

# Manx Language Strategy 2022- 2032

# Strateysh son y Ghaelg 2022- 2032



*Manx Language For All  
Gaelg son dy chooilley pheiaigh*



*"The work that has been done over the last few years has been really inspiring, particularly the change in attitude towards Manx and seeing how the language has been revitalised from the ground up."*

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*“Learning Manx has grounded me physically and connected me emotionally to the island, providing me with a deeper sense of belonging.”*

**Some thoughts from our politicians      Fockle ny ghaa veih nyn politickeyryn**

We are delighted to welcome the second joint Manx Language Strategy, and hope that you will join with us in supporting its delivery. Developed by Manx language providers with the support of members of the Manx speaking community, its inclusive message of ‘Manx language for all’ aims to ensure the growth and sustainability of our language over the next ten years and beyond.

Much has been achieved over the past five years, most notably a higher profile for Manx, both nationally and internationally. We are delighted to see public and private sectors embrace the language and know that they are part of its continuing story. Internationally, the Isle of Man has now signed up to Part III of the Council of Europe Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which is a remarkable show of commitment to the development of the language across different spheres.

The Manx language helps bring a deep sense of identity and creativity into our education systems, builds networks and communities, encourages lifelong learning, and contributes to the economy. It is a unique cultural asset that helps make the Isle of Man a special place to live, with a powerful cultural legacy to enjoy, and something in which we all can take great pride.

This is an exciting time for the Manx language, and we look forward to seeing the community coming together with a sense of cooperation and collaboration to allow it to continue to flourish.



**Hon Julie Edge MHK**  
 Minister for Education, Sport and Culture  
 Shirveishagh Ynsee, Spoyrt as Cultoor



**Hon Chris Thomas MHK**  
 Minister for Infrastructure  
 Shirveishagh Bun-troggalys  
 Chair, Culture Vannin  
 Caairliagh, Culture Vannin

## INTRODUCTION

## GOAN FOSLEE

It is wonderful to be able to set out the second ever joint Manx Language Strategy, which builds on the first plan and its central ethos of 'Manx language for all'.

Much of our work has been on how the Manx language community can work together most effectively, coordinating activity to avoid duplication, and focusing on the strategic support needed to develop the use of Manx. A lot has changed in five years, too, mainly as a result of successful educational policies which have built upon established grassroots success. We have seen an increase in Government departments, businesses and third sector organisations recognising the impact of the language for their brand identity, using the language in their marketing, and on answering the phone and welcoming people.

Our Interim Report 2017-2021 relating to the first action plan can be found online here: [www.learnmanx.com/jeebin](http://www.learnmanx.com/jeebin)

Some highlights include:

- More children raised bilingually, with three playgroups alongside two thriving bilingual nurseries run by Mooinjer Veggey.
- An increase in numbers with 1,842 pupils now attending Manx lessons in school, supported by the Manx Language Unit.
- Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh during the 2021-2022 academic year, a school which provides high quality primary education through the medium of Manx.
- Celebrating 120 years of Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh (Manx Language Society) in 2019.
- Hosting the first ever visit of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in April 2018.
- Signing up to Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.
- Hosting the ministerial meeting of the British Irish Council IML work sector in 2019.
- Developing a central database of resources 'Stoyr-fys'.
- Academic research into Manx blossoming, with exciting and award-winning doctoral theses and papers, and a post-doc appointment relating to Manx.
- Seeing the development of The Manx Corpus Project, that has started the task of documenting, transcribing and providing side-by-side English translations of the wealth of historical materials for Man, and making them freely available in a searchable format online – around 1.5 million Manx words have already been transcribed.

- Greater connection with online platforms in response to the Covid-19 global pandemic, paving the way for blended learning approaches across all levels of education and learning, particularly adult learners. The re-design of learnmanx.com lies at the heart of this.
- Gaelg21, a month-long celebration of Manx, which took place in summer 2021 and attracted several hundred attendees from complete beginners through to fluent speakers with an engaging programme of events and projects.

Our focus for this ten-year strategy is again on awareness and education, on working together to make the Manx language accessible to everyone, everywhere.

Since the onset of the global pandemic, online classes and meetings have become increasingly popular and have proven to increase accessibility to Manx learners and speakers wherever they find themselves in the world. We always believed that the intrinsic beauty and history of the language itself would have appeal for people beyond our shores, and this is proving to be true.

This strategy supports:

- 2001 Education Act which states that ‘the curriculum shall include the provision for the teaching of Manx Gaelic and the culture and history of the Isle of Man’ (Section 8/2b)
- National Development Strategy for Culture and the Arts 2017-2027
- the place of culture and language within the prestigious UNESCO Biosphere designation, which was confirmed in 2016.
- Isle of Man Government: Our Island Plan, building a secure, vibrant and sustainable future. We acknowledge and advocate the language’s role in encouraging lifelong learning and in creating a distinctive voice for the Island internationally. The Manx language promotes an inclusive sense of identity that fosters community belonging for all who live in or identify with the Isle of Man.

This strategy sees an increased focus on training and advocacy, the development of new resources, and the exploration of ambitions for further education provision. We want to grow the number of speakers and learners of Manx to 5,000 by 2032. We will work to support Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which challenges us to make Manx relevant to all aspects of society and life. Our action plan is a living one, and we will update it and add in new actions as we respond to the language community’s changing needs.

Learning and using Manx not only has a positive impact on personal well-being, but also provides economic benefits, helps to positively promote the Isle of Man internationally and strengthens our cultural and national identity. We are excited and committed to continue to work together to take the development of the Manx language forward in ways that are inclusive and accessible to all.

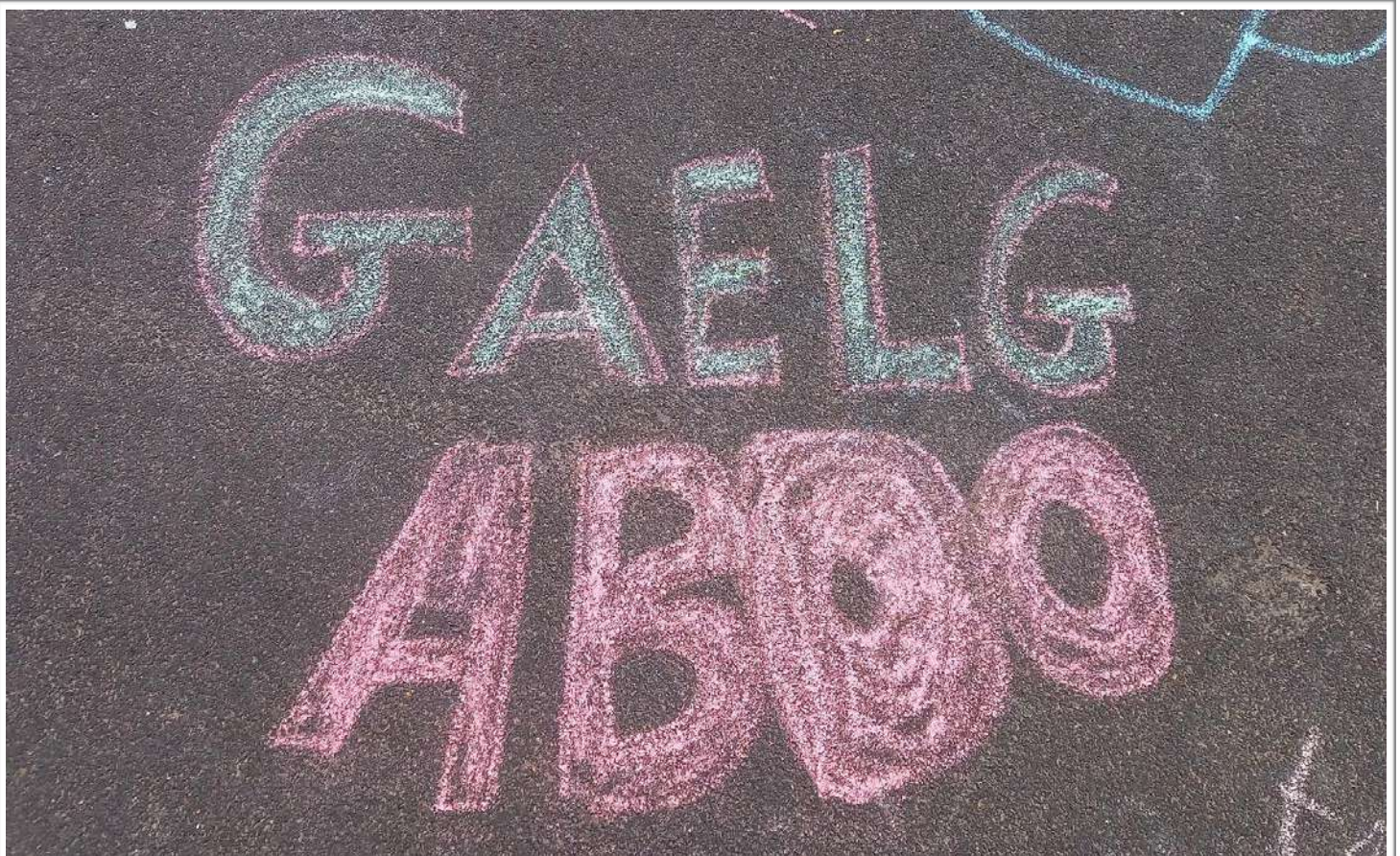


## THE MANX LANGUAGE

## YN GHAE LG

The Manx language is indigenous to the Isle of Man and its very structure holds the story of our Island. Although it is small in terms of its number of speakers, its impact on worldwide efforts to protect and promote endangered languages is huge. The Isle of Man is now looked to by many as an example of best practice.

As a result of well-organised community-based initiatives coupled with targeted Isle of Man Government support, the language has seen an upsurge of interest in recent years. The Manx language is available for all ages to enjoy, within nurseries, schools, adult classes and the wider community. It is also a unique identifier for the business community and for the Isle of Man as a whole. The Manx language is one of the Island's most important cultural assets; it is an Island success story and something in which we all can take great pride.



## MANX LANGUAGE NETWORK MEMBERS

## OLTEYNYN

'Jeebin'- The Manx Language Network is a coordinating body which aims to share and develop ideas on the future of the Manx language. The body was established by the Department of Education, Sports and Culture and Culture Vannin in Autumn 2015. Jeebin works together for the best interests of the Manx language, developing ideas and targets within the Manx Language Strategy. It provides an umbrella to promote the language in general, as well as to coordinate community-led events like the Cooish Manx Language Festival.

Jeebin offers opportunities to share work, plans and ideas so there is effective coordination between teams and organisations. This avoids duplication, maximising the benefit for the language. Jeebin can help demonstrate how government and other organisations work together, providing a stronger voice.

Jeebin Members all work for the language in some capacity, but they are also part of the wider Manx language community in a range of voluntary capacities. Manx language charities and voluntary organisations have always been at the heart of revitalising Manx. Jeebin welcomes ideas to feed into the Manx Language Strategy and its action plan and you can do that by contacting any of the Jeebin members or their organisations.

### **Bunscoil Ghaelgagh (BG)**

Manx medium primary school run by DESC and supported by Mooinjer Veggey.

### **Culture Vannin (CV)**

Government funded charity (Manx Heritage Foundation), which supports and promotes Manx culture, including the Manx language. It is also responsible for the Gaelic Broadcasting Committee and Coonceil ny Gaelgey.

### **Department of Education, Sport and Culture Education Advisory Service (DESC EAS)**

The primary role of DESC EAS is to support and develop learning in the Island's pre-schools, schools and University College Isle of Man.

### **Department of Education, Sport and Culture Manx Language Unit (DESC MLU)**

Peripatetic Manx language primary and secondary provision, including GCSE (TCG) and A-level (ATG) examinations.



### Manx National Heritage (MNH)

The Island's statutory heritage agency, which manages a significant proportion of the Island's physical heritage and holds land, property, archives, artwork, library and museum collections in trust for the nation. Its collections include our earliest written manuscripts in Manx as well as rare sound recordings of some of the last native Manx speakers.

### Mooijer Veggey (MV)

Educational charity which runs playgroups, two Nurseries, supports the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh and supports parents raising their children through Manx. MV aims to provide education with or through the Manx language, giving children the advantages of learning a second language at an early age.

## STAKEHOLDERS

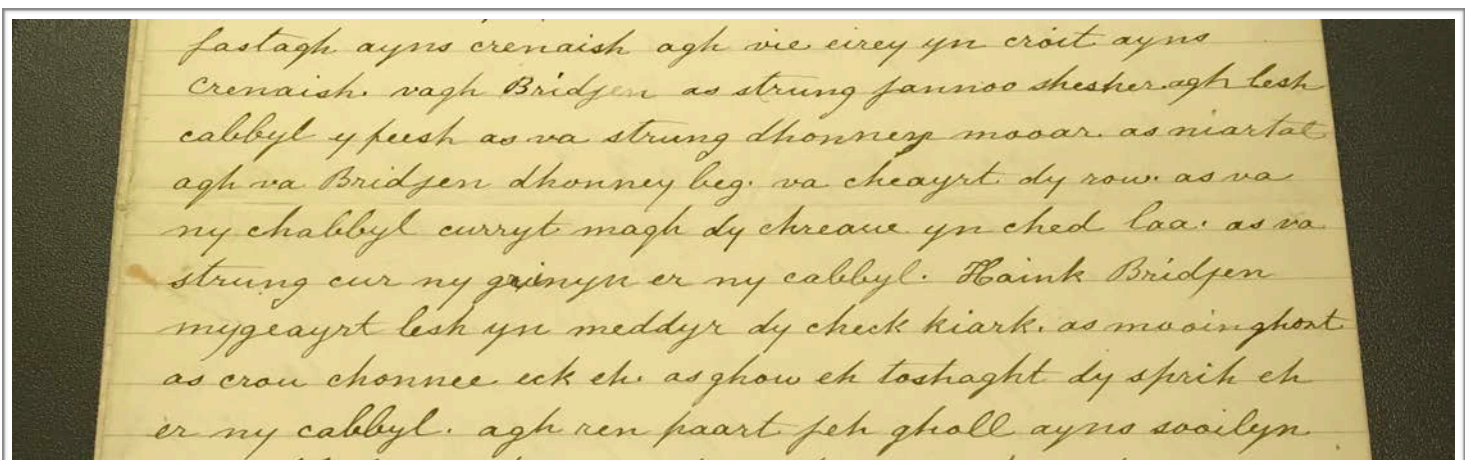
## PARTEEYN

### The Manx Language community & wider support (PARTEEYN)

The Manx Language Strategy has been prepared with the support of the Manx Language community in ways that are appropriate to their own strategic and forward-planning.

The longest running organisation is Yn Çheshaght Ghailckagh (YÇG) Manx Language Society, established 1899, who work to promote and support the language through lessons, publications and events.

The language is supported by a range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors.







# THEME 1: APPROPRIATE & ACCESSIBLE RESOURCES

## COOISH 1: STOO-YNSEE COOIE TA RY GHEDDYN DY H-AASHAGH

### Strategic Commitment

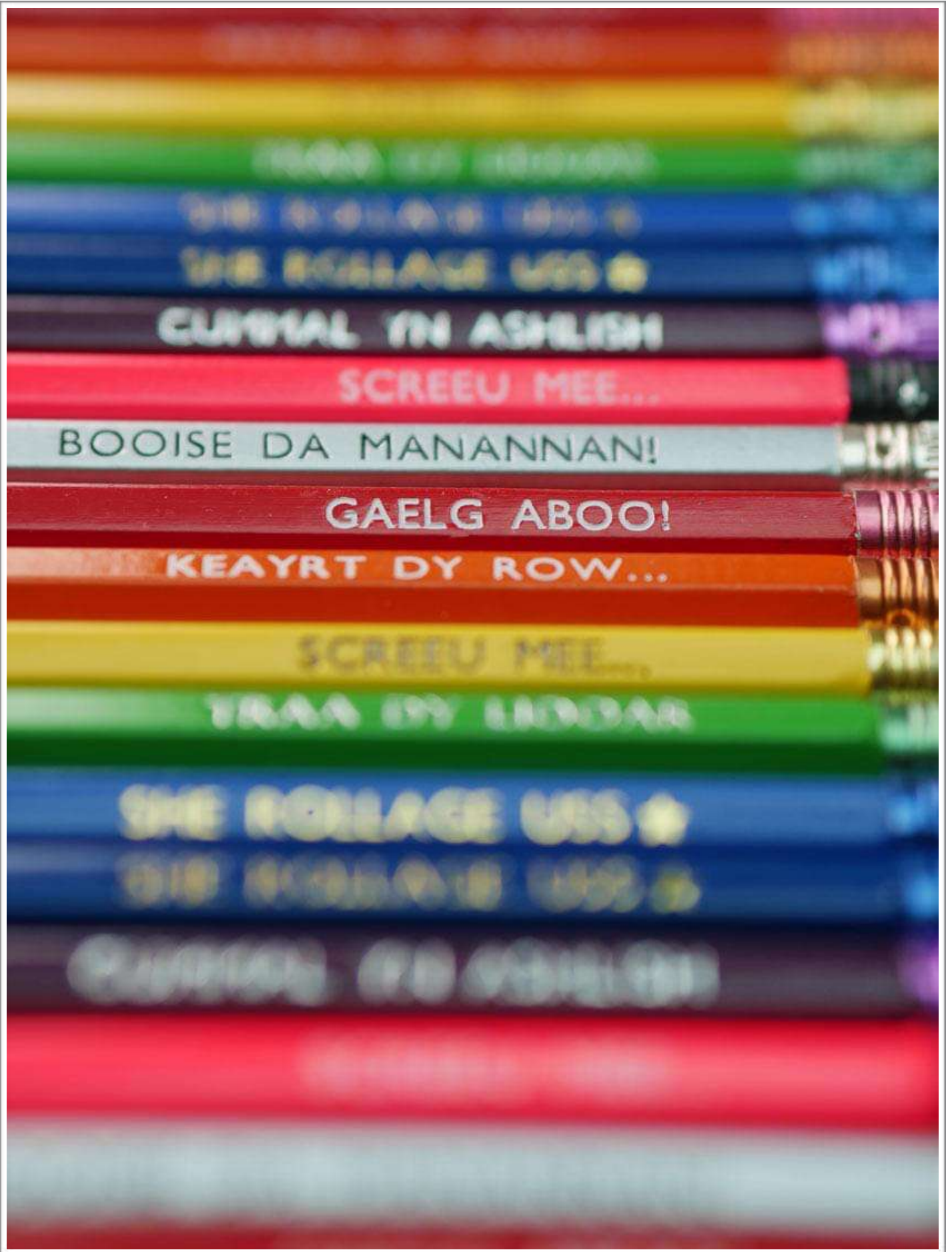
### Dean strateyshagh

- We will encourage the development, publication and promotion of new resources.
- We will ensure any developed resources are coordinated, appropriate and of good quality, across all ages and stages.
- We will work to ensure greater digitisation of Manx Language resources at all levels.

Strategic Aims	Strategic Objectives / Actions
<p>1.1 Greater digitisation of Manx Language resources</p>	<p>1.1.1 To make available 700 original and translated works to the Corpus</p> <p>1.1.2 To produce a forward plan for the digitisation of the Manx language items in the library and archives collections, including criteria for assessing priority items based upon significance and usefulness to the Manx speaking community</p>
<p>1.2 A well promoted and efficient translation service operated by Culture Vannin with the expertise of Cooinceil ny Gaelgey</p>	<p>1.2.1 To publicise and promote the free translation online at targeted times and complete an annual mail shot to promote the translation service</p> <p>1.2.3 Jeebin representatives to ensure the inclusion of the link to the translation service on their websites</p> <p>1.2.4 To ensure all MNH staff are aware of this service and how to point people to it</p>
<p>1.3 Quality educational language resources from preschool to secondary.</p>	<p>1.3.1 To produce a texting app for Manx to ensure Manx can be used with modern technology</p> <p>1.3.2 To publish levels 3 and 4 from Culture Vannin’s adult Manx course ‘Loayr Gaelg’</p> <p>1.3.3 To determine a suitable host site for Stoyr-fys database of resources to enable it to be kept up to date and editable by all partners</p> <p>1.3.4 To launch the MLU’s new website</p> <p>1.3.5 To support the creation of museum education resources through making existing resources available in a format easily converted to Manx</p>

<p>1.3 (contd) Quality educational language resources from preschool to secondary.</p>	<p>1.3.6 To work with Manx education providers to identify which museum education resources are needed in a bilingual format</p>
	<p>1.3.7 To develop up to 25 resources annually to support bilingual education at nursery and primary school and in the home</p>
	<p>1.3.8 To expand MV website to provide resources and support to assist parents whose children are learning Manx or parents raising their children through Manx</p>
	<p>1.3.9 To create a bilingual play-ground games pack for primary schools with accompanying resources</p>
<p>1.4 Learn Manx.com as the online hub for the language</p>	<p>1.3.10 To endeavour annually to produce original digital content in Manx covering subjects such as maths, history and science, that would also be suitable for intermediate and advanced adult learners</p>
	<p>1.4.1 To add a minimum of 25 new resources to LearnManx.com per year</p>
	<p>1.4.2 To do one dedicated promotion drive for the website per year</p>
<p>1.5 A well coordinated publication programme</p>	<p>1.4.3 To ensure webhost of LearnManx is kept up to date with online developments from other organisations and learnmanx.com is linked on all other members website</p>
	<p>1.5.1 Culture Vannin to inform Jeebin members when they are creating new publications</p>
	<p>1.5.2 To encourage members of the Manx Language community to share with Jeebin any plans for translations or book projects that they are undertaking independently</p>
<p>1.6 Effective branding and social media for Manx</p>	<p>1.5.3 MNH will continue to collect new publications in Manx and will raise awareness amongst creators and publishers of its policy to collect items</p>
	<p>1.6.1 To create a visual resource bank of high-quality, copyright-free images that can be used by anyone</p>
	<p>1.6.2 To develop and deliver an ongoing programme promoting the benefits of bilingual education to parents</p>
	<p>1.6.3 To provide regular updates on MV social media sites</p>
	<p>1.6.4 To provide regular updates on BG social media sites</p>





## THEME 2: MANX AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF NATIONAL & CULTURAL IDENTITY

### COOISH 2: GAELG MYR AYRN SCANSHOIL JEH ENNEY

### ASHOONAGH AS CULTOOROIL

#### Strategic Commitment

#### Dean strateyshagh

- We will work together to ensure that Manx language continues to be visible, inclusive and accessible.
- We will promote Manx as a valued part of our distinctive, contemporary, cultural and national identity.
- We will ensure that the advantages of bilingualism are recognised.

#### Strategic Aims

#### Strategic Objectives / Actions

2.1 Appropriate awareness training relevant to language and culture	2.1.1 To open up annual DESC Introduction to the IOM Secondary Teacher Training to all government departments
	2.1.2 To extend annual DESC Introduction to the IOM Secondary Teacher Training to include specific Manx Language provision
	2.1.3 To develop and run online taster courses for Manx
	2.1.4 To continue to provide, at least annually, Manx awareness training for all new members of MNH staff and support and encourage use of Manx
2.2 An accessible advocacy toolkit for the Manx language	2.2.1 To promote Cum Seose y Ghaelg (advocacy toolkit) on learnmanx.com
	2.2.2 To add video content to Cum Seose y Ghaelg
	2.2.3 To promote Cum Seose y Ghaelg via Manx awareness training for MNH staff
2.3 A greater use of Manx in public life	2.3.1 To encourage the public to connect with Manx through a series of projects regarding place names
	2.3.2 To provide language training and awareness for Tynwald Members
	2.3.3 To coordinate the annual Cooish Manx Language Festival with the Manx language community

2.3 (contd) A greater use of Manx in public life	2.3.4 To support and contribute events for the annual Cooish Manx Language Festival
	2.3.5 To engage with the Chamber of Commerce to improve the visibility of Manx
	2.3.6 To increase the use of bilingual signage in schools, DESC Divisions and Thie Slieau Whallian in line with Tynwald policy
	2.3.7 To incorporate Manx in new MNH displays, exhibitions, publications, and marketing materials
2.4 Actively support compliance with Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages	2.4.1 To translate at least one piece of legislation into Manx per year and publish online
	2.4.2 To host an annual briefing for political members on Part III in order to encourage compliance, support and participation across government
	2.4.3 To write a report from Jeebin every 2 years relating to the Manx Language Strategy
	2.4.4 To develop a new interactive online reporting system in order to monitor compliance with and progress towards the articles of Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages





## THEME 3: MANX FOR THE MANX SPEAKING COMMUNITY COOISH 3: GAELG SON Y THEAY GAELGAGH

### Strategic Commitment

Dean strateyshagh

- We will support the social use of the Manx language at home, work, in schools and educational settings and in free time.
- We will work to ensure the language is inclusive and reflects contemporary society.
- We will support parents who raise their children as Manx language speakers, and those who send their children to Manx medium education, and develop opportunities for social use of the Manx language.
- We will promote good communication between language groups both nationally and internationally.

### Strategic Aims

### Strategic Objectives / Actions

<p>3.1 Community use of Manx in an informal setting</p>	3.1.1 To continue to provide a regular Learn Manx newsletter to which everyone can contribute
	3.1.2 To create and co-ordinate language events
	3.1.3 To promote the community use of Manx via regular social media
	3.1.4 To have a coordinated celebration of the Manx Language in 2026
	3.1.5 To encourage established festivals and events to use the language in their promotional material
	3.1.6 To deliver at least two events from the MNH public programme through Manx annually
<p>3.2 Manx is accessible and relevant to all individuals</p>	3.2.1 To promote the language in accordance with the Equality Act 2017
<p>3.3 Good support networks for parents whose children are, or could be, learning Manx.</p>	3.3.1 To continue to offer Manx language classes for adults that coincide with school drop-off times

<p>3.3 (contd) Good support networks for parents whose children are, or could be, learning Manx.</p>	<p>3.3.2 To give access to the content of curriculum lessons online through MLU Website</p>
	<p>3.3.3 To arrange at least three community initiatives per year for the whole Manx speaking community</p>
	<p>3.3.4 To encourage Manx speakers to assist with Bunscoill Ghaelgagh events</p>
	<p>3.3.5 To develop and share a new vision for Bunscoill Ghaelgagh that will incorporate the needs of the children, BG staff, parents and wider Manx language community.</p>
	<p>3.3.6 To provide new resources for parents and children available through the MV website</p>
	<p>3.3.7 To establish Possan Cloie playgroups for each day of the week, Island wide, to promote the use of Manx to new families and to aid MV and BG recruitment</p>
	<p>3.4 Effective publishing and broadcasting that encourages the creative use of the language through all media.</p>
<p>3.4.2 To develop at least three creative commissions in each five year period</p>	
<p>3.4.3 To contribute regularly to Manx language broadcasting with creative use of digital technology</p>	
<p>3.4.4 To regularly post work from students and information about the broader Bunscoill Ghaelgagh community on social media</p>	
<p>3.4.5 To research methods of good bilingual interpretation that can be effectively implemented both in MNH galleries and online</p>	
<p>3.5 Use of Manx in non-school settings for young people</p>	<p>3.5.1 To deliver Doolane Ghaelgagh and Aundyr Verree Dhone, which award children and adults for completion of tasks associated with greater use and development of Manx</p>
<p>3.6 Work together with other language communities globally to share best practice.</p>	<p>3.6.1 To coordinate a minority languages webinar within the next five years</p>
	<p>3.6.2 To host or contribute to one international language conference every 5 years</p>
	<p>3.6.3 Teachers to meet annually with contemporaries working with other minority languages in order to share best practice and ideas</p>
	<p>3.6.4 To contribute to webinar/conferences in other countries</p>

<p>3.6 (contd) Work together with other language communities globally to share best practice.</p>	<p>3.6.5 To engage with a coordinated/planned visits programme for political and cultural visitors to the island</p> <p>3.6.6 To promote Cum Seose y Ghaelg with national and international researchers and journalists</p>
<p>3.7 Strengthen links between Manx speaking organisations</p>	<p>3.7.1 To share the digital Jeebin 'whats on' annually via post/printed media</p> <p>3.7.2 To utilise Manx speakers for Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, volunteers to assist from short term to long term</p> <p>3.7.3 To organise a meeting for third sector organisations, groups and Manx speakers to consider development of closer ties and collaborative approaches to language development</p>
<p>3.8 A wider understanding of Jeebin – the Manx Language Network and its aims</p>	<p>3.8.1 To ensure that information about Jeebin is easily accessible on the Learn Manx website</p> <p>3.8.2 All Jeebin members to ensure that Jeebin is referenced on their organisations website</p> <p>3.8.3 To host an annual event to share the work of Jeebin with the wider community</p>





## THEME 4: LIFELONG LEARNING OF MANX FROM EARLY TO LATER YEARS

### COOISH 4: YNSAGH FUD BEA VOISH LHIANNOOAGHT DYS SHENN-EASH

#### Strategic Commitment

#### Dean strateyshagh

- We will ensure that anyone, of any age, anywhere, has the opportunity to learn and speak the Manx language and that the language’s role in community cohesion is recognised.
- We will support the development of a clear pathway and training programme for the recruitment and retention of language practitioners in educational settings.
- We will work to increase the numbers of speakers and learners of Manx to 5000 by 2032.
- We will explore ways to grow provision for the language.

#### Strategic Aims

#### Strategic Objectives / Actions

<p>4.1 More sustainable recruitment, retention and training of practitioners for the Manx language.</p>	<p>4.1.1 To make available professional development courses for teachers of Manx</p> <p>4.1.2 To develop a programme for sharing best practice with other minority language professionals</p> <p>4.1.3 To share quality learning materials used in schools &amp; nurseries across education providers &amp; adult learners</p> <p>4.1.4 To investigate funding pathways for the secondment of practitioners to learn Manx specifically linked to language teaching</p>
<p>4.2 High quality language training for Manx speakers in professional environments such as teaching and translation.</p>	<p>4.2.1 To cost and plan for Tertiary level education modules in the Manx language</p> <p>4.2.2 To publish a schools comprehensive grammar programme</p> <p>4.2.3 To create opportunities for adult language learners to spend time in schools via placements (teachers, ESOs, people training ) or as volunteers</p> <p>4.2.4 To support MNH staff who wish to learn Manx</p> <p>4.2.5 To develop and run online taster courses for parents interested in using Manx with their children</p>
<p>4.3 Increase the number of people actively engaged in the language</p>	<p>4.3.1 To increase the percentage of pupils who are learning Manx in both primary and secondary schools</p>

<p>4.3 (contd) Increase the number of people actively engaged in the language</p>	<p>4.3.2 To ensure that all Manx language class opportunities are regularly promoted to parents of children in Manx medium education.</p>
	<p>4.3.3 To encourage new parents of Bunscoil Ghaelgagh and Mooinjer Veggey pupils to get involved in the Manx language – attend classes, organise events, fund raise, join committees.</p>
	<p>4.3.4 To develop opportunities for young adults to use Manx in adult life</p>
	<p>4.3.5 To increase opportunities for Manx speakers to use Manx in the workplace</p>
<p>4.4 Clearly defined learning pathways for Manx speaking children and adults</p>	<p>4.4.1 To create a pathways guidance document for transition, from early years through to secondary, for Manx speaking children.</p>
	<p>4.4.2 To ensure that adult learners can attend clearly progressive, levelled Manx courses offered by Culture Vannin</p>
<p>4.5 Ensure best practice language acquisition for children and adults</p>	<p>4.5.1 To obtain annual feedback from adult CV Manx learners</p>
	<p>4.5.2 To arrange training opportunities for language practitioners to remain up to date with the latest guidance for learners’ language acquisition</p>
<p>4.6 Awareness of funding opportunities for the language</p>	<p>4.6.1 To include the link for the Index of Charities in the Isle of Man in the Learn Manx newsletter once every 2 years</p>
	<p>4.6.2 To encourage referencing of the Manx Language Strategy in applications to Culture Vannin</p>
	<p>4.6.3 To regularly share news of completed language grants, to inspire others</p>
	<p>4.6.4 MV to continue to investigate revenue streams for funding</p>
<p>4.7 Language access for elderly care home residents</p>	<p>4.7.1 To create and run a pilot scheme of language taster sessions in residential homes</p>

4.8  
Provision of Manx Language  
'Hub' Primary schools

4.8.1 To develop and implement an action plan for the establishment and launch of a Manx Language Charter for Schools

4.8.2 To develop and implement an action plan to set up five regional language hub schools linked to the Manx language Charter for Schools

4.9  
Explore a business case for a second Manx medium school

4.9 1 To develop a costing and options paper



*"If we don't keep Manx alive now, there will be no language in the future for people to study and enjoy."*



**Final Version Agreed**

Developed by Chrissy Callaghan & Jo Callister (DESC EAS) Phil Gawne (MV) Ruth Keggin Gell & Dr Breesha Maddrell (CV) Julie Matthews (BG) Rob Teare (DESC MLU) and Nicola Tooms (MNH) together with the Manx Language Community (Parteeyn)