

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd  
The Highland Council**

Agenda Item	<b>5</b>
Report No	<b>GIG 7/13</b>

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 23 den Chèitean 2013  
Gaelic Implementation Group – 23 May 2013**

**Memorandum of Understanding between The Highland Council and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig - Partnership Update**

**Report by the Director of Education, Culture & Sport**

**Summary**

The Report informs Members' of progress the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Highland Council and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO)

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- The National Performance Indicator Outcome - 'We take pride in a strong, fair, and inclusive National identity'
- All Themes within the Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16
- The Highland Council Corporate Plan and its cross cutting commitment to 'the principle of equal respect for the Gaelic and English languages, whilst also recognising the diversity of indigenous language and dialects within the Highland area'.

**1. Background**

1.1 The MOU between the Council and SMO was signed by the Chief Executive and the Principal on August 18<sup>th</sup> 2011.

1.2 A Joint MOU Working Group has been established, it meets 4 times a year, to report progress on projects and partnership activity across the Themes in the Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

1.3 The Joint Working Group comprises the College Principal, Vice Principal/Head of Studies, Depute Director of Studies for Learning, Teaching and Quality Assurance and, from Highland Council, the Gaelic Development Manager, and Gaelic Development Officer,

**2. MOU Update**

2.1 The Joint Working Group met on March 25<sup>th</sup>, an update was given on each of the following developments:

- Development of the Kilbeg Village
  - Senior Council Officials and working closely with Senior College Officials to bring to fruition the proposed developments for a 'new village' at Kilbeg in Sleat
- Preparations for the GIG meeting at SMO

- Operational planning regarding a site visit and Gaelic Implementation Group meeting at SMO on May 23rd
- Adult Literacy Course
  - Continuation of partnership with SMO it will be delivered in 2 pilot areas- Skye and the Inverness and Badenoch Areas in 2013,
- Training for Members and HC Staff
  - Liaising with the Employee Development Unit regarding further Gaelic Training for staff and Members
- Free download APP development for Skye and Lochalsh including SMO
  - The free download APP, for android phones which mainly focuses on the media industry including SMO and the Royal National Mod will be available at the end of May
- GLPS Teacher Training
- GM Teacher CPD
- Creative Scotland Residency Programme
  - The Artists in Residence are all engaging with pupils and community groups in the area
- Links with Cape Breton
  - It is proposed that there will be a Cape Breton Day during the Royal National Mod in 2014
- HC/ UHI Bursary Scheme
  - The Bursary Scheme is on target in the current session 5 students are in receipt of HC bursary awards
- Seachdainn na Teaghlaich - Family Week
  - The national event will take place on the 1st week of July
- Seachdainn na Deugairean - Secondary Schools pupils week
  - It took place in February 2013 both fluent and learner pupils participated in the event
- SMO@40 Anniversary
 

We are marking the special 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary by:

  - placing an advert in the local paper
  - creating an electronic banner which promotes SMO@40 as it occasionally appears on the Council's home page
  - commissioning a flag to mark the occasion
  - presenting a commemorative wall-plate
  - GIG Meeting taking place at SMO
- Soillse Partnership Projects
  - Officials have met with Soillse and it is planned that specific research projects will be undertaken in due course

### **3. Implications**

3.1 There are no implications at present.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
4.1	Members are asked to note the progress regarding the activities undertaken under the auspices of the MoU Joint Working Group.

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 13 May 2013

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