

## **The draft National Plan for Gaelic**

### **response from Alastair Valentine**

This is a most interesting draft, teeming with ideas for the preservation and enhancement of the language. I was pleased to see that it is based on and will continue to be informed by linguistic theory and research.

#### **The Vision**

I agree with the substance in this section and I strongly endorse the point referring to other languages in Scotland, 'indigenous or immigrant'.

As a learner I was surprised that no mention is made here of the need to expand the number of learners.

#### **Action Areas/ Sectoral Projects**

Proposals relating to these sections seem to be very appropriate. Under ' Cultural Activity' mention might have been made of the important role of Gaelic music, especially song (solo, group and choral) and the contribution of the local and national mods.

#### **Other sections**

I am generally in agreement with the proposals in the :

twenty themes and their priorities  
the identification of the primary players.

#### **Structure of the draft plan**

Unfortunately, I found the structure of the draft very difficult to follow. The various sections and sub-sections do not appear to relate well to each other, as there is insufficient explanatory narrative to help the reader follow the line of thought throughout the draft.

For example:

\* The links between the sections ' The Vision', ' The Mission ', 'Language Planning' and ' Action Areas ' seem to me to be unclear. I also found the use of terminology such as '5 action areas', '6 priorities',

'4 aspects' and '20 themes' very confusing.

\* The section on ' Action Areas' entails endless lists of priorities and without much guidance from a linking narrative, the reader may get rather lost in the maze of bullet points.

\* I found difficulty in understand the rationale for including the separate section 'National Gaelic Education Strategy' (with yet more pages of bullet points) Was some of this not already included in the Action Area on 'Education'? If more detail were required, could it not have been included in a separate Appendix?

Otherwise, I am very content with the substance of this draft. It displays comprehensive and sophisticated understanding of the challenges confronting Gaelic and the means to forging a path ahead for the future development of the language.

*A. Valentine*

Alastair Valentine

15 Allanton Lea

HAMILTON, ML3 8ET

18th. September, 2006