

Public Consultation Summary

Online questionnaire: 12 June to 3 July 2026

52

online responses

47

respondents live locally

18

support or strongly support

Purpose of this document

This document presents the online consultation results in an accessible format. It highlights constructive opportunities identified by respondents while retaining the full range of views and reproducing written comments without changing their wording.

Consultation at a glance

The consultation gathered 52 online responses. Forty-seven respondents said they lived in Clackmannanshire. Views on the overall aims were mixed: 18 supported or strongly supported the plan, 29 opposed or strongly opposed it, and five were neutral.

Positive opportunities identified

Respondents who supported the plan placed particular value on local learning, education, cultural heritage, community participation, accessible information and opportunities to use Gaelic in everyday life.

Important context

A substantial number of respondents raised concerns about cost, value for money, local demand and competing priorities. These views are included throughout the document and in the verbatim comments.

Key messages

Learning and education

Gaelic learning was the most frequently selected outcome. Suggestions included local classes, school taster sessions, family learning, teacher development and exploring longer-term pathways towards Gaelic Medium Education.

Culture and visibility

Supportive comments welcomed greater awareness of Gaelic culture and heritage, including events, music, community activity, bilingual visibility and digital promotion.

Accessible services

Suggestions included clear information about available Gaelic services, translation on request, accessible bilingual web content, printed information, video and audio, mobile-friendly content and face-to-face options.

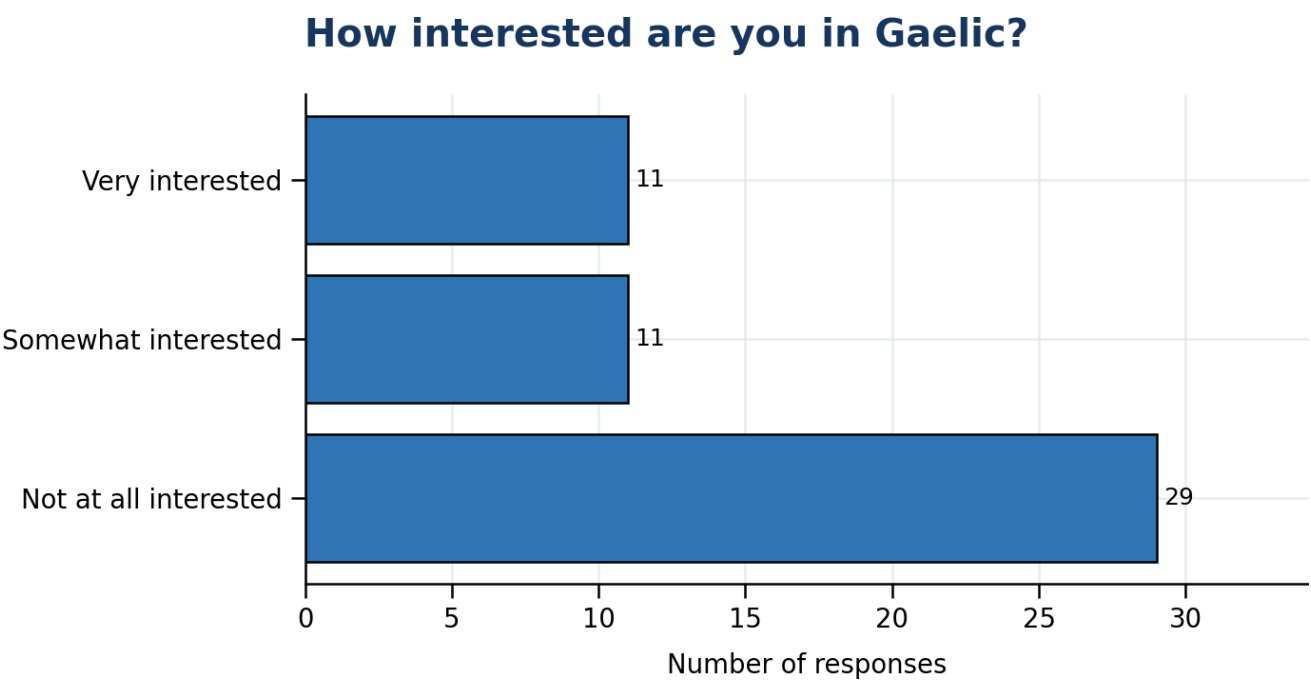
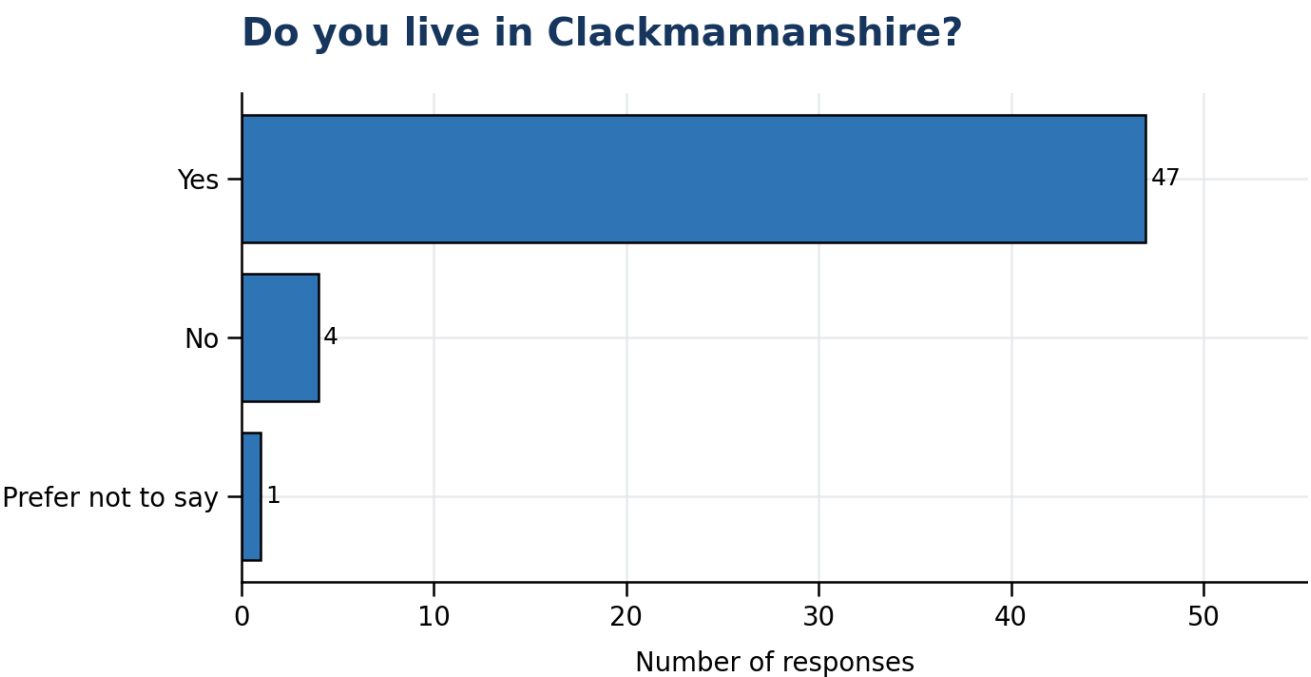
Workforce awareness

Some respondents supported staff awareness and training, particularly for employees who work directly with the public.

Proportionate delivery

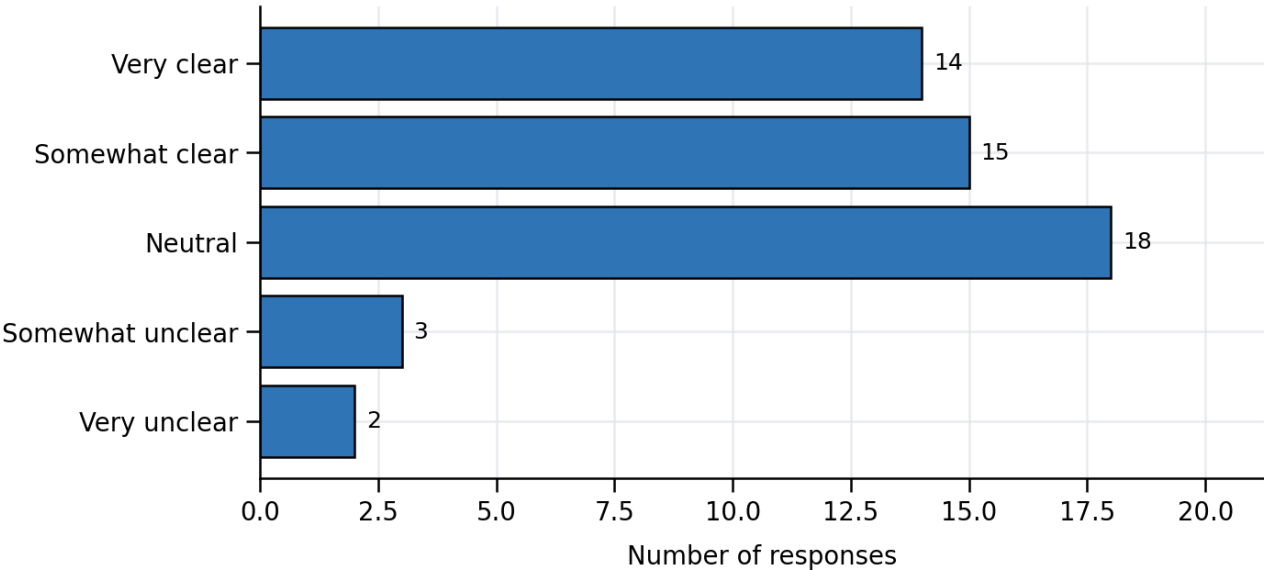
Across both supportive and critical responses, there was a recurring interest in practical, proportionate actions, clarity about costs, partnership working and evidence of demand.

Who responded

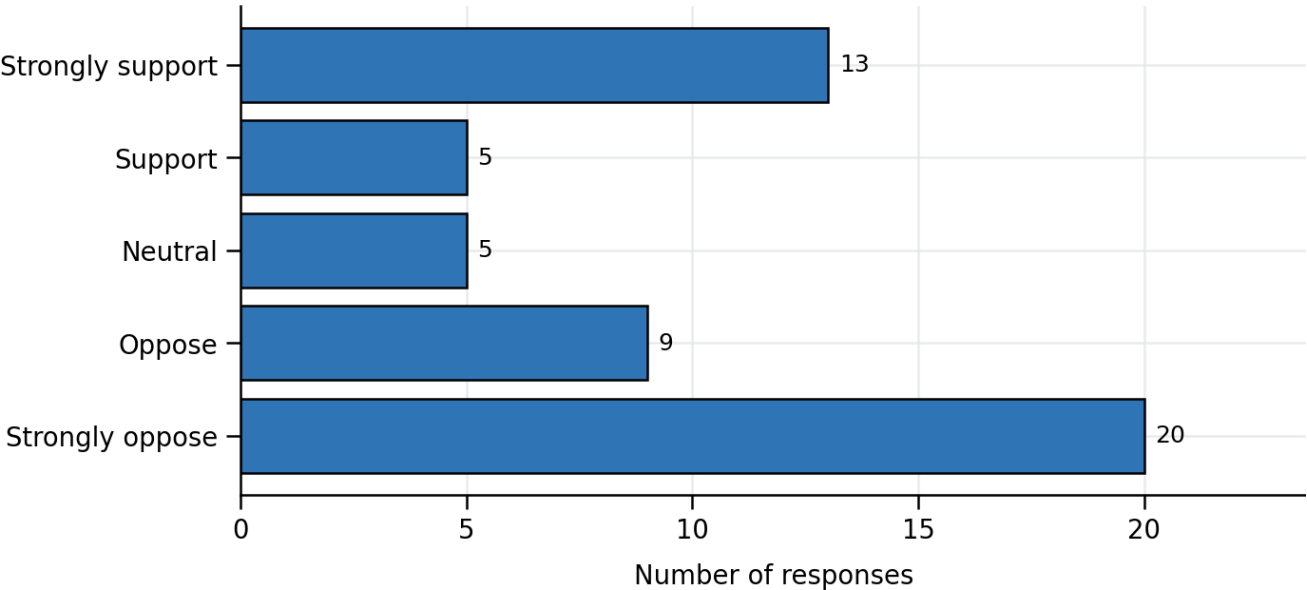


Views on the draft plan

How clear and understandable was the draft plan?

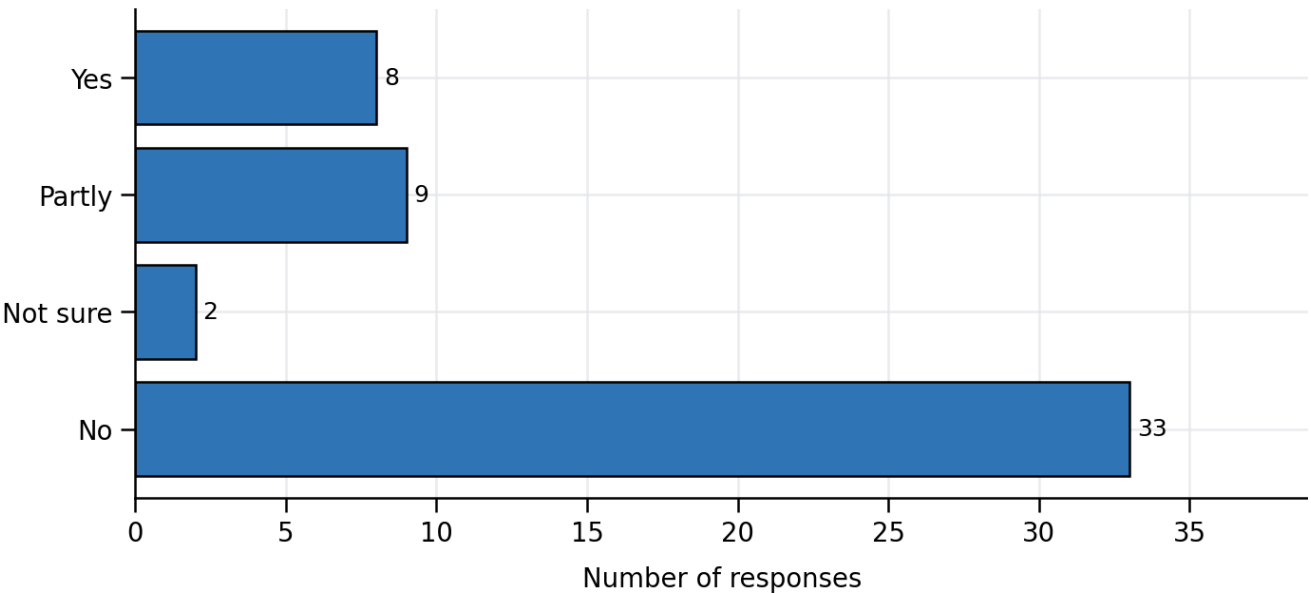


Support for the overall aims

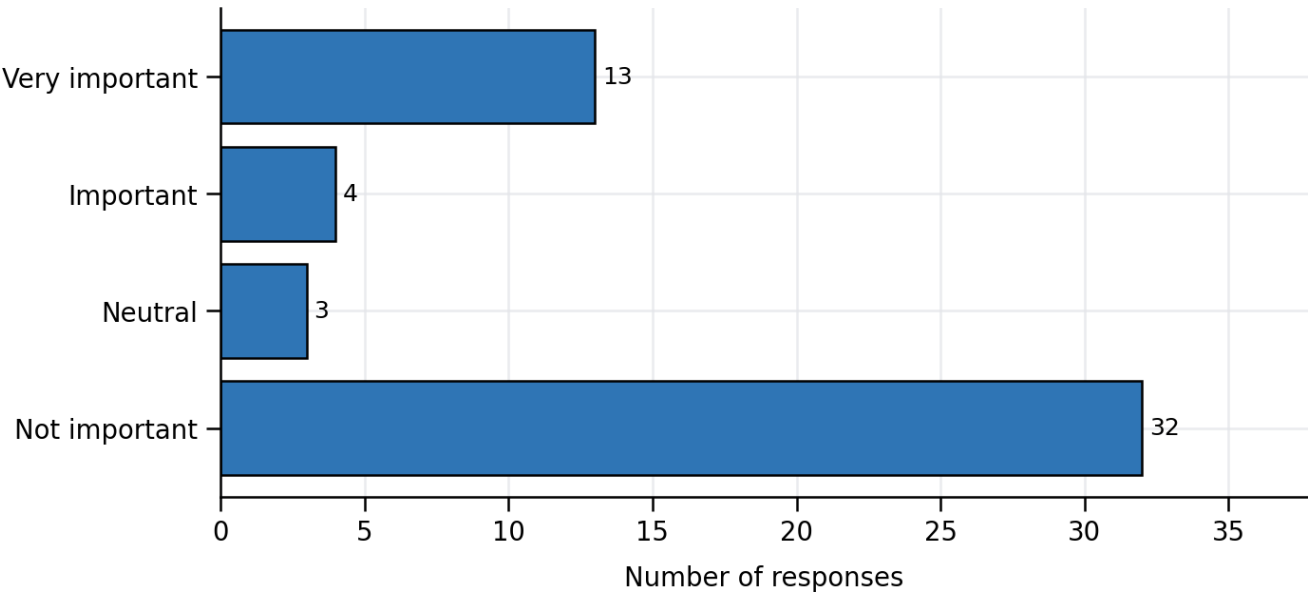


Local needs and learning

Does the plan reflect local needs?



Importance of local Gaelic learning



Written comments

The written responses have been summarised below. Repeated, very brief and non-substantive comments have been omitted. The summary reflects both supportive and critical views and focuses on points that may help refine or deliver the plan.

Summary of comments

Learning and education

- Provide local, affordable Gaelic classes and introductory taster sessions for children, families and adults.
- Promote existing online and national learning resources while offering face-to-face options for people who need them.
- Explore teacher training, school-based learning and the longer-term feasibility of Gaelic Medium Education, including partnership work with neighbouring councils and Gaelic organisations.
- Create informal opportunities, such as conversation groups, music and cultural events, where learners can practise Gaelic.

Access and communication

- Clearly explain which Gaelic services are available and how residents can request them.
- Use accessible formats, including bilingual web content, print, audio and video, with mobile-friendly information and options for people who are not online.
- Consider translation on request and proportionate awareness training for staff who deal directly with the public.
- Apply the same accessibility standards used for English-language communications, including consideration of visual and hearing impairments.

Community engagement and visibility

- Improve publicity so residents understand the plan, the opportunities available and how they can become involved.
- Work with schools, community groups, native speakers and cultural organisations to build interest and participation.
- Introduce Gaelic visibility gradually and meaningfully rather than as a stand-alone or superficial exercise.
- Recognise interest in Scots and other languages when planning wider language and cultural activity.

Cost, demand and accountability

- Provide clear information about anticipated costs, funding and value for money.
- Keep delivery proportionate to local demand, available resources and statutory responsibilities.
- Use evidence to prioritise actions and explain how Gaelic activity will be balanced with other important council services.
- Set measurable outcomes and review participation, service use and progress before expanding provision.

Overall balance of views

Supportive respondents valued Gaelic as part of Scotland's cultural heritage and wanted more opportunities to learn and use it locally. Critical respondents questioned local demand, costs and whether Gaelic should take priority over other services. A practical way forward would be to focus on low-cost learning, partnership working, accessible information and clear monitoring of demand and impact.