

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council**

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 29 Cèitean 2014
Gaelic Implementation Group – 29 May 2014**

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| Agenda Item | 7 |
| Report No | GIG 11/14 |

An Comunn Gàidhealach Presentation

Report by the Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Summary

This Report introduces a presentation by Mr John Morrison, Chief Executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG). Mr Morrison will provide an update for Members on progress towards the successful delivery of the Royal National Mòd and associated Mòd Fringe Programme in Inverness from 10-17 October 2014.

The Council is heavily involved through participation and support from the Chair of the Gaelic Implementation Group, The Provost of Inverness, the Gaelic Team, the Director of Development and Infrastructure Service and his Officials, the Inverness Area and City Committee including the City's Events Officer, and also the Council's PR Team. The Royal National Mòd is part of Scotland's Year of Homecoming 2014 and of Highland Homecoming 2014.

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- The National Performance Outcomes 2, 4, 5 and 13.
- Scotland's National Gaelic Language Plan across its Development Areas on Education: Schools and Teachers, Communities, Arts & Media and Heritage & Tourism.
- 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 Council's Gaelic Language Plan

1. Background

1.1 The Council has a Service Delivery Contract with ACG which provides for the Royal National Mòd to take place in the Highland Council area in 2014, 2017 and 2020. The Mòd will take place in Inverness this year and in Lochaber in 2017.

1.2 Mr Morrison will provide a **ten minute presentation**; followed by an opportunity to discuss with Members in greater detail, the arrangements for the Royal National Mod in Inverness in October 2014.

2 Mòd Inbhir Nis Venues

2.1 The main Mòd competitions will take place in and around Eden Court Theatre. Inverness High School has also been booked for the duration of the Mòd; and

is expected to be used mainly for the children's competitions. The Council Chamber has been booked as it will be used for the daily press conferences and briefings; it also has simultaneous translation facilities. Two Committee rooms have been booked where the media will be based and have access to wi-fi facilities and communications.

2.2 The Chamber and Committee rooms in the Town House have been booked, and they will be used for lunchtime recitals, various Receptions and competitions.

3. Iomall a' Mhòd - The Fringe Programme

3.1 The Local Organising Committee (LOC) is developing an inclusive and exciting Mòd Fringe Programme.

3.2 The following is a snapshot of some Mod Fringe events:

- Opening ceremony torchlight parade including pipe-bands, competitors, and the public.
- The Inverness Museum and Art Gallery (IMAG) are organising exhibitions and musical performances in the main Galleries, poetry recitations, an Exhibition of the Mòd and culturally related material including images from ACG Archive which will be in the Community Gallery and on a slideshow in the Café and Room to Discover.
- The IMAG will open on Monday 13th especially for the Mòd.
- There will be lunch time recitals in the Town House, there will also be traditional music/ bands and groups performing in various establishments and venues in the City.
- The Highland Archive Centre is organising workshops and a lecture on genealogy.
- The Inverness Street Theatre is also taking place during the Mòd and it will include Gaelic street theatre and drop-in Gaelic taster sessions.
- The Programme includes music at key visitor attractions such as Urquhart Castle and Fort George.
- The LOC In partnership with the National Trust will be staging a number of events at Culloden. Songs of the '45 event: a presentation from Margaret Bennett and aim to stage the Lèirsinn production at Culloden.
- The Fiddlers Rally which is programmed for Saturday night aims to be the most spectacular Fiddle Concert in Scotland this year. The event, in conjunction with Blazin' in Beaully will feature Blazing Fiddles and individual artistes of world-renown like Casey Driesson.
- A number of leading bands including Skipinish, Skerryvore, Cruinn, The Glenfinnan Cèilidh Band are among the acts already confirmed.
- There will also be an opportunity to meet leading Gaelic authors and listen to a number of prominent Gaelic poets.
- Events linked to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia are also scheduled in the Programme.

4. Marketing

4.1 Council Officials and An Comunn Officials are drafting a Mòd promotional leaflet which will be ready for distribution to venues, accommodation providers, visitor centres, and will be accessible online August.

4.2 Tweets are issued on the Council's Twitter and Facebook pages and have been scheduled to go out on the first Monday of each Month from the beginning of June until the Mòd commences.

Faic làrach-lìn Comataidh Eagrachaidh Ionadail Inbhir Nis airson @RoyalMod2014 <http://www.modinbhirnis2014.com/>

See the #Inverness Local Organising Committee website for @RoyalMod2014 <http://www.modinbhirnis2014.com/>

4.3 The Council in association with the Inverness City BID Team has submitted a funding application to Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund for additional resources to develop and promote the visual presence of Gaelic in the City - 'Gaidhlig sa Bhaile', and surrounding area. The application includes an out-door arts and informal education programme, pop-up Gaelic Café, banners and flags, Gaelic words/imagery projected on to iconic buildings e.g. the Castle, Gaelic street theatre and imagery. Should the funding application be successful, this will greatly assist in the development of the Gaelic ethos and image in the City and also generate a family friendly atmosphere which will enhance the visitor experience in relation to Gaelic and culture during the Highland Homecoming period and beyond.

5. Implications

5.1 There are no additional implications associated with this report at present.

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| 6. Recommendations |
| 6.1 Members are invited to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comment on Mr Morrison's presentation: and• Agree to continue and develop the excellent working relationships to deliver the best possible Royal National Mòd in Inverness and surrounding area in 2014. |

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 19 May 2014

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