and understand Irish. These increases indicate that Council and other partners including our community partners have had an impact to date and there is a need for further development.

In the previous 2011 Census, 5 Super Output Areas (SOA) in Mid Ulster ranked in the top 10 SOAs (out of 890) for fluency in Irish – Lower Glenshane 2 33.19%, Washing Bay 31.62%, Swatragh 1 31.31%, Swatragh 2 30.56%, Coalisland North 29.44%).

Indeed nine other Mid Ulster SOAs are in the top 100, Draperstown, Dunnamore, Coalisland South, Lower Glenshane 1, Pomeroy, Derrytrasna, Coalisland West and Newmills, Donaghmore, and Maghera. The updated statistics on a local level are not yet available for the 2021 Census but given the work of Council and the Irish language community across the District it is anticipated these areas would remain the most active; with the successful implementation of Council's previous Action Plan however, other areas are becoming increasingly involved in the promotion of the Irish language.

The District currently has a diverse and growing Irish language community including;

- 7 naíonraí or early years centres
- 6 gaelscoileanna or Irish-medium primary schools
- 1 secondary school in the southern part of the Council area; Scoil Iosáef, which provides Irish-medium immersion education for the south of the district.
- In the north of the Council area children currently travel outside the district receive immersion education, Gaelcholáiste Dhoire in Dungiven.
- Ulster University provides a locally-based diploma course which serves as a foundation year for their Irish Studies degree course
- 2 Cultúrlann/language centres at Carn Tóchair near Maghera and Ballinascreen
- Adult language services delivered through our arts and heritage centres.
- 11 community venues providing regular Irish language services
- 4 area-based language officers funded by Foras na Gaeilge in Coalisland, Magherafelt/Ballinascreen and Carn Tóchair

‘Líonra Charn Tóchair’ – a new Gaeltacht in Mid Ulster

A “Líonra” (Network) can be understood as a proto-Gaeltacht. A Gaeltacht is an area where Irish is traditionally spoken and in use as a vernacular language, or language of the home. While not a traditional Gaeltacht area, an area designated as a Líonra exhibits growth in the use of the indigenous language and the potential for Irish to be re-instated as the vernacular.

Due to the progress they had made in reviving Irish as a spoken language, in February 2018, Foras na Gaeilge announced that five areas - The Gaeltacht Quarter in West Belfast, Loughrea, **Carn Tóchair in the Mid Ulster area**, Ennis and the Dublin suburb of Clondalkin Village - were to be designated as the first Líonraí Gaeilge (Irish language networks), subject to the committees in the networks co-formulating and

adopting approved Irish language plans. The three areas in the Republic of Ireland are officially recognised under Acht na Gaeltachta 2012 legislation, where the 2 northern “Líonraí Gaeilge” are officially recognised by the cross-border statutory body Foras na Gaeilge.

Foras na Gaeilge has said that in the future they expect to also designate other areas outside the Gaeltacht as Líonraí Gaeilge. Three groups in Mid Ulster are in line for future consideration under this Líonra designation – **Cairde Uí Néill** in Coalisland, **Glór na Speiríní** in Ballinascreen and **Glór Mhachaire Fíolta** in Magherafelt.

Given this the Council recognises that the proactive promotion of Irish, as well as catering for the needs of its growing Irish speaking population, can enhance the rich linguistic culture of the area and increase the identified societal benefits of bilingualism in terms of health, educational attainment, community cohesion and increased cultural awareness and diversity. Council’s actions in this regard will also support and enhance strategies for the protection and promotion of Irish on the Island.

2. The strategic framework – mission, vision and values

Mid Ulster Community Plan, a ten year vision for the District, seeks to ‘have a greater value and respect for diversity’ and in meeting this outcome will – Promote and protect regional minority languages and culture.

Council’s mission is twofold:

- Internally - To mainstream the use of Irish Language in the internal administration of Council, and in its dealings with other public bodies and the community.
- Externally - To promote equality of opportunity for the Irish Language - address barriers of access to information and services, promote the development of the Irish Language, and to give leadership in meeting the evidenced needs of existing and emerging Irish language communities within the District.

Our Council’s vision for the Irish Language is:

To establish a sustainable environment which supports and enables the **promotion, use and development** of the Irish language in public, personal,

economic and community life. In pursuing our mission, we will be guided by the six values outlined within the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-24:

Citizen and customer-focused

Designing and delivering our services in response to and around the needs of our customers and within our resources.

Respect -Treating each other, our customers and our stakeholders in the same considerate way that we wish to be treated ourselves.

Excellence -Striving to excel in every aspect of our work, being accountable for and delivering the best, value for money services.

Trustworthy -Working for our communities in a spirit of friendliness and openness by delivering fair, transparent, equitable and ethical services to all customers.

Innovative -New and better ways of doing what we do.

Inclusive -Creating a culture which values, supports and celebrates diversity to the benefit of the organisation and the people we serve.

3. Strategic objectives

The two strategic objectives of the Irish Language Plan 2023-2027 are as follows:

Strategic Objective 1: To facilitate and enable the development, and promotion of the Irish Language within Mid-Ulster District Council and the District.

Strategic Objective 2: To effectively engage with the Irish Language Community to strengthen community capacity, encourage collaboration, co-operation and investment in the development and promotion of the Irish language within the District.

4. The delivery framework

The actions complement the Council's Corporate Plan, Community Plan and Irish Language Policy to facilitate and encourage the promotion and use of the Irish language in the Council area through:

- Progressively realising greater access to information and services;
- Increasing Irish language community capacity, civic engagement and participation, and encouraging partnership-working;

- Improving sustainability and viability of the Irish language community sector; and,
- Developing connectivity between Irish language communities and the Statutory and Voluntary sectors;
- Developing Irish speaking areas across the District in partnership with Foras na Gaeilge
- Appropriate budget allocation, monitoring, evaluation and review.

The actions also complement the Council's Community Plan to make Mid-Ulster a welcoming place where our people are content, healthy and safe; educated and skilled; where our economy is thriving; our environment and heritage sustained; and where our public services excel. Actioned within the Community Plan is the desire to "Promote and protect regional minority languages and cultures".

5. Structure and governance

Council's Irish Language Section is responsible for implementation of the Irish Language Plan. The Section which sits within Arts, is within the overall Development Department and aligns with community development, good relations, cultural development.

The Council's Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group has a member advisory role in considering and discussing the implementation of the Irish Language Plan. The Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group does not have decision-making powers, it makes recommendations only.

Recommendations arising are reported to the Council's Development Committee for consideration.

6. Monitoring and review

The Irish Language Plan will be reviewed annually to ensure actions and the associated budget remain relevant and appropriate.

Six-monthly reports on progress will be prepared for consideration by the Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group.

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Action Plan

Strategic objective 1	To facilitate and enable the development, and promotion of the Irish Language within Mid-Ulster District Council and the District.			
Positive action	Performance measure	Outcome	Responsibility	Time
1.1 Internal Irish language Services to Council	Translation & interpretation – is provided on request for public or MUDC member who wants to do business in Irish (including Council meetings)	Core Irish Language service delivered	MUDC Irish Language Officers	Ongoing
	Links with DfC's Central Irish Language Hub			Ongoing
	MUDC Irish Language officers provide Advice & support to Irish language community both pro-actively and on request.	Advice and support provided as required in timely fashion (Irish language positively promoted and addressing perceptions)	MUDC Irish Language Officers	Ongoing
	Code of Courtesy in place for Reception staff at all Council venues (use of personal names, face-to-face communication, telephone calls, correspondence, enquiries).	Code of Courtesy available in all MUDC venues with appropriate training for staff	MUDC Irish Language Officers	2 workshops annually
	Front of house staff with an ability in Irish display that through a badge (Fáinne / Tá Gaeilge agam)			

	<p>or a sign on the reception desks (Úsáid Gaeilge anseo) as appropriate.</p>	<p>Irish language capacity increased in MUDC front end staff</p>		
		<p>Irish language capacity increased in MUDC front end staff</p>	<p>MUDC Irish Language Officers</p>	<p>2 workshops annually</p>
		<p>Training on the Irish Language & Policy is provided to staff/ members to include concept of 'active offer'</p>	<p>MUDC Irish Language Officers</p>	<p>1 workshop annually</p>
		<p>An Irish Language Professional Development pathway for employees and Irish Language Skills training is offered to council staff</p>		

<p>1.2 Bilingual Signage Programme</p>	<p>Carry out research, raise awareness and deliver service re: Street/Road and housing development naming on request</p> <p>All Council buildings and facilities to display bilingual signage in English and Irish</p> <p>Maintain Gateway signage in Irish Instigate a bilingual settlement signage programme</p>	<p>Provision of Irish language versions of signage- Council facilities, roads, streets, settlements, gateways provided as requested</p> <p>Bilingual signage in English and Irish displayed on/in all MUDC buildings and facilities</p> <p>Increased awareness of the cultural importance of Irish placenames</p>	<p>Irish Language Officers/ Building Control Technical Services</p> <p>Irish Language Officers/ Building Control Technical Services</p> <p>Irish Language Officers/ Building Control Technical Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>1.3 Seachtain na Gaeilge festival</p>	<p>Irish Language Week programme (Seachtain na Gaeilge) to align with MUDC Arts Festival</p>	<p>Range of related Irish language events provided across the MUDC area</p>	<p>Irish Language Officers / relevant Arts Festival staff</p>	<p>March on annual basis</p>

	<p>Partner with other Council services, community and partners to maximize investment.</p> <p>Provide support and funding to community groups to organise events in local community areas</p>	<p>Range of related Irish language events provided across the MUDC area</p> <p>Range of related Irish language events provided across the MUDC area</p>	<p>Irish Language Officers</p> <p>Irish Language Officers</p>	
1.4 Review of Irish Language Policy in line with new legislation	Review and amend MUDC Irish Language Policy to bring in line with legislative changes	MUDC Irish language policy is aligned to legislation as required	Irish Language Officers	Following introduction of relevant legislation
1.5 Language Screening of Corporate Policies	Screen Council corporate policies against Mid Ulster's Irish language policy to ensure complementarity and pro-active support regarding the promotion of the Irish language	MUDC corporate policies aligned to Irish language policy and relevant legislation	Irish Language Officers	August 2023

<p>1.6 Promotion of Irish language through heritage</p>	<p>Irish language to be promoted as appropriate through heritage as part of a wider heritage offer in Mid Ulster e.g. Visits/tours of relevant sites, research and promotion of Sperrins Irish material, Hill of The O'Neill, The Cineál Eoghain Way, O'Neill tour etc</p>	<p>Indigenous Irish language, culture and history included as integral part of broader tourism promotion in MUDC area</p>	<p>Irish Language Officers/ Education Officers/ Tourism Officers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>1.7 Irish promotion through programmes of Council: Arts, culture, community development, good relations.</p>	<p>MUDC to develop a programme of events with partner services, and other external partners e.g. local cultural facilities, libraries and community organisations.</p>	<p>Promotion and development of Irish language across the MUDC District improved through internal partnerships</p>	<p>Irish language officers/ Good Relations & Culture Arts Community Development</p>	<p>March 2024</p>
<p>1.8 Bilingual Corporate Communication website and social media platforms</p>	<p>Functioning bilingual website and social media platforms to be developed. MUDC website to offer an immediate access to information and services in Irish language as choice at the home page. Community messaging on social media to be provided bilingually in Irish and English as appropriate.</p>	<p>Pro-active access to MUDC information and services in Irish available.</p>	<p>Irish Language Officers Communication s Team IT Team</p>	<p>March 2024</p>

	Bilingual promotion of key heritage sites – OM Dark Skies, Tullaghoge Fort, HOTON			
1.9 Irish Language partnerships with key agencies	Working partnerships to be established and/or continued and improved with relevant Irish language groups/organisation e.g. Foras na Gaeilge Conradh na Gaeilge Glór na nGael Cumann na bhFiann Gael-Linn Oireachtas na Gaeilge Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta	Irish language services across the MUDC District Enhanced and improved	Irish Language Officers	Ongoing
1.10 Research and statistical analysis of Irish Language infrastructure	Research available on Irish Language provision in Mid Ulster to be carried out through: updated census figures published 'language profile' of local provision on Council website and associated media	Knowledge of Irish language community infrastructure enhanced	Irish Language Officers	Ongoing
Strategic objective 2	To effectively engage with the Irish Language Community to strengthen community capacity, encourage collaboration, co-operation and investment in the development and promotion of the Irish language within the District.			
Positive action	Performance measure	Outcome	Responsibility	Time
2.1 Facilitate development of Fóram Lár-Uladh (Mid-Ulster Irish	Forum meetings to be organised and facilitated. (Meetings will be thematic and focus on areas of interest to the community – e.g. external funding cooperation with CLG)	Increased community engagement Increased sustainability	Irish Language Officers	Ongoing annually

Language Forum)		of Irish language community organisations Collaboration in promotion of Irish maximised		
2.2 Implementation of Irish Language Activities grant programme	Provide information and access to the community grant development programme	Irish Language community Irish language schemes initiated and funded by MUDC	Irish Language Officers	Feb-March Annually
2.3 Assist in the development of Foras na Gaeilge's Lónra programme in Mid Ulster *	Successful development of Lónra Charn Tóchair and subsequent extension of highest development level to other areas Development support for identified lower level Lónra zones in Coalisland and Ballinascreen/Magherafelt to achieve highest status	Continued development of Lónra Charn Tóchair Continued development of advanced Lónra status for Coalisland and Ballinascreen/Magherafelt	Irish Language Officers	Ongoing

<p>2.4 Regional and minority language Bursary Scheme</p>	<p>Regional and Minority Language Bursary Scheme to be provided – 90+ awards allocated Increased engagement with the language post bursary e.g. Monitor GCSE, A Level uptake</p>	<p>Promotion of the Irish language through language bursaries including Gaeltacht colleges, intensive courses Increased public awareness of scheme</p>	<p>Irish Language Officers</p>	<p>Feb-March Annually</p>
<p>2.5 Irish Language Diploma support scheme</p>	<p>Support and facilitation of the Irish Language diploma scheme (in collaboration with Ulster University) to be provided</p>	<p>To improve and increase capacity Irish Language skills in MUDC area through support for UU Irish Language third level diploma course Marketing and profile of scheme in local media</p>	<p>Irish Language Officers</p>	<p>Annually</p>

		and digital marketing.		
2.6 Partner on engagement and promotion of language opportunities with mainstream education and Irish Medium Education	<p>Develop partner primary schools for participation in primary language programme</p> <p>Support to Irish-medium education sector as required</p> <p>Include an education theme as part of Fóram Lár Uladh discussions</p> <p>Career guidance days x 2 to be provide for secondary schools - regarding GCSE choice Year 10 / A-Level Choice aimed at Year 12.</p>	<p>Primary language scheme delivered for schools in MUDC area</p> <p>Positive relationships established with education sector</p> <p>Increased uptake of Irish in formal qualifications in education</p>	Irish Language Officers /Education sector	Ongoing
2.7 Adult Education programme	Adult courses in Irish to be provided e.g. beginner, middle and advanced classes and conversation circles	Improved capacity in Irish Language skills in Mid Ulster	Irish Language Officers / Irish language groups / Community network	Ongoing
2.8 Irish Language Youth programme	<p>Irish Language Youth programme to be delivered– e.g.</p> <p>4+ annual summer schemes/youth clubs functioning</p>	Sustainability of Irish language for young people	Irish Language Officers	Ongoing

		to adulthood increased Increased collaboration - Fóram na nÓg /Irish language youth groups		
2.9 Development and promotion of Irish Language arts and heritage in community	Deliver advice for Irish language led community arts and heritage Support given to 3+ Irish language heritage or arts programmes annually	Increased community engagement with Irish language culture and heritage	Irish Language Officers /IL Officers in Carn Tóchair, Ballinascreen Coalisland	Ongoing
2.10 Development and promotion the Irish language and heritage as a tourism asset	Irish language heritage tourism offer around Ancient Clans theme developed/promoted Council to explore the possibility of Mid Ulster Gaeltacht areas as a tourism product– similar to Gaeltacht Quarter in Belfast	Increased visitor numbers	Irish Language Officers Irish language organisations Community network/IL Forum Tourism	Sept 2026
2.11 Facilitate the development of Irish Language Hubs in areas of notable community activity and which have	Irish Language arts, family-based language projects, youth-based language activity developed/promoted Council to actively promote the development of community hubs in Mid Ulster’s “Líonra” areas in Coalisland (Cairde Uí Néill),	Irish promoted as a community language Inter-generational transmission of Irish promoted	Irish Language Officers Irish language organisations Community network/IL Forum	Ongoing

been designated 'Líonra' areas by Foras na Gaeilge	Ballinascreen (Glór na Speiríní), and Magherafelt (Glór Mhachaire Fíolta)	Irish language arts promoted		

References

* **Líonra areas** are places where it may be possible to develop the Irish language to such an extent that it is in use daily as a community language in public and in the home. Foras na Gaeilge is now funding groups in such areas to enact this and calling such projects a 'Líonra' or network.

DRAFT



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Report of
Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster District Council

Report of Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster Council held on Monday 6 November 2023 at 7.00pm in The Burnavon, Cookstown.

Attendees:

Members: Cllr John McNamee, Cllr Cora Corry, Cllr Sean McPeake, Cllr Deirdre Varsani

Officers: Catherine Fox, Déaglán Ó Doibhlin, Sean Anton Ó Conalláin

AGENDA	MATTERS AGREED	ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITY
1.0	Apologies	
	Members: Cllr Ian Milne, Cllr Nuala McLernon, Cllr Christine McFlynn, Officers: Claire Linney	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
	No declarations of interest submitted.	
3.0	Position of Chair/Vice Chair	
	Cllr John McNamee was elected to the chair, proposed by Cllr Córa Corry and seconded by Cllr Deirdre Varsani. Cllr Deirdre Varsani was elected to the vice-chair, proposed by Cllr Sean McPeake, and seconded by Cllr John McNamee.	
4.0	Minutes of previous meeting.	

	<p>A report of the minutes of the previous meeting was presented to the Working Group. It was noted that that Councillor Sean McPeake attended, minutes to be updated accordingly.</p> <p>Signage: Councillor McNamee sought an update regarding the installation of bilingual signage at Heaney Homeplace as members had previously been informed it was to be completed by March 2023. Catherine Fox stated that external signage at Homeplace has been installed but that installation of internal signage is still to be completed.</p>	Adjust minutes to reflect Cllr McPeake's attendance - CF
5.0	Irish Language Policy Review	
	<p>The Irish Language Policy Review were shared with the Working Group. C Fox outlined the context of the policy review and summarized the outcome of the completed review for members. The review showed a continuing high demand for Irish language services in the district necessitating ongoing delivery of an expanded Irish language programme. No adverse effects from the delivery of Irish language services were noted.</p> <p>Councillor McNamee asked if all Members were content with the Review and collective agreement from the Members was obtained.</p>	
6.0	4 Year Plan	
	<p>Déaglán Ó Doibhlin presented a synopsis of the draft 4 year Irish Language Plan 2023 – 27 to the group. The core focus of the plan is staying the same but the new plan has been tweaked based on lessons learned from what other council areas are doing – Newry, Mourne and Down in particular has a very comprehensive strategy – and reflecting the development of the Irish language community in Mid Ulster over the last eight years.</p> <p>The main emphasis remains directed at community development with the strategic vision being the development and maintenance of a living community language and focused on our local Irish language organisations such as An Carn, Cairde Uí Néill, Glór na Speiríní Glór Mhachaire Fíolta, Pobal an Ghleanna, Cairdeas Eoghain, our Irish language schools, adult learners and various other service providers. This work will be facilitated by our various grants programmes and officer led programmes including our Irish language activity grants, RML bursaries, Seachtain na Gaeilge and Dúchas Primary language Project.</p>	

	<p>Councillor McNamee emphasised the importance of the bursary programme to the local community. Difficulties relating to increased demand for Gaeltacht courses and the need to support a programme for business signage were discussed.</p> <p>Councillor Corry asked for information about Fóram Lár Uladh, the local community language forum</p> <p>Déaglán Ó Doibhlin stated that meetings had recently recommenced and that themed meetings would be held regularly with the next occurring during December focusing on ‘Youth and Teenage Opportunities with the Irish language’</p> <p>Councillor McPeake posed the question about signage for GAA clubs and Seán Antón Ó Conalláin recommended liaising with Glór na nGael.</p> <p>Councillor Varsani asked what the next stage is for the plan and will it be presented?</p> <p>Catherine Fox updated that following approval from the working group, a report alongside the draft plan will be taken to the Development Committee for approval before ratification at the next Council meeting.</p> <p>Cllr McNamee stated that it would be good to get Cairde Uí Néill and Glór na Speiríní to present to the Development Committee to showcase the extent of their work and proposed to invite them to the next meeting.</p> <p>The draft Strategy was proposed by Cllr Corry and seconded by Cllr McPeake.</p>	<p>Information on any funding through other organisations be forwarded to Members – DÓD</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Signage Programme Update</p>	
	<p>Road Name Signage Programme</p> <p>C Fox updated that in the period from 1st April 23 until the 1st November 23 a total of 113 road nameplates have been placed on order which included replacement and newly approved signage. The lead in times for the signs continue to be, on average around 8 – 10 weeks between when an order is placed until it is delivered.</p>	

	<p>In the period from 1st April 23 until the 1st November 23, there have 21 cases of vandalism reported to the PSNI following notification to the Council by elected members or members of the public. Costs of £2,920 have been incurred in the repair or replacement of signs that have been damaged in this period.</p> <p>Internal/External Bilingual Signage Programme</p> <p>C Fox reported that an increase in price request was received from the Contractors for the signage for Years 3 and 4 which exceeded the rate of inflation, which was not accepted by Officers.</p> <p>Following internal discussions with members of SMT and Chief Executive, a new tender exercise will need to be completed to encompass all signage – Boundary, Facility & Settlement. C Fox stated that the funding for the signage will now be sought from the Capital budget within Council. It is proposed to progress rolling out signage across the District in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary and Gateway Signage • Facility Signage- Internal/External • Settlement Signage <p>An audit of existing and required signs will be completed by Officers within the Technical Services Department. The list of facilities has been updated to include pitches, cemeteries, and the Council offices on Killymeal Road, Dungannon (old Breakthru Building). Cllr McNamee requested that all designs, list of facilities, settlement signs etc is presented to the working group before any installation is carried out.</p>	
8.0	Update from Irish Language Officer team	
	<p>Seán Antón Ó Conalláin provided an update from the Irish Language Officer team.</p> <p>Under RML Bursary scheme, 105 complete applications were received, two were withdrawn at an early stage and one was deemed ineligible due to receipt of a LÍOFA bursary from DfC. In total 102 students are being recommended for bursaries totalling £30,000. This is similar to 2022 when 100 bursaries were awarded. At present there are approximately 50 payments going through Finance to be paid with the rest being processed soon.</p>	

The Irish Language Officer Team are using the website Submit for the first time this year and very much praise and enjoy it's simplicity for access to data.

Ógras Dhún Geanainn – Irish Language Youth Club, Pilot Scheme under direction of Fóram na n-Óg went well, 35 registered and promising for future development, thanks to Gaelscoil Aodha Rua for facilitating.

Cairdeas Eoghain in Cookstown are now providing teenage summer camp provision which is welcomed due to the possibility of some pupils not getting placed on Gaeltacht Colleges this summer due to increased demand.

The 'Dúchas' primary school language scheme was a great success last academic year with 20 participating schools taking part over 6 weeks culminating in Primary School Céilí during Seachtain na Gaeilge, Seán Antón hopes to run a similar scheme this year after Christmas with more focus on language and song and less on dance, with 10 participating schools to ease access for tutors.

HOTON Irish language classes which were known as 'Bootcamps' have now had their marketing realigned to be known as 'Teanglann Chnoc Uí Néill' 'Irish Language Learning Hub'. 110 registered between 3 levels and Year 1 and 2 of Ulster University Diploma, some classes are being held in Dungannon Library to help facilitate such large numbers. An Irish language media company are recording a short piece regarding them next week.

The Irish language diploma continues on Monday nights in The Burnavon from 6:00 – 9:00pm with steady numbers, we thank Ulster University for their ongoing support and cooperation.

24 applications were received for Irish Language Activity Funding, total spend of £50,000 for a wide range of diverse programmes, a relevant document titled 'Report for Bursary and Activity Funding 23-24' was shared with Council in recent months.

Irish language and bilingual tours of HOTON are now available upon request.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024 will be marketed as part of the Mid Ulster Arts Festival.

'Gaeilge Lár Uladh' Facebook page has an ever-increasing reach, thanks to Comms for sharing relevant posts to MUDC Corporate Facebook page.

	<p>'Ár tDeanga Roinnte' is a series of workshops provided by Conradh na Gaeilge with those from the PUL community to help ease access to and learning of the Irish language. We as a Council hope to facilitate these workshops within the Council area, initial contact is being made at present.</p> <p>'Céad Míle Fáilte' is a series of workshops provided by Conradh na Gaeilge with those residents who have come from overseas to live here to help inform and educate them of the cultural significance of the Irish language including some basic lessons, it is hoped that this will help enhance and promote cultural cooperation throughout the District.</p> <p>Both Cairde Uí Néill and Glór na Speiríní are developing plans for Irish language centres in their districts, and officers are working with them to support them, and will keep members informed of any developments.</p>	
9.0	A.O.B.	
	<p>Councillor McNamee asked for views regarding the provision of bilingual content on the MUDC website. It was noted that it could be improved and that it was difficult to interact with website. Councillor McNamee proposed that officers discuss the potential for development and report back to the next meeting.</p> <p>Deáglán Ó Doibhlin congratulated Seán Antón Ó Conalláin for winning 'An Duais Speisialta' in the 'Agallamh Beirte' competition at Oireachtas na Gaeilge 2023.</p> <p>Councillor McNamee proposed that meeting for this group were held quarterly. Any additional meetings in between would be accommodated if required.</p>	Irish Language Officers
Meeting concluded at 8.35pm		

Reports of Working Groups: Finalised Reports of Working Groups should be forwarded to Democratic Services on committees@midulstercouncil.org with a cover report to be scheduled on the agenda of the next available relevant committee meeting

