

## REPORT TO BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 18 APRIL 2024

### ABERDEENSHIRE DRAFT BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE PLAN 2024-2030

#### 1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 The Scottish Government published the [National British Sign Language \(BSL\) Plan 2023-2029](#) on 6 November 2023 (“the national plan”). It is a requirement of the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 that public bodies, including Aberdeenshire Council, produce and publish a local plan supporting the long-term goals in the national plan within six months of the publication of the national plan.

#### 1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider and comment and agree the draft Aberdeenshire British Sign Language Plan attached to this report; and

1.2.2 Agree that, subject to any amendments requested by Committee, the Plan is published on the Council website in English and BSL.

#### 2 Decision Making Route

2.1 The draft local plan, attached as **Appendix 1**, has been considered by Area Committees and Education & Children’s Services (ECS) Committee. Feedback from Area Committees, ECS and the Chair and Vice Chair of Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board together with responses from the Service is attached as **Appendix 2**.

#### 3 Discussion

3.1 The draft plan has been developed collaboratively with Education & Children’s Services, specifically Sensory Support Service, Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), Live Life Aberdeenshire, Transportation, Elections, Legal & People, and Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership.

3.2 Consultation and engagement has taken place online using the Engage Aberdeenshire platform. The online consultation was shared with BSL users through SignVine, a social media page for the deaf community in Aberdeenshire and through the SeeHear strategy group.

3.3 Face to face engagement was carried out at the [Deaf Club](#) run by [North East Sensory Services](#) in Aberdeen on 13 January 2024 and 12 February 2024. Feedback from engagement is attached as **Appendix 3**.

3.4 The draft plan has been amended to take account of feedback from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board.

3.4 Progress on delivery of the local plan will be monitored and reported using the mechanisms in place for Equality Mainstreaming reporting.

#### 4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This report helps deliver all Council Priorities.

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Learning for Life Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Climate Change Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economic Growth Infrastructure and public assets

4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		x	
Staffing		x	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland	IIA attached as Appendix 4		
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing	IIA attached as Appendix 4		
Climate Change and Sustainability		x	
Health and Wellbeing	IIA attached as Appendix 4		
Town Centre First		x	

4.3 There are no staffing or financial implications as a result of the draft plan. Actions will be carried out within existing budgets and resources.

4.4 An integrated impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as **Appendix 4** and there are positive impacts as follows –

- Equalities – age (younger and older), disability
- Children's Rights & Wellbeing
- Health Inequalities

4.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level - [Corporate Risk Register](#)

- ACORP002 – Changes in government policy, legislation and regulation
- ACORP006 – Reputation management (including social media)

## **5 Scheme of Governance**

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section B.1.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance to consider, comment on, make recommendations to Services and any other appropriate Committee on any matter or policy which impacts its Area.

### **Rob Simpson**

Director of Business Services

Report prepared by Fiona McCallum, Strategy & Innovation Manager  
26 March 2023

### **List of Appendices –**

- Appendix 1 Draft British Sign Language Plan 2024-2030
- Appendix 2: Feedback from Committees
- Appendix 3: Feedback from engagement
- Appendix 4: Integrated Impact Assessment