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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**  
**CUSTOMER SUPPORT SERVICES**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**10 OCTOBER**

regard to NHS Highland (and the HSCP), we have agreed to coordinate our activities and reporting while keeping the plans separate.

- 3.5 Discussions took place with officers from Live Argyll, NHS, HSCP, Education, Employability, Governance and Law, and Community Justice during the development of the draft plan. Actions have been agreed by the officers who will be responsible for their delivery.
- 3.6 In preparing the plan, we encountered a number of barriers, not least is the identification of our Deaf community within Argyll and Bute, which appears to be small and dispersed. Unlike other areas, we do not have a Deaf Club or other organisation which can be used as a focus for consultation activity.
- 3.7 The 2011 Census reported that there were 152 people aged 3 and over in the area who used BSL at home (0.2% of the total). While the 2022 Census indicates that there are 2,137 individuals aged 3 and over who can use British Sign Language in the area (2.5%), the questions are not directly comparable and the 2,137 figure is highly unlikely to reflect everyday use of the language.
- 3.8 We are required by the legislation to consult about our plan with BSL users and tactile BSL users. To meet this requirement, we carried out a short, online consultation on the draft plan. The plan and consultation questions were made available to respondents as a downloadable Word document and in a BSL translation video uploaded to YouTube, with links to the video provided from the consultation page set up on the

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

### 4.1

British Sign Language Plan 2024-2030. The plan is appended to the report for approval.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Policy           None arising directly from this report.

5.2 Financial       None arising directly from this report.

5.3 Legal           The creation of the British Sign Language Plan is required to meet legislation.

5.4 HR             None arising directly from this report.

5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:

5.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics: We are required to produce a BSL plan. This relates to the protected characteristic of disability. An equalities and socio-economic impact assessment has been completed in respect of the plan and the link is appended to this report.

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