

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd  
The Highland Council**

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 14 Samhain 2013  
Gaelic Implementation Group – 14 November 2013**

Agenda Item	<b>6</b>
Report No	<b>GIG 20/13</b>

**Memorandum of Understanding with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig - Projects Report  
Report by the Director of Education, Culture & Sport**

**Summary**

This Report informs Members' on the progress to date in relation to the projects being worked on under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Council and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO).

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- National Performance Indicator Outcomes 13 and 2
- National Gaelic Language Plan Outcomes on *Home & Early Years, Education: Post School Education, Workplace, Arts & Media and Heritage & Tourism*.
- The Programme of 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'.
- All Themes in The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Council continues to collaborate with SMO through the Joint MOU Working Group to report progress on projects and partnership activities across the themes of the Council's Gaelic Language Plan.
- 1.2 The Joint Working Group comprises the College Principal, Vice Principal/Head of Studies, Deputy Director of Studies for Learning, Teaching and Quality Assurance and, from Highland Council, the Gaelic Development Manager and Gaelic Development Officer
- 1.3 The Joint Working Group met on August 27, the next meeting is scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**2. Current Projects**

**2.1 Kilbeg Village Development**

The college is leading plans to build a new campus and more than 90 homes a multi-million development - Kilbeg Village. The development features Sports and Recreation Facilities; Refurbishment of Àrainn Ostaig campus; Conference Facilities; and Housing.

**2.3 Adult Literacy Project**

SMO are currently developing the course and on completion 2 pilot courses will be delivered in the Skye and around Inverness/Badenoch & Strathspey.

#### 2.4 **The Council/UHI Bursaries Scheme**

This Scheme is proving to be very successful and the closing date for applications is October 11<sup>th</sup>, the applications have been assessed, 5 students received £400 and 1 student received £500.

#### 2.5 **SMO@40years**

To commemorate 40 years of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig the Gaelic Implementation Group meeting took place at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, a commemorative flag and plate was presented to the Collage. A number of key events have taken place since the Gaelic Implementation Group met on August 23 and these have been featured on the Council's website homepage:

- 2 September - Sir Iain Noble Memorial Lecture on the early Skye Gaelic schools.
- Dr Roddy MacLeod give this year's Sir Iain Noble Memorial Lecture at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, where he spoke on 'The Nineteenth Century Gaelic School Movement in Skye'.
- 10 September 40 years since the first course at the College.
- 17 September - Scottish Parliamentary Reception for Sabhal Mòr Ostaig @ 40, this provided an opportunity for people to find out more about what Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has to offer and included exhibitions by projects based at the College.
- 9 November Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Ball

#### 2.6 **Links with Cape Breton/ Nova Scotia**

It is envisaged that a few events will take place which will mark the links between the Council, SMO and the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia. These events will take place leading up to and during the 2014. Discussions are currently taking place on the format for this project around the 2014 Inverness Royal National Mod.

#### 2.7 **Arts Development**

Gaelic music, writing, drama and the visual arts

- The Council ran a series of pilot Creative Writing Workshops in Schools across the Highlands. The Author Mr Donald S Murray ran Gaelic writing workshops in the following schools:  
Sleat, Broadford, Kilmuir, Staffin, Portree Primary and High School, Plockton Primary and High Schools, Inverness Royal Academy, Millburn Academy, Ulapool Primary and High Schools, Culloden Academy, BSGI, Dingwall Primary, Dingwall Academy, Tain Academy, Craighill Primary, Farr High School, Wick High School, Tongue, Millbank, Newtonmore Primary, Kingussie High, Lochaber High, and Fortwilliam Primary, Mallaig Primary and High Schools, Gairloch Primary and High Schools and Ardnamurchan High School.

- The evaluation from the workshops showed a 98.5% satisfaction rate with the pupils and teachers.
- Due to the over whelming success of the pilot writing workshops a second series of Gaelic Creative Writing Workshops will take place in schools across the Highland which will focus on the Homecoming 2014 theme.
- The Drama-In-Residence based at SMO will be running a number of workshops in Mount Pleasant Primary School in Thurso.

## 2.8 Family Week

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Family Learning Week took place at SMO between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July with 39 families participating; a total of 129 participants. Discussions are ongoing with plans being developed for next year's event.

## 2.9 Seachdain nan Deugairean

The annual residential event for teenagers took place in February 2013, with a total 28 young people both fluent and learner pupils from Portree and Mallaig High Schools participating in the event. Pupils had the opportunity to take part in various work-shops including drama, media skills and out-door educational activities.

## 2.10 Bilingual “App” - Marketing of Filming Opportunities on Skye

This app project, led by the Highlands of Scotland Film Commission, is complete and will be launched in due course.

## 3. Implications

- 3.1 There are currently no Resource, Legal, Equality implications, Climate change implications.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
4.1	<b>Members are invited to agree that Officers continue to work and liaise with SMO Officials regarding key developments with the MoU.</b>

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 31 October 2013

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