

Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd  
The Highland Council

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

Agenda Item	5
Report No	GIG 12-13

Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16  
Theme 1 “What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities”:  
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 Theme 1 “What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities”.

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- National Performance Outcomes 4, 5, 11 and 13.
- National Gaelic Language Plan Outcomes – **Home & Early Years; Education: Schools & Teachers; Education: Post-school Education and Communities.**
- 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. Introduction**

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 1 – **What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities** was allocated to the August 2013 meeting.

**2. Background to implementing the GLP 2012-16 Theme 1 What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities.**

2.1 The **Home and Communities** Theme is reproduced at **Appendix 1** below for ease of reference. This Theme has three Strategic Commitments (see 2.2-2.4 below) and outlined under these is an overview of the work commenced across a range of areas:

2.2 **Strategic Commitment 1** - We will institute a pan Highland partnership to create resources to encourage and support parents or guardians in using Gaelic in the home.

2.3 **Strategic Commitment 2** - We will provide language acquisition support in the home and community for pupils in Gaelic Medium Education.

2.4 **Strategic Commitment 3** - We will play a principal role in establishing Community Partnership Development Plans around Gaelic Education provision in conjunction with parents and Gaelic organisations and based on the priorities in the National Gaelic Language Plan.

### 3. What we are doing for Gaelic in Homes and in Communities

#### 3.1 Pre-school

3.2 In early years, the Council support family learning within Ceuman Beaga groups based in **Aviemore** and **Drumnadrochit**. A new family group has also been set up in **Fort William**. We organised Fun Days for toddlers in **Inverness**, a Toddler Fun and Open Morning in **Newtonmore** Primary school, an Open afternoon for pre-school parents and children at **Glenurquhart** Primary School, plus a variety of Gaelic Days in **Fort William, Portree, Plockton, Dunvegan, Gairloch, Bonar Bridge, Nairn**; and a Gaelic Fun Morning in **Aviemore**, all aimed at promoting GME to families with pre-school children.

3.3 The 0-5 GM Parent and child group in **Lochcarron** continues to be supported and will commence weekly taster sessions in the 13-14 school Session. If demand is sufficient, this will increase to 2 taster sessions per week after the Festive Break. We have also supported and organised a Gaelic fun and information day for GM families in the **Thurso** area.

3.4 New packs of Family Learning Flashcards were developed to support family learning in the home.

#### 3.5 Primary and Secondary Schools

3.6 The Council organise a wide programme of activities which provide young people with opportunities to use Gaelic in non-classroom situations. We manage and support Homework Clubs in **Acharacle, Portree, Dingwall, Inverness** and **Fort William**, and these provide further linguistic support to GM children from non-Gaelic speaking homes.

3.7 A bespoke Homework Workshop was held at **Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis** to support parents and give them information on how they could help support their children's learning. Crèche facilities were provided and parents were able to access the *Gaelic4Parents* website live in addition to other information they received from school staff.

3.8 Events are also organised to support and encourage GM Primary to Secondary transition. In **Skye**, an event was organised and offered to all GM P7 pupils on the island. This facilitated participation in outdoor activities to enable the pupils to interact and engage with their Secondary school GM peers.

- 3.9 Primary 7 pupils from **Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis**, **Millbank Primary** and **Newtonmore Primary** school stayed at Badaguish Outdoor Centre for 3 days and took part in a variety of outdoor activities. At the end of the week they went to Edinburgh and visited Dynamic Earth and Holyrood Park, linking in with Comann Nam Pàrant Naiseanta's primary schools event.
- 3.10 Easter and summer programmes of GM activities are organised for pupils to ensure children have access to, and are encouraged to use, Gaelic outwith the classroom setting. These include drama, sports, arts, outdoor education pursuits and ski-ing.
- 3.11 The Council, in partnership with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, organises an annual youth residential event - *Seachdain nan Deugairean* - for Gaelic high school pupils. Both fluent and learner pupils have the opportunity to attend the event; which offers the pupils workshops in Media skills, Drama and Outdoor Education activities.
- 3.12 Young people in Gaelic Drama groups in **Inverness** and **Dingwall** also took part in the National Theatre Connections Festival, culminating in a performance held in Eden Court, Inverness in April.
- 3.13 Pupils from **Inverness Royal Academy**, **Culloden Academy**, **Dingwall Academy** and **Fortrose Academy** joined together in a Gaelic residential trip to Belfast and Donegal at the end of March. The pupils took part in a mixture of outdoor activities as well as learning more about Ireland's cultural heritage.
- 3.14 Older Secondary pupils, S5 upwards and college students are encouraged to help at after-school activities and clubs. This helps develop them personally and provides them with an opportunity to act as role models for younger children.
- 3.15 In March 2013, the Council organised a Gaelic Careers event – *Siuthad!* - in conjunction with **Skills Development Scotland** in **Eden Court Theatre**, Inverness which aimed to encourage young Secondary pupils to continue with their Gaelic up to qualification level. 102 pupils attended from all over **Highland** as well as some from **Argyll and Bute Council**.
- 3.16 The Council have a joint project with Bòrd na Gàidhlig which supports a post that continues to build and develop community and parental links around Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis. This project also links through to Inverness Royal Academy, in order to support pupils and parents at the crucial Primary to Secondary educational transition phase
- 3.17 **Adult Learning and Community Engagement**

The Council engage in a wide range of Gaelic development activities across Highland communities both directly and in association with other partners, organisations and agencies such as Gàidhlig anns a' Phàirc (Gaelic network based in **Badenoch/Strathspey**) or work with local partners to develop and deliver local community Gaelic Plans with a focus on early years, adult

learning, youth and community projects.

- 3.18 Given the Council's commitment to, and delivery of, Gaelic education, we undertake advisory, support and familiarisation sessions for parents and potential parents of GM pupils. We work in partnership with **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig** and the **CLAD Gaelic Review Group** to deliver the annual Gaelic Family Week in **Sleat**. Parents attend adult learning classes, children under the age of 4 attend local Gaelic childcare facilities and GM pupils attend a week long play scheme. In 2012 there were 111 participants. In 2013 there were 135 participants.
- 3.19 The Council organise Gaelic Adult Learning opportunities through the Ùlpan system and other Classes, for over 200 people. These include the parents of children in GME and classes are organised across **Inverness, Nairn, Drumnadrochit, Balnain, Fort William, Ballachulish, Dingwall, Portree, Auchtertyre, Ullapool, Plockton** and **Bettyhill**. This work is ongoing and, with support from the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF), is targeted for expansion again this year.
- 3.20 In accordance with the Gaelic Language Plan, a review (see Para 4 below) of Gaelic Adult Learning in Highland is underway. In the meantime, the Council continues to deliver Ùlpan courses in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Deiseal Ltd and discussions will continue concerning the future delivery and sustainability of Ùlpan classes across Highland; in particular concerning the frequency of lessons and the number of students on courses.
- 3.21 The Council is working with Bòrd na Gàidhlig, North Highland College and Lews Castle College to re-develop the Gàidhlig Dachaigh and Gàidhlig Phàrant resources for adult learning and parental support.
- 3.22 **South Area Gaelic Classes – to end June 2013**
- Inverness** – Nine Ùlpan classes covering all Units between Unit 37 and 144 ran up until the end of June. Two Gaelic Revision and Conversation Classes aimed at learners in the more advanced stages of Ùlpan also ran. Sixteen students completed all Ùlpan Units.
- 3.23 **Lochaber** and **Ballachulish** – In **Fort William** two classes reached Unit 46, another class completed up to Unit 31. A fourth class involved a merger of two previous classes and in June they completed Unit 103. The **Ballachulish** class completed up to Unit 28.
- 3.24 **North Area Gaelic Classes – to end June 2013**
- 3.25 **Dingwall** - One Ùlpan class continuing offering units 27-37.
- 3.26 **Tain** – The Council is considering organising a parents' class in this area and parental interest will be ascertained at the start of the new academic year.
- 3.27 **Auchtertyre** - One Ùlpan class running teaching units 47-57

- 3.28 **Plockton** - One Ùlpan class offering unit 86 onwards will be re-advertised locally.
- 3.29 **Portree** - There are currently two Ùlpan courses running at beginner/Advanced beginner level; offering units 19-29 and 25-34. The class at unit 72 has been postponed until August 2013, due to low attendance. A monthly Gaelic book club is continuing to run for post unit 144 Ùlpan students. The Ùlpan Community Course organised by Aros is also supported by the Council.
- 3.30 **Bettyhill** - One Ùlpan class running at Farr High school, currently offering units 52-62
- 3.31 **Gairloch** - Deiseal ran an Ùlpan tutor training session in the area and ran some Ùlpan taster sessions alongside the tutor training. There is local demand for an Ùlpan class in Gairloch but we are unable to identify an Ùlpan tutor in the area.
- 3.32 **Assynt** - Classes were provided financial support to enable the continuation of the existing two classes
- 3.33 **Lochinver** - Students currently at Ùlpan unit 65 and wish to progress to unit 72. Lochinver class finished the session at unit 72
- 3.34 **Stoer** - Students currently at Ùlpan unit 96 and wish to progress to unit 144.
- 3.35 **Ullapool** - Two Ùlpan classes are running; one class offering units 43-53; the second class offering units 61-71.
- 3.36 A range of community based classes are currently being offered in the Highland Council area where it is the preferred option or where there is a specific request for parent classes. For example, the annual **Gaelic Family Learning Week on Skye** is open to all Gaelic Medium parents in Highland and was held week beginning the 1 July 2013.
- 3.37 **Dingwall:** In Dingwall there are three community based classes running. An advanced conversational class; a beginner's conversational class with more than 50% of attendees Gaelic Medium parents; and an intermediate post-Standard Grade class has seven students enrolled. The three community based conversation classes will commence again in September 2013.
- 3.38 **Caithness:** The Parents' class in **Thurso** is to be continued at the start of the 13-14 academic year. A beginners' Gaelic community based course started in **Wick** in March 2013 with 19 students attending the 26 week course. A second class in **Thurso** started in May 2013 with 40 students registered. A Gaelic learner social day has been organised to take place this month to bring the two learner groups together.
- 3.39 **Dunvegan:** A new parent's course started in January 2013. The class is

attended by the Parents of pre-school children in the area and will recommence in September 2013.

3.40 **Bettyhill:** The intermediate level Community class is to be continued in the new academic year, commencing September 2013.

3.41 Gaelic classes specifically aimed at supporting the parents of Gaelic medium pupils are also organised in areas with GM Education; or where provision is planned. This year such classes ran in **Mallaig, Newtonmore, Drumnadrochit, Inverness, Dunvegan** and **Thurso**.

3.42 The Council also works in partnership with community groups to deliver Gaelic taster days and other learner opportunities such as the **Aviemore Gaelic Taster Day** held on 1 June.

#### **4. Review of Gaelic Adult Learning Provision in Highland**

4.1 Given the importance that the Council places on opportunities for Gaelic Adult Learning and the commitments in GLP 12-16, we are undertaking a review of the delivery of, and the demand for, Gaelic classes in Highland. This initiative also follows on from discussion at the February GIG at which Members “agreed that information be provided to a future meeting of the Group on the range of support provided for parents of children in GME.”

4.2 The review will take place between August and December - up to the end of the first term of the 13-14 School Session. Bòrd na Gàidhlig, CLI, Deiseal Ltd and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig are likely to be involved; in order to ensure that we deliver Gaelic Adult Education opportunities that are appropriate for increasing learner numbers and which suit the needs of our communities and of current and prospective students.

4.3 As mentioned earlier, this review is particularly important with regard to non-Gaelic speaking parents of GM pupils, and the work fulfils obligations in both the National and Highland Gaelic Language Plans. The review will include a consultation and Student and Tutor Surveys; and the first Review group meeting is scheduled for August.

#### **5. Implications**

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

**Recommendation**

Members are asked to:

- Note progress in implementing the Home and Communities Theme in GLP 12-16;
- Agree to publicise the extent of the Council's delivery on Gaelic in the Home and in Communities;
- Note the review of Gaelic Adult Learning needs in Highland
- Agree continued cross-agency working to encourage Gaelic learning and usage opportunities in homes, schools and communities; and
- Agree that the Council work with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and other partners to create a range of Gaelic Adult Learning resources, including online and other materials to support parents of GM pupils.

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 31 July 2013

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## **Theme 1 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities**

### **Strategic Commitment 1**

We will institute a pan Highland partnership to create resources to encourage and support parents or guardians in using Gaelic in the home.

### **Partners**

Bòrd na Gàidhlig; Deiseal Ltd, Comann nam Pàrant, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Community Learning and Development Review Group.

### **Key Performance Results**

- Baseline data established which will show the linguistic ability of parents or guardians of Gaelic Medium pupils in order to ascertain the requirements for learning and support in the home. Following this exercise, set a target for increasing the number within the lifetime of the Plan.
- Increase the attendance and participation at Gaelic family events and increase attendance at the Gaelic Family Learning Weeks by 20% from 30 families with 98 participants in 2011-12.

### **Enabling Actions**

- (i) Carry out a survey of the linguistic ability of parents or guardians of Gaelic Medium pupils in order to ascertain their requirements for learning and support in the home.
- (ii) Create a new resource pack, using up to date technology, to encourage and support parents/guardians in using Gaelic in the home.
- (iii) Organise and develop Ùlpan progressive language classes around the Council's Associated School Groups; where Gaelic Medium Education is provided.
- (iv) Organise advisory workshops for Gaelic Medium parents; and work with parents alongside other community based partners.
- (v) Work with partners to organise and expand the "Gaelic Family Learning Week" initiative.



## **Theme 1 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities**

### **Strategic Commitment 2**

We will provide language acquisition support in the home and community for pupils in Gaelic Medium Education.

### **Partners**

Bòrd na Gàidhlig; Comann nam Pàrant, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, High Life Highland.

### **Key Performance Results**

- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the numbers participating in Gaelic Medium Education language acquisition support, through extra-curricular activities, by 20% from a baseline of 700 in 2011-12.
- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the number of Gaelic Medium options within general activities and sports related programmes by 20% from a baseline of 30 in 2011-12.
- Organise and deliver *Seachdain nan Deugairean* for Secondary pupils each year at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
- Establish a baseline figure for the number of Gaelic speaking sports coaches/activity leaders in the Council and High Life Highland. Following this, set a target for increasing the number within the lifetime of the Plan.

### **Enabling Actions**

- (i) Create language support activities around the Council's Associated School Groups; where Gaelic Medium Education is provided.
- (ii) Support existing homework clubs, after school clubs and activities and expand activities where sustainable.
- (iii) Provide opportunities for inter generational Gaelic usage between senior citizens and young people.
- (iv) In partnership with High Life Highland, organise coaching events for Gaelic Medium Secondary school pupils to enable them to deliver activities in Gaelic.
- (v) Liaise with High Life Highland to include Gaelic in the Summer Activity Programme.
- (vi) Develop a Gaelic arts, media and leisure programme including drama, film and sporting activities.
- (vii) Secure Individual Learning Account Provider status to enable Council organised Gaelic courses to be eligible for Individual Learning Account support.
- (viii) Support the football competition, Cuach na Cloinne and investigate the possibility of a national schools Shinty competition.

## **Theme 1 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities**

### **Strategic Commitment 3**

We will play a principal role in establishing Community Partnership Development Plans around Gaelic Education provision; in conjunction with parents and Gaelic organisations; and based on the priorities in the National Gaelic Language Plan.

### **Partners**

Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Comann nam Pàrant, Deiseal Ltd, Clì Gàidhlig, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

### **Key Performance Results**

- Three Community Partnership Development Plans to be put in place around Gaelic Education provision in Lochaber, Skye and Inverness.
- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the number of children accessing Gaelic Medium Primary Education to support the attainment of Scottish Government targets - pupil target and funding support subject to consultation with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.
- Over the lifetime of the Plan, increase the number undertaking adult Gaelic learning including Ùlpan by 20%, from a baseline of 200 in 2011-12 – target subject to further consultation with Bòrd na Gàidhlig.
- A formal evaluation of Gaelic community learning provision, particularly Ùlpan; and a Report on any changes that might be helpful, going forward.
- Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis established as the hub of Gaelic development in and around Inverness.

### **Enabling Actions**

- (i) Develop marketing and awareness events and material; promoting the many benefits of bilingualism through Gaelic, including use in the home.
- (ii) Organise Gaelic Conversation classes.
- (iii) Produce Pre-school enrolment information that promotes the benefits of bilingualism through Gaelic education.
- (iv) Organise Ùlpan progressive language classes and less formal learning opportunities for adults; including those with Additional Support Needs.

- (v) Contribute to an independent review of Gaelic adult learning opportunities in communities, including a review of the effectiveness of Ùlpan: involving tutors, learners and course organisers; an examination of the pricing structures, the terms and conditions and an assessment of future needs.
- (vi) Work with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to develop an adult literacy course for fluent Gaelic speakers.
- (vii) Enhance the community liaison role within Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis to support the expansion of community partnership development planning in Inverness.