

Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council

Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 22 Lùnastal 2013
Gaelic Implementation Group – 22 August 2013

Agenda Item	6
Report No	GIG 13-13

Theme 2 “What we will do for Gaelic in Education”: Implementation Report

Report by the Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Summary

This Report provides Members with an update on the implementation of Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16 Theme 2 “What we will do for Gaelic in Education”.

It provides information on progress with developments in the pre-school, Primary and Secondary sectors; including a new GM Primary School Department in Thurso and the launching, at GIG, of the Council’s new online Gaelic Education web-map.

The Report contributes to the delivery of :

- National Performance Outcomes 3, 4, 5 and 16.
- The National Gaelic Language Plan Outcomes – **Home & Early Years** and **Education: Schools & Teachers**
- The Programme of The Highland Council 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’.
- The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan.

1 Implementing GLP 2012-16 Theme 2 “What we will do for Gaelic in Education”

1.1 The Education Theme is reproduced at **Appendix 1** below for ease of reference. Theme 2 has five Strategic Aims and below is an update on progress across these:

i. We will contribute to national strategic partnership initiatives, and policy formulation for Gaelic Education.

The Council continues to contribute to the National Gaelic Education Strategy Steering Group and the Management Review Group for Gaelic Education. We are also feeding in to a Scottish Government initiative to review GLPS in 2013-14.

The Council is also represented on Bòrd na Gàidhlig’s national Working Group on Gaelic Teacher Education and Workforce Planning and is also contributing to national developments both with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the NHS, on Additional Support Needs related to Gaelic Education.

The Council is in discussion with Edinburgh University about creating a partnership in relation to three new Gaelic and Education Degrees that they are developing. These are scheduled to be submitted to the GTCS at the end of August 2013.

ii. We will ensure that Gaelic Education is factored into strategic Highland Council Education reviews and assessments.

The future requirements of Gaelic Education are being factored into strategic discussions on the Sustainable School Estates Review (SSER). A Forward Look of Gaelic Education challenges and development is planned for the South Education Area in the 13-13 school session (see 2.7 below). The Strategic Meetings of the Education, Culture and Sport Service's Senior Management Team, will assist with the implementation of the Education Theme in GLP 2012-16.

iii. We will create partnerships to establish a professionally organised, well-resourced and sustainable 0-3 Gaelic Early Years sector.

The pilot project in the 0-3 sector is progressing well with a solid partnership being built between the Council, the Care and Learning Alliance and BnG. Early Years staff visited counterparts in Wales and this was hugely instructive and provided a challenging benchmark. Work continues to build local networks and to provide resources and materials plus the organising of parental events. We now have **20** Gaelic Pre-school Voluntary Groups providing Gaelic in early years for 302 children across Highland – see update from 2.1 to 2.2 below.

iv. We will develop 3-18 Gaelic Education and increase the number of Gaelic Learners in schools.

Gaelic Primary Schools will be built in Ft William and Portree; and we will shortly be discussing GM pupil targets with BnG. The online GM map will be launched at the August Gaelic Implementation Group. We will be reviewing enrolment material in October and November, incorporating encouragement for Gaelic Education and, in partnership with BnG, are targeting "marketing" for Gaelic Education in the greater Ft William area. Updates on these and the opening of a new Gaelic Medium Department in Thurso is given at 2.3 to 2.6 below. A Scottish Government review of GLPS is also underway as outlined at **1.1 (i)** above.

v. We will work with partners to review the learning materials and learning resources provided to support Gaelic Education.

Discussions have taken place with partner organisations to scope out a review of the resources available for Gaelic Education and we will also

address this as part of the Council's Memorandum of Understanding with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Internally, ICT support officers in ECS will be meeting in Aug/Sept to take this forward with the Service. Ongoing liaison takes place between the Council, Stòrlann and the Scottish Government.

2. Update on Gaelic Education in Highland – Building for the Future

- 2.1 In 2012, the Council entered into a three year partnership project with Bòrd na Gàidhlig to support and develop a professionally organised, properly resourced, long term, sustainable **0-3 early years sector**. This work is ongoing through funding support from GLAIF and is proving highly successful with 20 pre-school voluntary groups providing Gaelic for 302 children.
- 2.2 The **Lochcarron** 0-5 GM Parent and child group continues to be supported and will commence a weekly taster session in the 13-14 school Session. If demand is sufficient, this will increase to two taster sessions per week after the 2013 Festive Break.
- 2.3 In **Fort William** and in **Portree**, the Council is now pushing ahead with new standalone Gaelic Primary Schools, in partnership with the Scottish Government. The Fort William School has been submitted to Planning on 21 June and the Council formally approved its financial package for Portree on 27 June. We are formally engaged with parents and others regarding provision and we have commenced work on some marketing for Gaelic education in the Fort William area. Preparatory site work is expected to commence in Portree in autumn 2013.
- 2.4 In **Inverness**, another feasibility study was commenced in May 2013, examining options for further expansion of Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis.
- 2.5 In **Thurso**, following several years of effort and parental perseverance, the Council will open a new Gaelic Medium Department in Mount Pleasant Primary School. Seven pupils are scheduled to enter Primary 1 on 20 August 2013, with a further 19 enrolled in the nursery for the 13-14 school session.
- 2.6 The new **Inverness Royal Academy** will have a six-classroom state of the art Gaelic Department when it opens in 2015-16. This provision has been included from the earliest plans for the school in order to secure the best possible Gaelic educational experience for pupils.
- 2.7 The Council is about to embark on a Forward Look of **Gaelic Education in the South Area**. This will commence in the 13-14 session and will identify the challenges for Gaelic Education in the pre-school, Primary and Secondary sectors encompassing Inverness, Nairn, Drumnadrochit, Badenoch and Strathspey. The review will examine what we can do to plan ahead as best we can, in order to avoid the constant "fire fighting" which has been a feature of provision in some areas.

3. A Quick Overview of Highland Council Gaelic Education Statistics

3.1 The Council area has **20** Gaelic Pre-school Voluntary Groups providing Gaelic in early years for 302 children.

3.2 In addition the Council provides:

- **18** Gaelic medium Council Nurseries and **4** partner centres providing pre-school Gaelic Education for over 356 three and four year old children (including 2013 intakes);
- **21** Primary Schools providing Gaelic Medium Education for 784 pupils;
- **52** schools receiving Gaelic Learners in Primary Schools (GLPS) for 1371 pupils;
- **12** Secondary Schools offering Gàidhlig (Gaelic fluent speaker) classes, or subject teaching through the medium of Gaelic medium, to 364 pupils; and
- **12** Secondary Schools offering Gaelic Learners classes for 1487 pupils

3.3 In a national context, the scale of the Council's Education commitment is illustrated by Bòrd na Gàidhlig statistics for 2012-13. These showed The Highland Council with:

- **42%** of children in Scotland's Gaelic Pre-school Voluntary Groups;
- **36%** of Scotland's Gaelic Medium Nursery Children;
- **31%** of Scotland's Gaelic Medium Primary School pupils;
- **34%** of Scotland's Gaelic Medium Secondary pupils studying Gàidhlig as fluent speakers; and
- **50%** of Scotland's Gaelic Medium Secondary pupils studying Gaelic as learners.

3.4 The year on year pupil totals in Gaelic Education provision in Highland from 2007 is outlined in the table below:

School Session	Nursery/Commissioned Playgroups	Primary School Pupils	Secondary School Pupils Fluent Gaelic	Secondary School Pupils Subjects through Gaelic	Secondary School Pupils Gaelic Learners
2007-08	263	718	359	165	1373
2008-09	247	728	345	152	1485
2009-10	270	734	352	165	1421
2010-11	225	744	360	149	1469
2011-12	213	761	373	173	1286*
2012-13	292	784	364	211	1487

3.5 The Council is keen to ensure that we are making relevant comparisons in relation to progress in increasing the numbers entering, or undertaking, Gaelic education. We will therefore include, in PRMS service monitoring, %age comparator figures showing the proportion of pupils in Gaelic education in

comparison the overall school rolls. This will give a more complete overview of performance.

4. Online Mapping of the Council's Gaelic Education Provision

4.1 The Council's GLP 2012-16 contains a commitment to produce an online map to show Highland parents - and parents who may be considering moving to the Highlands – the locations in which the Council provides Nursery, Primary and Secondary Gaelic Education. At the Gaelic Implementation Group (GIG) in November 2012, Members were appraised of progress in producing this map and agreed to publish this at an appropriate time.

4.2 The Gaelic Team has worked with colleagues in the Chief Executive's Service to produce a web map that plots all the 3-18 Gaelic Education provision within the Authority. Via weblink in the Chamber, Members will be shown this new public information resource which will be launched via a news release at the GIG on 22 August.

4.3 The map shows the following information:

- All Gaelic Nursery School provision (Council and partner centres) and the number of children attending (taken from the school census figures as of late 2012);
- All Gaelic Primary School provision, the number of pupils, and the associated Secondary School; (taken from the school census figures as of late 2012);
- All Gaelic Secondary provision, including the number of pupils studying subjects through the medium of Gaelic, those studying Gàidhlig as fluent speakers, and those studying Gaelic as Learners; (taken from the school census figures as of late 2012);
- A contact email for those who wish to know about Gaelic classes or Gaelic activities in communities.

4.4 It is anticipated that this map will prove to be a valuable resource; illustrating the Council's commitment to Gaelic Education and showing parents where we currently have the provision and the capacity to provide bilingual education through GME. Depending on progress in the 0-3 sector, we may include information on these groups as we gather the data.

4.5 The map also contributes to the Council's GLP aim of **creating and maintaining a sustainable and seamless Gaelic Education provision (from Pre-school through to Primary school and on to Secondary education) in order to develop a solid foundation for Gaelic Education, language and culture in a strategically placed network of schools across the Highland area.**

5. Implications

5.1 There are no implications associated with this Report at present.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note progress in implementing the Education Theme in GLP 12-16
- Agree to publicise the extent of the Council's delivery on Gaelic Education;
- Agree to welcome the partnership working resulting in significant progress in the early years, Primary and Secondary sectors; and
- Agree the publication of the Council Gaelic Education web map.

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 31 July 2013

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Appendix 1: GLP 2012-16 Theme 2 - What we will do for Gaelic in Education

Strategic Commitment 1

We will contribute to national strategic partnership initiatives, and policy formulation for Gaelic Education.

Partners

Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Education Scotland, Local Authorities, Universities.

Key Performance Results

- A national strategy to provide the teaching and other staff required to achieve the Government targets for growth in Gaelic Education.
- A national strategy for the supply of specialist Additional Support Needs staff for Gaelic Education.
- National policies and guidance in relation to Gaelic will be influenced and enhanced by Highland Council input.
- The benefits of bilingualism through Gaelic Education will be highlighted in Gaelic Medium Education information/publicity material.
- Improved linguistic competence leading to improved teaching and learning experiences.
- Pilot the joint production of generic Gaelic Education marketing material by Local Authorities.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Through membership of the National Gaelic Education Strategy Steering Group and other forums, contribute to, and engage with, initiatives which inform and influence national policy and guidance.
- (ii) Engage with Education Scotland and others to agree actions from its Report of June 2011 “**Gaelic Education: Building on the successes, addressing the Barriers**”.
- (iii) Ensure engagement and involvement with Academic sources, Research bodies, Conferences, Studies and Reports which may inform and influence national policy and guidance.
- (iv) Ensure that the outcomes of the Council’s 25th Anniversary Gaelic Medium Education Consultation Events are fed into deliberations on Gaelic Education at national level where appropriate.
- (v) Work with Bòrd na Gàidhlig on a national Gaelic Education Workforce Planning Strategy.
- (vi) Develop and enhance linguistic competency through teacher Continuing Professional Development.

- (vii) Work with Bòrd na Gàidhlig on a national Gaelic Education Additional Support Needs Strategy.
- (viii) Engage with other Local Authorities to examine where joint working and shared services might benefit the sustainability and expansion of Gaelic Education.

Theme 2 - What we will do for Gaelic in Education

Strategic Commitment 2

We will ensure that Gaelic Education is factored into strategic Highland Council Education reviews and assessments.

Partners

NHS Highland

Key Performance Results

- Gaelic Education requirements will be assessed as part of the Strategic School Estates Review (SSER) including the Inverness/A96 Corridor.
- Strategic Education reviews or other education assessments will take account of the potential implications for Gaelic Education.
- The potential impact on Gaelic of the 'Integrating Care in the Highlands' initiative with NHS Highland will be assessed and addressed.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Gaelic Education will be taken into account within the Council's SSER.
- (ii) Engage with 'Integrating Care in the Highlands' Project Team and carry out a Gaelic Impact Assessment.
- (iii) Ensure that the outcomes of the Council's 25th Anniversary Gaelic Medium Education Consultation Events are fed into deliberations on Gaelic Education where appropriate.
- (iv) Ensure that Gaelic Education requirements form part of the Council's assessment of Additional Support Needs.
- (v) Review and refresh the approach to recruiting a Gaelic Education officer.

Theme 2 - What we will do for Gaelic in Education

Strategic Commitment 3

We will create partnerships to establish a professionally organised, well resourced and sustainable 0-3 Gaelic Early Years sector.

Partners

Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Care and Learning Alliance (CALA)

Key Performance Results

- In association with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Care and Learning Alliance, establish baseline data for 0-3 Gaelic Early Years provision across Highland in 2012. Following this exercise, set a target for increasing the numbers over the lifetime of the Plan; with a consequential increase in the number of children feeding through to 3-5 Council and Partner Centre Gaelic Nurseries.
- Over the lifetime of the Plan, establish new provision in Kinlochbervie, Lochcarron, Kyle, Tongue, Tain, Inverness, Newtonmore, Mallaig and Ballachulish. Strengthen and expand all other 0-3 groups across Highland.
- A Report outlining the actions required to plan ongoing resources and staffing support.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Establish a 3 year pilot partnership programme with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Care and Learning Alliance to secure 5 Full Time Equivalent Early Years Support Workers to establish sustainable provision within the 0-3 sector feeding directly through to Gaelic Medium Pre-school, Primary and Secondary schools.
- (ii) Agree a funding support formula with Bòrd na Gàidhlig, for sustaining and expanding this crucial sector.
- (iii) In concert with the Council Early Years Team, engage with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Care and Learning Alliance to carry out an assessment of the Gaelic related training, staffing and resources/materials required to sustain growth in the sector.

Theme 2 - What we will do for Gaelic in Education

Strategic Commitment 4

We will develop 3-18 Gaelic Education and increase the number of Gaelic Learners in schools.

Partners

Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Key Performance Results

- Two new standalone Gaelic Primary schools in Fort William and Portree and additional nursery development in Lochcarron.
- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the number of children accessing Gaelic Medium Primary Education to support the attainment of Scottish Government targets. More detailed pupil target and funding support subject to consultation with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.
- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the number of English Medium pupils receiving Gaelic Learners in Primary Schools (GLPS) – target subject to consultation with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.
- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the number of Secondary pupils studying:
 - a) Gaelic as Learners;
 - b) Gàidhlig (as Fluent Speakers); and
 - c) Subjects through the medium of Gaelic.Secondary Sector targets subject to consultation with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.
- An online map showing all Council Gaelic Education provision, potential capacity and local Gaelic community activity.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Establish a partnership approach with the Scottish Government to deliver new standalone Gaelic Primary schools in Fort William and Portree.
- (ii) Agree a funding support formula with Bòrd na Gàidhlig, for new developments and additional provision.
- (iii) Council-wide Mapping exercise to identify the areas within, or between, Associated School Groups, where current Gaelic Education provision (0-18) could be configured and/or strengthened to support and establish long term sustainable Gaelic Education provision.
- (iv) Identify Gaelic community development activities within Associated School Groups, to complement and link with formal Gaelic Education provision.

- (v) Identify and support 3-5 Pre-school provision, in specific locations, to support the transition to Gaelic Medium Primary and Secondary schools.
- (vi) Work locally, at the earliest opportunity, to establish demand for full wraparound care provision in anticipation of the planned standalone Gaelic Primary schools in Fort William and Portree. Should sustainable demand be identified elsewhere such as Inverness or Dingwall, these will also be explored.
- (vii) Target Gaelic Medium Primary provision in Thurso, Ullapool, Portree, Dingwall, Tain, Nairn, Inverness and Fort William.
- (viii) Target Gaelic Learners in Primary Schools (GLPS) expansion in North and North West along with the Greater Fort William area.
- (ix) Target Gaelic Secondary Education expansion in Inverness, Lochaber and in Dingwall/Tain.
- (x) Initiate research into the action required to increase pupil numbers around the key transition stages from nursery to Primary school; from Primary to Secondary school and within Secondary stages.
- (xi) Develop links between Gaelic Medium Primary and Gaelic Medium Secondary schools, where Gaelic teaching provision for S1 and S2 might usefully be supported by Primary teachers.
- (xii) Create parental promotion and marketing material highlighting the benefits of Gaelic Education and bilingualism.
- (xiii) Provide guidance and support for relevant Council staff, including in schools, to encourage parents to choose the Gaelic Education route to bilingualism.
- (xiv) Work with Bòrd na Gàidhlig on a national Gaelic Education Workforce Planning Strategy.
- (xv) Work with Bòrd na Gàidhlig on a national Gaelic Education Additional Support Needs Strategy.

Theme 2 - What we will do for Gaelic in Education

Strategic Commitment 5

We will work with partners to review the learning materials and learning resources provided to support Gaelic Education.

Partners

Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Local Authorities, Stòrlann, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

Key Performance Results

- An overview of Gaelic Education online learning materials resources that will inform a strategic national assessment of the development of future online requirements for teachers, pupils and other learners.
- A review of the outcomes and resource priorities required from Stòrlann.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Undertake an audit of the Gaelic Education online learning material and resources currently available in Highland, including usage and uptake.
- (ii) Engage with other Local Authorities, Stòrlann and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to assess the current range of Gaelic education materials and resources, their delivery and outline future development.