

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council**

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 20 Gearran 2014
Gaelic Implementation Group – 20 February 2014**

Agenda Item	6
Report No	GIG 3-14

Fèisean nan Gàidheal Presentation

Report by the Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Summary

This Report provides Members with a brief overview of Fèisean nan Gàidheal (FnG) activities and the ongoing partnership work between the Fèisean movement and Highland Council. The Report also introduces Arthur Cormack, Chief Executive of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, who will provide a presentation to Members.

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 Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

1. Background

1.2 FnG was established in 1991 as the independent overarching association of the Fèis movement. It is a membership organisation that offers a range of services to its members including grant-aid, training, insurance, and instrument loans. FnG is based in Portree, Inverness, Fort William, and Stornoway.

1.3 Arthur Cormack, Chief Executive of FnG will give a presentation on the main activities relating to the Fèisean, Fèis Movement, Fèisgoil, and Gaelic development within the respective activities of the organisation.

2 Funding

2.1 FnG receives core and development funding from The Highland Council, Creative Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Argyll and Bute Council.

2.3 Fèisean nan Gàidheal is a Creative Scotland foundation organisation. This arrangement offers some security of funding for a period of 3 years and also

the ability to use those funds to attract additional funds from other organisations.

3. Service Delivery Contracts

- 2.1 The Council has a Service Delivery Contract with FnG, which is reviewed annually.

3. The Fèisean

- 3.1 At present there are 43 Fèisean taking place throughout the Country, 21 of which take place in the Highlands and they are as follows:

- Fèis an Earraich (Isle of Skye)
- Fèis Lochabair (Lochaber)
- Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan (Ardnamurchan)
- Fèis Chàtaibh (Sutherland)
- Fèis a' Bhealaich (Applecross)
- Fèis Rois Òigridh (Ross-shire)
- Fèis Rois nan Deugairean (Ross-shire/Ullapool)
- Fèis Eige (Eigg)
- Fèis Ghallaibh (Caithness)
- Fèis Farr (Farr/Sutherland)
- Fèis na h-Òige (Inverness)
- Fèis air an Òir (North Coast)
- Fèis Ghleann Albainn (Fort Augustus/ Great Glen)
- Fèis Ratharsair (Raasay)
- Fèis a' Bhaile (Inverness)
- Fèis Òigridh na Mara (Mallaig)
- Fèis Inbhir Narann (Nairn)
- Fèis Spè (Speyside)
- Fèis a' Chaolais (Inverness)
- Fèis na Iar Thuath (North West Area)
- Fèis Thronairnis (Staffin)

4. Youth Music Initiative

- 4.1 The Council continues to contract FnG to deliver traditional music tuition in all primary schools in its area as part of the Scottish Government's Youth Music Initiative. The contract, worth £219k, involved 38 tutors being employed to offer tuition to 3,606 pupils in the P5 classes of 182 (including Special Units) schools.

5. Drama Summer School

- 5.1 The Sgoil Shamhraidh Dràma - Gaelic Drama Summer School, attracted ten young Gaelic-speaking actors from across the country. It is held in Portree during the first two weeks of the school holidays in July.

6. Fèisgoil

- 6.1 In 2012 FnG introduced a new service, 'Fèisgoil. This new service amalgamated the formal education work with which FnG is already involved, with a new service offering Gaelic tuition to primary schools where Gaelic is not currently taught.
- 6.2 Two experienced tutors held a training session at which 16 potential Fèisgoil tutors received training in how to use existing Gaelic teaching materials and some resources which have been developed by FnG staff over a number of years.
- 6.3 Following the introduction of the service they have promoted the services to a number of local authorities, public bodies and Gaelic organisations. The Council is piloting Fèisgoil and is providing both financial and staff support towards this initiative.
- 6.4 Area Education Managers are liaising with Fèis Development staff regarding schools participation.
- 6.5 The following schools are taking part in Fèisgoil:

Lochaber High School Associated School Group

- Lochside Primary
- Banavie Primary
- Inverlochy Primary
- Upper Achintore Primary
- Fort William Primary School
- Fort William RCPS (drama provision)
- Spean Bridge Primary
- Roybridge Primary

Thurso High School Associated School Group

- Miller Academy Primary
- Mount Pleasant Primary
- Pennyland Primary
- Reay Primary

Farr High School Associated School Group

- Farr Primary
- Melvich Primary
- Tongue Primary

7. Implications

- 7.1 There are currently no additional Implications associated with this Report.

8.	Recommendations
	Members are invited to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• comment on the presentation;• agree that Officers evaluate the Fèisgoil Primary School pilot programme in the Highland Council area;• agree to continue collaboration on projects including the Blas Festival; in pursuance of the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan and the Service Delivery Contract; and• agree to scope partnership working that might be possible to support, and maximise the impact of, the Mod Fringe 2014 in Inverness.
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Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 8 February 2014

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