

Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council

Agenda Item	8
Report No	GIG 10/13

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

Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16
Theme 3 “What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage”:
Implementation Report

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Summary

The report provides Members with information on the implementation of Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16. Specifically, Theme 3 “What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage”.

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- a) The National Performance Indicator Outcome 13 - ‘We take pride in a strong, fair, and inclusive National identity’
- b) The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16 Theme 3 ‘What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage.’
- c) 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 At the first meeting of the Gaelic Implementation Group (GIG) on 13 September 2012, Members agreed a schedule of implementation updates for each Theme within GLP 2012-16. Theme 3 – ***What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage*** was allocated to the May 2013 meeting.

2. First Steps in Implementing the GLP 2012-16 Theme 3 What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage.

- 2.1 The Arts, Media and Heritage Theme is reproduced at **Appendix 1** below for ease of reference. This Theme has three Strategic Commitments (see immediately below) and outlined below is an overview of the work commenced work across a range of areas:

3. Strategic Commitment 1

We will engage with partners and contribute to national strategic initiatives and policy formulation for Gaelic in the arts, media and heritage sectors

- 3.1 With regard to the National Gaelic Arts Strategy Forum, the Council made early contact with Bòrd na Gàidhlig on developments in the national Gaelic

arts and the Bòrd's collaboration with Creative Scotland. The Council will ensure that activity in this Theme will dovetail with partnership engagement which assists with the implementation of the Arts and Media Development Area in the National Gaelic Language Plan.

3.2 The Council liaises with the National Gaelic Arts Strategy Advisory Forum; and our Gaelic Development Officer is a member of an Officer grouping that the Creative Scotland/BnG Arts officer brings together periodically.

3.3 In addition, we are trying to arrange a meeting involving EventsScotland to clarify the position on the suite of projects entitled *Highland Homecoming*, in the autumn of 2014. This currently includes the Royal National Mod, which takes place in Inverness in October 2014, and to which the Council commits significant support.

4. Strategic Commitment 2

We will increase the profile and build the use of Gaelic within Council funded organisations and events within the Highlands.

4.1 The Gaelic Team is liaising and working with a number of partners including Bòrd na Gàidhlig, An Comunn Gàidhealach, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the Blas Festival, Fèis Rois, High Life Highland, BBC/MG ALBA and Comunn na Gàidhlig in relation to Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage.

4.2 The Council met with An Comunn Gàidhealach on 23 April to take forward our partnership to deliver the Royal National Mod in Inverness in 2014. This meeting, involving national and local representatives of An Comunn, was a vital first step in ongoing liaison around hosting what is the world's premier Gaelic cultural event.

4.3 Given the raft of other events Scotland is hosting in 2014 including the Commonwealth Games, Ryder Cup, 2nd Year of Homecoming and the 750th Anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, Council officials will assist An Comunn to maximise the economic and cultural impact of the Mod.

4.4 This will be particularly important in relation to the involvement of the public and the engagement with local businesses for the Inverness area. The importance of high quality opening and closing events and the Mod Fringe were also stressed.

5. Strategic Commitment 3

We will develop opportunities for people to engage with Gaelic through the media, arts and creative industries.

5.1 The Council is keen to engage as many people as possible with Gaelic through our support for the media, arts and creative industries. For example we are:

- supporting Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Fèis Ròis and the Blas Festival via Service Delivery Agreements;
- supporting Comunn na Gàidhlig to deliver Cuach na Cloinne – Youth

Football Competition pupils in GM schools across Highland participate in the event;

- delighted to have hosted and supported the last Scottish Traditional Music Awards Ceremony in Fort William in 2012 which, for the first time, was a bilingual event and broadcast by BBC ALBA;
- supporting FILMG, the national Gaelic Film Awards - a number of schools in Highland produced films and, again, won awards;
- developing a writers/authors in schools programme;
- pleased to have just completed a successful learning visit by Gaelic pupils from Inverness Royal Academy to counterparts in Ireland;
- liaising with the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia regarding the renewal of our Memorandum of Understanding; and
- aiming to have a number of events (including our links with Nova Scotia/Canada) which we hope will form part of the Royal National Mod 2014 Fringe Programme.

5.3 As evidenced by the foregoing, the Council is well into its stride in implementing the Arts, Media and Heritage Theme of the Plan. We are grateful to our partner organisations for their continued positive engagement; and to officers in other Council services and in High Life Highland for their support and enthusiasm.

6. Implications

6.1 There are currently no Resource, Legal, Equalities, Climate Change or Risk implications.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- note progress in implementing the Arts, Media and Heritage Theme in GLP 12-16;
- agree to support high profile activity and engagement for the Inverness Royal National Mod in 2014;
- agree that the Council work with partners to host high profile Gaelic-related arts, media and cultural events in Highland to provide economic benefits within the Council area.

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 10 May 2013

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Theme 3 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage

Strategic Commitment 1

We will engage with partners and contribute to national strategic initiatives and policy formulation for Gaelic in the arts, media and heritage sectors.

Partners

Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Creative Scotland, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, BBC ALBA

Key Performance Results

- A contemporary and visionary Gaelic Arts strategy influenced by The Highland Council.
- The Sabhal Mòr Ostaig national residency programme will interface, and develop links with other arts events organised by the Council.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Participate in the work of the National Gaelic Arts Strategy Forum.
- (ii) Work with the Year of Homecoming 2014 Team to include Gaelic and culture as a core element in their planned activities and events.
- (iii) Work with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to support and maximise the impact and the outcomes of the Residency Programme.
- (iv) Engage with BBC ALBA and identify areas where collaborative initiatives would be appropriate; including the potential for expanding Gaelic content on local radio stations within the Highlands.

Theme 3 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage

Strategic Commitment 2

We will increase the profile and build the use of Gaelic within Council funded organisations and events within the Highlands.

Partners

High Life Highland, An Comunn Gàidhealach, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Fèis Rois, Comunn na Gàidhlig

Key Performance Results

- A successful Royal National Mod in Inverness in 2014.
- Increased number of participants and visitors attending the Royal National Mod and its associated activities, when the events take place in the Highlands.
- Increase the number of Provincial Mod competitors participating in the Royal National Mod when based in the Highlands.
- Increased use of Gaelic in Fèisean activities.
- Increased visibility of Gaelic in High Life Highland activities and outputs.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Work with An Comunn Gàidhealach to deliver a Royal National Mod in Inverness in 2014 befitting the world's premier Gaelic cultural event; particularly given the other international events Scotland is hosting in 2014.
- (ii) Work with An Comunn Gàidhealach and other stakeholders to increase the number of participants, and visitors to Royal National Mods when they are based in the Highlands.
- (iii) Work with An Comunn Gàidhealach to undertake a review of Provincial Mods and identify action that would maximise competitor attendance at the 2014 Royal National Mod in Inverness.
- (iv) Work with the Blas Festival organisers to promote Gaelic arts productions produced by young people, for example viewings of their short films, drama events, and readings of creative writing.
- (v) Work with Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Fèis Rois through our Service Delivery Contracts, to support Fèisean based in the Highlands in promoting and increasing Gaelic in their outputs.
- (vi) Work with High Life Highland and others to raise the profile of and increase the use and visibility of Gaelic within High Life Highland and Council supported visitor attractions, leisure facilities, museums, archive centres and events.
- (vii) Work with Comunn na Gàidhlig to develop and support relevant sporting activities, e.g. football and shinty through the medium of Gaelic.

Theme 3 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage

Strategic Commitment 3

We will develop opportunities for people to engage with Gaelic through the media, arts and creative industries.

Partners

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, MG ALBA, Comhairle nan Leabhraichean (Gaelic Books Council)

Key Performance Results

- Further progress with Gaelic education, arts and economic development within the projects delivered under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.
- Gaelic Short Films created and produced by young people in Gaelic Education.
- Gaelic Film Clubs and media production programme for young people.
- Create Gaelic authors/writers in schools programme.
- Two new Competitions – one for young people and one for adults for music or literature.
- Negotiate the hosting of the Traditional Music Awards in the Highlands during the lifespan of the Plan.
- Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia.
- Youth groups visits to Ireland, Wales or other Countries with lesser used languages.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Work with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to implement the projects agreed between both organisations under the Memorandum of Understanding.
- (ii) Work with media specialists to develop short films and set up film clubs specifically around Associated School Groups where Gaelic Education is provided.
- (iii) Work with media and film making professionals to support the annual Gaelic FilmG Awards.
- (iv) Work with other agencies to develop a series of visiting Gaelic writers/authors in schools programme.
- (v) Provide support and advice to local groups to attract funding for specific Gaelic projects based in the community.
- (vi) Develop links with the broader linguistic and cultural diaspora for example Nova Scotia, and other Countries with lesser used languages such as Ireland and Wales.
- (vii) Engage with MG ALBA and the organisers of the Traditional Music Awards to discuss hosting this event in the Highlands.
- (viii) Revise the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia to develop mutually beneficial educational, cultural, and economic links.