

Agenda Item	3.
Report No	CPB 01/15

GAELIC STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE HIGHLAND COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Summary

This Report from the Chief Officers Group (COG) outlines the outcomes from the first meeting of the Short-Life Working Group on Gaelic, as approved last September.

The Report outlines terms of reference for the Working Group and;

- lists those who attended;
- intimates the desire for a collective Statement of Ambition on Gaelic Strategic Planning and Development across the CPP;
- records the desire for more collegiate inter-organisational liaison, leading to more effective and targeted Gaelic Strategic Planning and Development within the CPP; and
- includes the recommendation that the foregoing provides the basis for considering the establishment of a Thematic Policy Group to take forward Gaelic Strategic Planning and Development issues across the CPP, where appropriate.

1 Background

1.1 The COG meeting of 22 September 2014 considered requests from organisations wishing to participate in, or to participate more fully in, the Highland CPP.

1.2 It accepted the offer from the Chief Executive of Bòrd na Gàidhlig to convene a Short-Life Working Group of Officers with responsibility for Gaelic across the Partnership to report back on how to make the most of Gaelic as an asset for the CPP, and how to improve effectiveness and efficiency of Gaelic language planning and how best to locate it within the CPP structure.

1.3 Subsequently, partners identified an appropriate Officer(s) to take part; and the Council Leader announced the initiative through a News Release on 15 December 2014.

2 The Short-Life Working Group

2.1 The Group met on 13 January 2015. It was chaired by John Angus Mackay; Chief Executive of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and discussed the following Agenda:

- Draft Terms of Reference; looking at how to make the most of Gaelic as an asset; how to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Gaelic

language planning; and where best to locate Gaelic within the Community Planning Partnership.

- In making the most of Gaelic as an Asset the group referred to the recently published Research on the Economic and Social Value of Gaelic as An Asset - <http://www.hie.co.uk/community-support/support-for-gaelic-development/gaelic-research.html> supported by HIE and Highland Council from within the CPP.
- It considered the current status of statutory Gaelic Language Plans (GLPs) within the CPP Organisations in terms of their preparation, implementation, successes and challenges.
- It identified the potential for collegiate working across public bodies in Inverness and more widely across the CPP e.g. to identify and deliver staff training and development opportunities for Gaelic language learning.
- It also considered how best to locate Gaelic within the Community Planning Partnership, with discussion on:
 - How to ensure Gaelic is woven through the appropriate Delivery Plans in the Single Outcome Agreement; and
 - How/where to locate Gaelic physically as a group in the CPP structure.

2.2 Attendees were:

John Angus MacKay – Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Kenny Murray – Highland Council
Julian Innes – Police Scotland
Gus MacPherson – Police Scotland
Seonaidh Caimbeul – Police Scotland
Rachel Hellings – Scottish Natural Heritage
Jacqueline McDonnell – HIE
Mhàiri Wylie – HTS Interface
Iain Caimbeul - Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Daibhidh Boag - Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Anna Walker - Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Louise MacBean - Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Apologies:

Callum MacDonald – NHS Highland
Scott Hay – Fire Scotland

3. Outcomes

3.1 Following discussion, the Group agreed that:

- There was significant value in collegiate working for the individual organisations involved, not least in fulfilling the legal duty to publish Gaelic Language Plans, and the potential for value added in terms of the gains in relation to the six outcome areas embodied in the SOA;
- A “Statement of Ambition” (see 3.2 below) be prepared for the Partnership Board;

- a recommendation that a Thematic Policy Group on Gaelic be established, as part of the CPP structure and reporting to the Partnership Board;

3.2 In recognition of the important role that Gaelic can play in supporting the economic, environmental, social and cultural aspects of the six key outcome areas in the Single Outcome Agreement, the COG commends the following Statement of Ambition to the Partnership Board:

“The Highland Community Planning Partnership will adopt a joined-up approach to Gaelic Strategic Planning and Development; through the sharing of experience, skills and resources. The CPP will raise the profile of, and increase support for, Gaelic across the Highlands; by promoting Gaelic through appropriate SOA Outcome Areas.”

3.3 In the event that the Board is supportive of a Thematic Policy Group (TPG) on Gaelic Strategic Planning and Development; the Short-Life Working Group should meet as soon as possible after the Partnership meeting on 4 March to take forward the Board’s decisions; and to establish a Thematic Remit in alignment with those of the other TPGs.

3.4 Lead Officers will represent partners on a Gaelic Strategic Planning and Development Thematic Policy Group; which will be tasked with providing quarterly updates of progress and a contribution to the Annual Report against the SOA, for scrutiny at the Board.

3.5 Finally, as the Highland Strategic Culture Board is to become part of the CPP structure, there should be discussion about how a Gaelic Strategic Planning and Development Thematic Policy Group can the support the Strategic Culture Board.

4.	Recommendations
4.1	<p>That the Partnership Board agrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overarching Statement of Ambition at 3.2 above; • That a Thematic Policy Group on Gaelic Strategic Planning and Development be established within the CPP; with a Remit to be drafted for the Board by the Short Life Working Group. • That Lead Officers will represent partners on the Gaelic Strategic Planning and Development Thematic Policy Group; • That work be done to identify how the Gaelic Strategic Planning and Development Thematic Policy Group can support the work of the Highland Strategic Culture Board.

Authors: J. A. MacKay, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and K A Murray Gaelic Development Manager, Highland Council

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