

# Manx Language Strategy 2017-2021

# Strateysh son y Ghaelg 2017-2021



## Manx Language Network Jeebin

Manx Language For All  
Gaelg son dy chooilley pheigh

*"Thinking back over the years I can't remember a time when there was this much excitement and involvement with reviving Manx Gaelic, and I think it's a great service to the Island now, and also for posterity."*

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*“Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere; learning Manx isn’t just about language it’s about history, learning about the places we live, understanding why things are done the way they are and most importantly a pride and identity of being part of the Isle of Man.”*

## MINISTERS' FOREWORD

## ROIE-RAA

In many ways, the Manx language is one of the Island's success stories, both nationally and internationally.

Our Manx medium school, Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, continues to go from strength to strength and, through the Manx Language Service, there are now well over 1,000 children learning Manx across all schools. With more adults learning Manx, too, we are seeing an increased use of the language in a wide variety of contexts. The success of the Manx language attracts international interest and helps us articulate our Island story in new and innovative ways.

At the heart of this new strategy is the ethos 'Manx language for all' – working together, and partnering with the community, we hope to broaden the appeal of Manx, ensuring growth and sustainability in years to come. This work links directly to 'Our Island: A Special Place to Live and Work' and to the importance of promoting and supporting our national heritage, culture and language at home and around the world.

We hope that you will join with us in supporting the first cross-community Manx Language Strategy, developed by Manx language providers and members of the Manx speaking community in order to help shape and secure the future of Manx over the next 5 years.

Working together for our language, we can achieve so much.

Gura mie eu



**Hon Graham Cregeen MHK**

Minister for Education, Sports and Culture  
Shirveishagh Ynsee



**Hon Chris Thomas MHK**

Chair, Culture Vannin  
Caairliagh Culture Vannin

## INTRODUCTION

GOAN FOSLEE

This strategy sets out a five year plan for effective, coordinated support for the promotion and delivery of the Manx language, Yn Ghaelg, with a focus on awareness and education. It has been designed in line with the 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). It also supports the Programme for Government, ‘Our Island: a special place to live and work’ (2016-2021), in particular under the following guiding principles:

- Promoting lifelong learning that meets our social and economic needs
- Making government effective for all
- Maintaining our strong identity and international reputation
- Enabling people to live healthier lives

The strategy recognises the Isle of Man’s commitment to the Council of Europe Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and informs the Isle of Man’s reporting to that body, and to the British Irish Council’s work sector on Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-used Languages. Furthermore, this strategy supports the place of culture and language within the prestigious UNESCO Biosphere status, which was confirmed in 2016.

The five year plan will culminate in a celebratory ‘Year of the Manx Language’ in 2021.

## 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**

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.

**Bunscoil Ghaelgagh**

Manx medium primary school run by Mooinjer Veggey in partnership with DESC.

**Culture Vannin**

Government charity 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, Sports and Culture Education Improvement Service (DESC EIS)**

The primary role of DEC EIS is to support and develop learning in the Island's schools and University College Isle of Man.

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

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

**Mooinjer Veggey**

Educational charity offering pre-school and nursery education with Manx.

**KEY STAKEHOLDERS****PARTEEYN**

Key stakeholders will be invited to support the Manx Language Strategy in ways that are appropriate to their own strategic and forward-planning.

**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.

**Voluntary Sector**

The Manx language has a long history of support from individuals and organisations such as Caarjyn ny Gaelgey and Pobble, particularly in relation to teaching, publishing and awareness.

**Yn Çheshaght Ghailckagh (YÇG)**

Manx Language Society, established 1899, working to promote and support the language through lessons, publications and events.





Manx Language For All

Gaelg son dy chooilley pheagh



**THEME 1: APPROPRIATE & ACCESSIBLE RESOURCES**  
**COOISH 1: STOO-YNSEE COOIE TA RY GHEDDYN DY H-AASHAGH**

**Strategic Commitment**

**Dean strateyshagh**

- We will work to ensure resources are appropriate, accessible and of good quality.
- We will ensure any developed resources are coordinated so as to avoid duplication.

**Responsibility**

**Quoi nee shoh**

Bunscoill Ghaelgagh

DESC Manx Language Unit

Culture Vannin

Mooijer Veggey

DESC Education Improvement Service

*With support from Manx National Heritage and the voluntary sector*

**Key Performance Results**

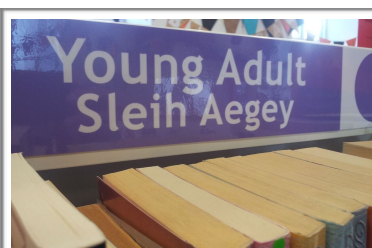
**Towseyn speideilys scanshoil**

- A clear set of priorities for resource development.
- A sense of coordination through physical and digital hubs.

**Enabling Actions**

**Obbyr dy chooilleeney shoh**

- To carry out an audit of existing resources.
- To develop a physical hub at Fairfield House cultural centre in St John's which will include a small lending library of Manx language books, a shop, and a 'hangout area' for speaking and learning Manx.
- To create a digital hub as a reworking of [www.learnmanx.com](http://www.learnmanx.com) to act as a gateway to access wikis, digital repositories grouped by age/level, database of ongoing translations, etc.
- To develop a coordinated approach to Manx language social media where possible.
- To raise the profile of Culture Vannin's translation service, which incorporates the expertise of Coonceil ny Gaelgey.



## 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 a valued part of our distinctive, contemporary, cultural and national identity, and that the advantages of bilingualism are recognised.

### Responsibility

### Quoi nee shoh

Bunscoill Ghaelgagh

DESC Manx Language Unit

Culture Vannin

Mooijer Veggey

DESC Education Improvement Service

*With support from Manx National Heritage and the voluntary sector*

### Key Performance Results

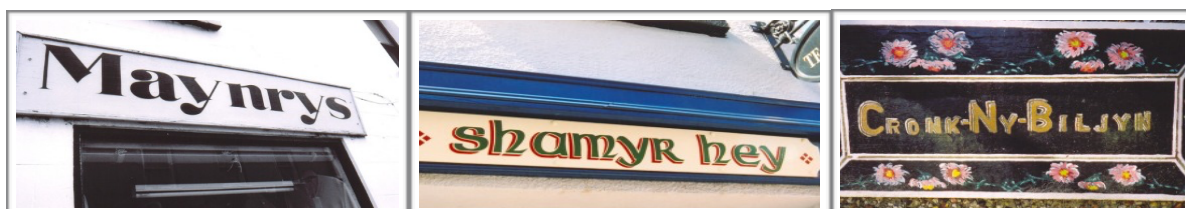
### Towseyn speeideilys scanshoil

- The production and distribution of a portfolio of materials relating to Manx language and cultural identity.
- Increased engagement with the Manx language by Government departments, community groups and business.

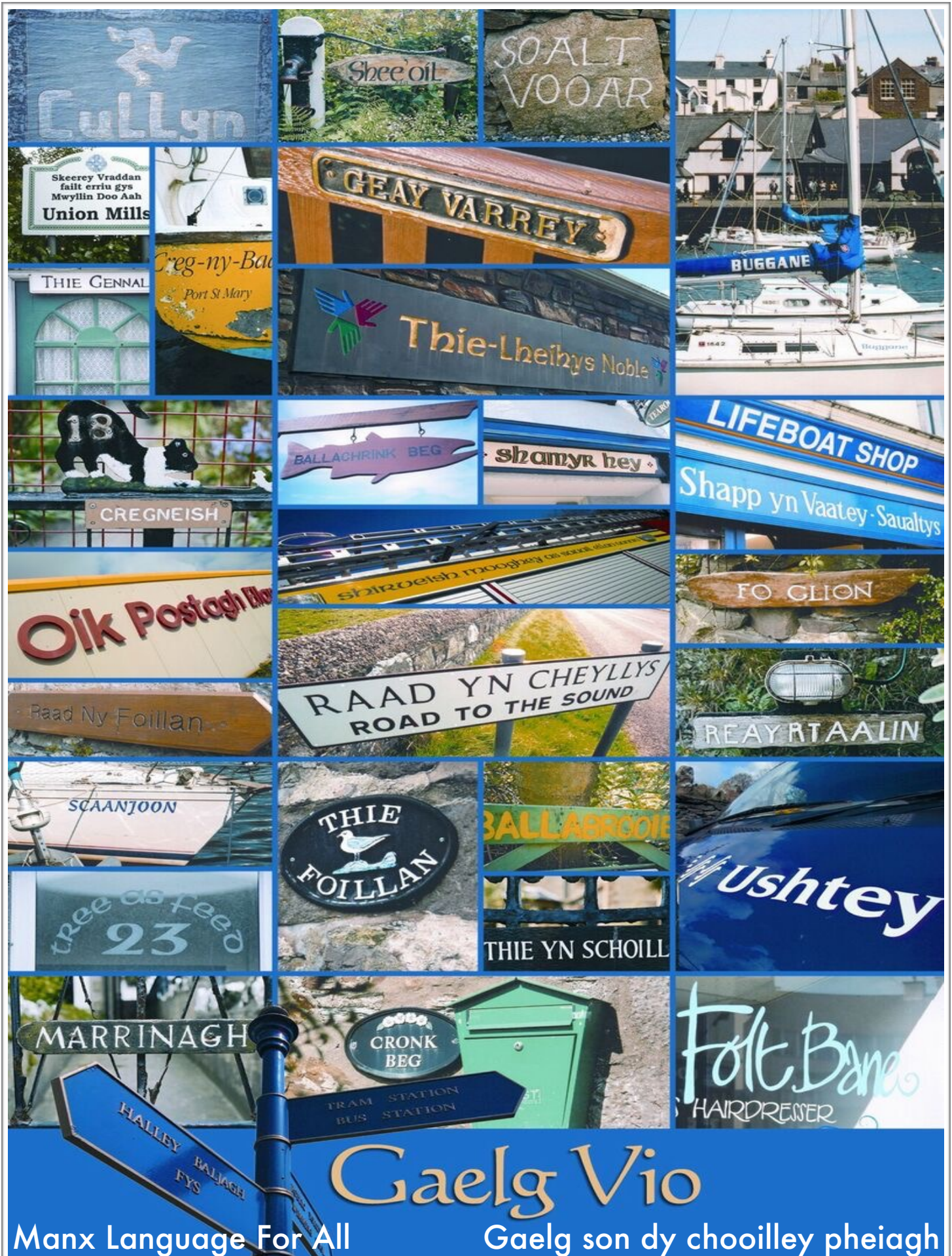
### Enabling Actions

### Obbyr dy chooilleaney shoh

- To create a simple advocacy toolkit for the Manx language.
- To initiate a unified, branded, contemporary awareness campaign across all sectors.
- To develop an audiovisual resource bank for the Manx language to enable effective branding and social media.
- To work with Government departments and the business sector to facilitate appropriate training relevant to Manx language and culture, to reinforce positive national and cultural identity for all.
- To explore the possibility of the IoM signing up to 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 people to develop the social use of Manx language at home, at work and in their free time.
- We will support schools to develop the social use of Manx language in a range of contexts.
- We will support parents who raise their children as Manx language speakers, and those who send their children to Manx medium education, to develop opportunities for social use of Manx language.

#### Responsibility

#### Quoi nee shoh

Bunscoill Ghaelgagh

DESC Manx Language Unit

Culture Vannin

Mooijer Veggey

DESC Education Improvement Service

*With support from Manx National Heritage and the voluntary sector*

#### Key Performance Results

#### Towseyn speeideilys scanshoil

- An extended buddy system for fluent speakers and learners.
- A published calendar of Manx language events.
- Resources appropriate for school context.
- Community networks established for Manx language speaking families.
- A vision and strategy for Gaelic broadcasting.

#### Enabling Actions

#### Obbyr dy chooilleeney shoh

- To develop a buddy system for Manx language speakers, bringing together fluent speakers and learners of all ages.
- To develop a coordinated calendar of events through [www.learnmanx.com](http://www.learnmanx.com) digital hub, social and print media, to include summer schools, workshop weekends, festivals, events, revision, after school/youth clubs, etc.
- To create a playground pack for primary schools.
- To create parents' networks relating to the Manx language.
- To continue publishing and broadcasting for the Manx language speaking community, encouraging the creative use of the Manx language through all media.
- To work together with other language communities globally to share best practice.

## 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.

### Responsibility

Quoi nee shoh

Bunscoill Ghaelgagh

DESC Manx Language Unit

Culture Vannin

Mooijer Veggey

DESC Education Improvement Service

*With support from Manx National Heritage and the voluntary sector*

### Key Performance Results

Towseyn speideilys scanshoil

- A clearly defined pathway to learning.
- The introduction of an outreach scheme for different sectors.
- An awareness campaign which includes short videos to promote lifelong learning.

### Enabling Actions

Obbyr dy chooilleeney shoh

- Manx language and cultural awareness training for public and private sectors.
- To develop sustainable recruitment and retention of teachers for the Manx language.
- The production of resources which promote lifelong learning and which emphasise that all ages from all backgrounds have the opportunity to start learning Manx language.
- To undertake a comprehensive needs assessment for all ages of Manx learners.

*"If I were to sum up what learning Manx has meant to me, I would say that it has been a key part in shaping who I am today, giving me opportunities and facilitating academic success. More importantly, learning Manx has also helped me appreciate the unique identity of our Island, of which the language is such an integral part, as well as its place in the wider world."*

**Final Version  
Agreed 01/10/17**

Developed by Adrian Cain, Chrissy Callaghan, Jo Callister, Breesha Maddrell, Julie Matthews, Dot Saunders and Rob Teare together with the Manx Speaking Community.