

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd  
The Highland Council**

Agenda Item	<b>9</b>
Report No	<b>GIG 11/13</b>

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

**An Comunn Gàidhealach**

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

**Summary**

The report introduces a presentation by Mr John Morrison, Chief Executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG) on partnership activity and an update on the organisation of Royal National Mòd 2014 in Inverness.

The Report contributes to the delivery of :

- National Performance Indicator Outcomes 13 - ‘We take pride in a strong, fair, and inclusive National identity’; and 2 – “We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people”.
- The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16, Theme 3, “What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage” and Theme 5 “What we will do for Gaelic in Economic Development”.
- 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 ACG is a company limited by guarantee and a voluntary membership organisation, with charitable status, founded in Oban in 1891 as a vehicle for the preservation and development of the Gaelic language.
- 1.2 It actively encourages the teaching, learning and use of the Gaelic language and the study and cultivation of Gaelic literature, history, music and art. The Royal National Mòd.
- 1.3 The aims of ACG are to support and develop all aspects of the Gaelic language, culture, history and heritage at local, national and international levels by:
  - Promoting the use of the language in everyday community life.
  - Promoting the study and development of Gaelic language, literature, music, drama and all other related art forms.
  - Actively seeking official recognition and use of Gaelic as a living language and national asset by local, national and European Governments and other agencies, by co-operating with all other

organisations engaged in the provision of Gaelic language and culture

## **2. Inverness 2014 Royal National Mod**

- 2.1 The announcement, at the Royal National Mòd in Caithness, in 2010, that the 2014 Mòd would be hosted by Inverness was met with approval from the entire Gaelic community. The absence of the Mòd from the Highland Capital since 1997 was felt by many to be too long an absence, and the return was considered overdue in a city that has seen considerable growth and development since 1997.
- 2.2 The Gaelic perspective has changed markedly in Inverness over the last 15 years, and will doubtless have changed further by 2014. Bòrd na Gàidhlig is established in Inverness and the presence of Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis illustrates the strides that have been taken in developing Gaelic in Inverness. In addition, many Gàidhlig organisations have offices in the city and the public bodies in Inverness, as well as many in other sectors, are committed to the language.

## **3. The Early Steps to 2014**

- 3.1 The Inverness Branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach organised an early public meeting to elect an organising committee. The office bearers were Allan Campbell (Chairman); Roy Pederson (Vice-Chairman) and Donald N Macleod (Treasurer) and Alice Macdonald (Secretary).is undertaking the role. Others are also involved and their support and input continues to be invaluable.
- 3.2 It is hugely encouraging that the three local Choirs (Inverness; Dingwall and Nairn) are all represented on the LOC with five members in total from these three choirs.
- 3.3 The first year of preparation for Mòd 2014 allowed the LOC to conduct a review and to lay plans for the following years. The LOC used the Mòd Manual to guide the process and will use local knowledge to ensure the fulfilment of these obligations.
- 3.4 Eden Court Theatre and complex will play a key role in the hosting of the Mod and a member of staff from Eden Court attends meetings of the LOC – which are held in Eden Court.
- 3.5 The Inverness Provincial Mòd has been held at Eden Court for the last few years. This has allowed the local provincial Mòd to assume the role of lead provincial Mòd amongst the many provincial Mòds that An Comunn Gàidhealach holds across Scotland each year. It is now the largest provincial Mòd, measured by participants, and continues to grow each year. Eden Court has been a catalyst in this growth and the local Mòd Committee are keen to continue to use this venue; although the costs are significant.
- 3.6 Fundraising is also a big responsibility for the LOC. The office-bearers were aware of the close co-operation between the local Branch and the LOC and

came to an early agreement with the Branch that the proceeds of fundraising events would be split on an agreed basis to the benefit of both parties. This remains the case unless any funding received has been given as restricted funding for a specific event, or purpose. This allows the local Branch and the LOC to operate in harmony. Efforts to fund events which are held annually (such as the annual Provincial Mòd) will not be destabilised by the 2014 National Mòd. Both the local Branch and the LOC operate within budget and the latter is on schedule to raise the required support for the 2014 National Mòd.

#### **4. The second year of preparation – 2012**

- 4.1 Monthly meetings of the LOC started in 2011 and have continued throughout 2012. These monthly meetings will continue until September 2014, when the meetings will become weekly meetings.
- 4.2 A healthy programme of events was timetabled for the 2012 calendar year and the majority of the events have taken place in the evenings, or at weekends. These have ranged from ceilidhs to regular soup and sandwich events and from an annual Hogmanay Dance to a speculative “Quiz night”.
- 4.3 In addition, the LOC started a Mòd 400 club where participants contribute a fixed sum each month (by standing order) to a prize draw. Half of the proceeds of this monthly draw are distributed as prize money.
- 4.4 Local organisers from Inverness have met with local organisers at each of the last two Mods. They understand the issues involved and are keen to build upon the successes. They will also work to mitigate any issues that caused difficulties. The local representatives of the LOC work closely with the staff of An Comunn Gàidhealach in Inverness, and elsewhere.

#### **5 The remaining build up and next steps in partnership for 2014**

- 5.1 The work that has been undertaken so far merely lays the foundation for Mòd 2014 and the next two years will require greater efforts. The LOC will need the assistance of all interested parties to help deliver a successful Mod
- 5.2 The 2014 Mòd, will be the “*Homecoming*” Mòd - in association with Scotland’s second year of Homecoming. The creation of a Liaison Group by the Council in November 2012, will greatly assist with delivering the world’s premier Gaelic cultural event; to showcase the area and to demonstrate to the wider Scottish, national and international audience that our language and culture co-exists in harmony with a dynamic and forward-thinking host venue.
- 5.3 The first 2014 Mod Liaison Meeting between the Council and An Comunn Gàidhealach took place on 23 April 2013. It was a highly successful and useful exchange and was agreed to be an excellent vehicle for further partnership engagement. The Implementation Group will be kept apprised of progress.

## **6. Implications**

- 6.1 There are no additional implications associated with this report at present.
- 6.2 In terms of Resources, the Council has paid the annual payment to ACG in accordance with our Service Delivery Contract. In addition, funding has also been provided from Inverness Common Good over 2012, 2013 and 2014 for both the Royal National Mod 2014 and the Inverness Local Mod.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to:

- support the continued partnership working between the Council and An Comunn Gàidhealach;
- note progress in relation to the Royal National Mod 2014; and
- comment on Mr John Morrison's presentation.

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 9 May 2013

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