

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd  
The Highland Council**

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 28 den Chèitean 2015  
Gaelic Implementation Group – 28 May 2015**

Agenda Item	
Report No	

**Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16 Theme 3 Implementation Report  
“What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage”**

**Report by the Head of Policy and Reform**

**Summary**

This Report provides Members with an update on the implementation of Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16 Theme 3 “What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage”. The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- Government National Performance Outcomes 2, 4 and 13.
- Scotland’s National Gaelic Language Plan across its Development Areas on the Arts and Media, and Heritage and 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’; and
- The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan.

**1. IMPLEMENTING THEME 3:  
WHAT WE WILL DO FOR GAELIC IN THE ARTS, MEDIA AND HERITAGE**

**1.1 Introduction**

The Council works closely with a wide range of local, national and international partners to attract high profile events to the area; and to assist with their delivery. This work is ongoing and these efforts are successful in raising the status and profile of Gaelic and also of the Highlands. Large-scale events contribute significantly to the Highland economy and Officers will continue to seek opportunities to attract cultural, arts, media and heritage related events to the HThis Theme has three Strategic Commitments and work on these is outlined below..

**1.2 Strategic Commitment 1.**

We will engage with partners and contribute to national strategic initiatives and policy formulation for Gaelic in the arts, media and heritage sectors.

**1.3 Strategic Commitment 2.**

We will increase the profile and build the use of Gaelic within Council funded organisations and events within the Highlands.

**1.4 Strategic Commitment 3.**

We will develop opportunities for people to engage with Gaelic through the media, arts and creative industries

**1.5 Outlined below is an overview of implementation work across these.**

## **2. National Gaelic Arts Strategy**

2.1 The National Gaelic Arts Strategic Forum meets quarterly and discusses the strategic development of Gaelic language arts and culture at a local, national and international level. This forum includes organisations which fund the arts and developmental bodies for Gaelic arts development – Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Creative Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, BBC ALBA, MG ALBA, COSLA, VOCAL, and the Scottish Government. Currently two of the top priorities for the forum are Gaelic Drama and Gaelic International development. In the last 13 to 14 months Gaelic Drama Network has been facilitated and funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Creative Scotland. This fund helps support Gaelic Drama projects at local and regional level. <http://www.gaidhlig.org.uk/bord/cothroman-taic-airgid/maoin-drama.php>

## **3. BBC/MG ALBA**

3.1 BBC ALBA is now firmly established and has seen a growth in viewers of the Channel, with more people than ever watching; with very high awareness and approvals levels. Gaelic speakers and learners are making good use of the channel with 70% tuning in every week, with news being the most appreciated and viewed genre. The news is delivered from Inverness and covers Highlands & Islands, national and international stories to great effect with a team of video journalists; who also make contributions to other BBC news programmes on radio and TV.

3.2 Importantly, BBC ALBA also managed to commission a high-end Gaelic TV drama – a mini-series of 3 episodes produced on location in Skye by a Skye-based company, written by a Lewis-based writer and with the entire production taking place through the medium of Gaelic. The channel has commissioned a further 15 episodes, written by a team of emerging writers, being produced over 2015 and 2016 and the first 2 new episodes of the show BANNAN were screened at the Celtic Media Festival.

## **4. LearnGaelic.net**

4.1 The LearnGaelic.net website has high levels of participation and usage which is increasing annually. LearnGaelic.net is a one-stop shop for anyone interested in learning Gaelic. MG Alba, the BBC, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Board of Celtic Studies Scotland and SMO are key partners. [www.LearnGaelic.net](http://www.LearnGaelic.net)

## **5. Fèis Rois**

5.1 Fèis Rois is unique within the wider Fèisean movement in that it is:

- Not run by volunteers and has a paid staff team managed by a Board of Directors
- Working in the formal education sector as well as in the community;

- Delivering a specialist programme of work for young people with additional support needs
  - Working out-with the 8 – 18 age group and, in particular, has a successful Adult Learning programme that contributes to CLD;
  - Working to a national remit wider than Ross & Cromarty;
  - Leading on a number of national initiatives, including Time to Shine and the Highland Youth Arts Hub;
  - Recognised internationally
- 5.2 Fèis Rois is one of 19 organisations in the UK to be awarded £10,000 from the BBC Performing Arts Fellowship. Feis Rois recently launched a CD called Fàs, which features several professional musicians who all started their musical journeys at Fèis Rois. The CD is available to purchase at [www.feisrois.org](http://www.feisrois.org) and at Fèis Rois events. The musicians all donated their tracks, so the sales of the album will raise funds to contribute to supporting the next generation of young musicians in Ross & Cromarty.
- 5.3 A Fèis Rois participant was awarded an international Travel Bursary supported by the British Council and The Saltire Society. The Award consists of £1,500 to pursue a research project, including international travel, together with a certificate and membership of the Saltire Society. The successful individual was a Gaelic speaker, who proposes to spend a month in Catalonia learning about the Catalan language and culture, focussing mainly on the music and dances of the region and to undertake tuition and mentoring in these fields.
- 5.4 Following a successful pilot, Fèis Rois received support from Creative Scotland and SNH to develop their National Ceilidh Trail across Scotland.
- 5.5 Fèis Rois has been awarded £30,000 to commission former participant, John Somerville to write new work inspired by The Hector, the ship that sailed from Loch Broom to Pictou, Nova Scotia.
- 5.6 The core business remains strong with over 500 people taking part in the residential Fèisean this year and over 180 young people taking part in after school classes every week in Lochcarron, Ullapool, Evanton and Avoch.
- 5.7 Feis Rois is leading on the development of a new Highland Youth Music Forum, which brings together music providers of all genres across the area. They are currently building [www.highlandyouthmusic.org.uk](http://www.highlandyouthmusic.org.uk), which they hope will be a one-stop-shop where young people (aged 0-25) will be able to find out about music making opportunities across the area.
- 5.8 Fèis Rois has recently been successful in its application for long term regular funding from Creative Scotland for the period 2015 – 2018, and have received Foundation status and £101,000.

## **6. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Residency Programme (SMORP)**

- 6.1 SMO has supported residency programmes since it was first established, with the late Somhairle MacLean being the first Writer in Residence based at SMO. The SMORP has developed over the years and they now have a full residency programme of 4 Artists in Residence (a Musician, a Visual Artist, a Drama professional and a Writer), all currently funded by Creative Scotland's Creative Futures Programme. SMO has a dedicated Visual Artist Studio based in FÀS Mor – its Creative Industries Centre.

## **7. Memorandum of Understanding SMO**

- 7.1 The Council has a Memorandum of Understanding with SMO and we continue to meet quarterly to implement joint projects between the Council and SMO.

## **8. Celtic Media Festival (CMF)**

- 8.1 The CMF took place in Inverness between 22 and 24 April; and a Local Liaison Committee was established. The CMF aims to promote the languages and cultures of the Celtic countries on screen and in broadcasting.
- 8.2 Producers, Directors and decision makers in the world of Television and Radio came together to discuss and reflect on broadcasting in the Celtic Nations and Regions. Indigenous languages are an important part of Celtic Media Festival, and, Gaelic Irish, Welsh, Cornish, Breton, and Galician languages were used during the festival.
- 8.3 Celtic Media Festival also hosts the Torc Awards for Excellence, awards in Television, Radio and Interactive Media these were judged on an International Stage. As well as industry panel discussions, and the Torc Awards for Excellence, there was a programme of screenings that were free of charge to the public.

## **9. The 2014 Inverness Royal National Mod**

- 9.1 The Royal National Mod (RNM) is organised annually by An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG). Under the terms of a Service Delivery Contract, the RNM will be held in the Highland Council area in 2017 (Ft William) and 2020 (venue to be agreed).
- 9.2 The 2014 Inverness Royal National Mod, and the Mod Fringe, were a huge success culturally, artistically, media-wise and economically; with a total benefit to the local economy of some £3,547,661.

## **10. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Council and the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia**

- 10.1 The Council is renewing its Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Nova Scotia. The Honourable Randy Delorey Minister for Environment and Gaelic Affairs in the Government of Nova Scotia recorded a message on YouTube to the Council which was played at the final Royal National Mod press conference on Friday 17 October. The message

strengthened and renewed the MoU links between the Nova Scotian Government and the Highland Council.

- 10.2 On 17 March 2015, a group of young people who are studying Gaelic and their teachers came across from Strait Regional School Board in the East of the Province in the Provincial School System in Nova Scotia Canada
- 10.3 The main aim of the visit was to establish connections with the Gaelic teachers in the Highlands to develop strong connections between the students and teachers in both locales, also they wish to develop links via GLOW.
- 10.4 The Gaelic Team liaised with Gaelic staff at the IRA and organised pupils from the IRA to meet the young people as part of a Civic Reception at the Town House.

## **11. Ainmean Àite na h-Alba**

- 11.1 Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba (AÀA) - Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland - is the national advisory partnership for Gaelic place-names in Scotland. The purpose is to agree correct forms of Gaelic place-names for maps, signs and general use. They draw on the expertise of the partner organisations, local knowledge and historical sources to agree authoritative forms of Gaelic place-names. To ensure consistent spelling they use established principles such as the Gaelic Orthographic Conventions and the guidance they have produced on Gaelic place names.
- 11.2 They work closely with Highland Council Officials, with Ordnance Survey and other public bodies to provide Gaelic names for maps and signs.
- 11.3 They are currently working on names for the Highland Council, Argyll and Bute Council, The Scottish Parliament, Historic Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Glasgow Live, NHS, BEAR SCOTLAND, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Scotrail, SNH, Ayrshire Roads Alliance and Transport Scotland. They received 836 requests between April 2014 and April 2015.
- 11.4 AÀA are currently researching place-names for SOILLSE and SNH in the Strath area of Skye there are 366 names in this project.
- 11.5 AÀA work closely with the Council regarding place-names and general signage projects, and contribute to consultation on more complex linguistic and/or corpus issues.

## **12. The 2014 MG Alba Traditional Music Awards (Na Trads)**

- 12.1 Na Trads is an annual event that takes place each December, held at different venues around the country, to highlight Scotland's traditional music in all its forms. Na Trads is now a high profile media and broadcasting event, bringing an increased profile and status for Gaelic.

- 12.2 On 13 December 2014, Na Trads took place in Inverness in front of a live audience of over 1400, whilst also being broadcast live and bilingually on BBC ALBA. The event was opened by Inverness Provost, Councillor Alex Graham; and Councillor Hamish Fraser Chair of the Council's Gaelic Implementation Group presented the first award of the evening, Best Venue, to the Cèilidh Place in Ullapool. Na Trads 2014 in Inverness, were Hands Up for Trad's biggest and most ambitious to date and generated substantial coverage across Scotland's Print and Broadcast media.
- 12.3 The Inverness City Committee/Common Good provided a Civic Reception at the Town House on Saturday 13 December prior to the Trads Awards Ceremony. Young People from Fèisean nan Gàidheal performed at the Civic Reception as well as onstage during the Awards. Na Trads received financial support from The Council, Inverness City Common Good and the Highland Culture Fund. 'Hands Up for Trad' also organised, award winning band Rura to perform and provide a music workshop for young people from Gizzen Briggs at Tain Academy on Friday 12th December.
- 12.4 Na Trads in Inverness has further helped cement this high profile event as a highly visible linguistic, cultural highlight, bringing the industry and audiences together to celebrate Gaelic/Scottish Traditional Music and Scottish Culture.

### **13. Gaelic Creative Writing Competition**

- 13.1 A Gaelic Creative Writing Competition was organised by the Gaelic Team, for pupils in both the primary and secondary sectors. Posters were designed in house by the Graphic Design team, application forms and guidance notes were issued to the schools and press releases were issued.
- 13.2 During the late Summer and early Autumn 2014 Donald S Murray author and ex teacher ran a series of Gaelic creative writing workshops in primary and secondary schools across the Highlands. The schools were as follows: Ardnamurchan High, Acharacle Primary, Lochaber High, St Marys, Gairloch Primary and Secondary, Broadford Primary, Sleat, Dunvegan, Staffin, Portree Primary, Portree High, Plockton High, Plockton Primary, BSGI, IRA, Culloden Academy, Dingwall Academy, and Tain Primary.
- 13.3 A total of 102 entries were received for the individual categories. This was a highly successful project in terms of engagement, with primary and secondary pupils and the positive feedback throughout the project.

### **14. Sgeama Greis Gnìomhachais – Students Summer Placement Scheme**

- 14.1 In 2014, 27 students were provided with summer work under this year's Students Summer Placement Scheme, which is funded by the Council in partnership with Comunn na Gàidhlig and others. 11 choose to be based in organisations and business in the Highlands.

- 14.2 The students, who are either fluent Gaelic speakers or learners, are working with businesses and third sector organisations across the Highlands and Islands. The work placements are for a minimum of 10 weeks over the summer months.
- 14.3 The scheme aims to provide the students with work in businesses and third sector organisations where Gaelic is the main language in the workplace.
- 14.3 The students benefit from the scheme in many ways as they are immersed in a “Gaelic environment” for the 10 weeks
- they improve their level of fluency
  - they gain experience of a working environment
  - they are given the opportunity to return to their own communities for the summer months.
  - they gain employment
- 14.4 There are also benefits for the employers
- they get young, enthusiastic people with specific skills
  - they are given financial assistance to help with costs
  - they have the opportunity to see students, who will be graduating in the not too distant future, with a view to future recruitment.
- 14.5 The Scheme this year is run by HIE and forms part of the Scotgrad Scheme.

## **15. Cuach na Cloinne – The Children’s Cup**

- 15.1 Cuach na Cloinne is a football competition for P4-7 pupils in Gaelic medium, and in 2014, 44 teams from 24 schools took part. Regional competitions were held in Lewis, Barra, Skye, Inverness, Oban and Glasgow with the successful teams from these regional competitions qualifying for the national finals in Inverness. The Provost of Inverness, Cllr Alex Graham awarded the winning Team with Cuach na Cloinne, and the Gaelic Team worked closely with CnaG officials in relation to press and publicity.
- 15.2 Planning for this year’s competition has commenced and a record number of schools are taking part in this year’s Cuach na Cloinne football competition.
- 15.3 Cuach na Cloinne is a national football competition, which creates an opportunity for young people from schools across Scotland who attend Gaelic Medium Education to meet and compete against each other and combines their Gaelic linguistic and footballing skills in an inclusive and entertaining manner. The competition is held entirely in Gaelic.
- 15.4 This year regional competitions are being held in Lewis, Uist, Skye, Inverness, Glasgow and Oban over the next 10 days with the winners of the regional competitions meeting at Bught Park, Inverness to compete for the title.
- 15.5 There is an increase in the number of teams representing schools from across the Highlands. The West Regional Competition has 1 team from Kilmuir Primary, 1 team from Staffin Primary, 3 teams from Broadford Primary, 2

teams from Portree Primary, 1 team from Sleat Primary and 1 team from Ullapool Primary. The Mid Regional Competition includes 4 teams from BSGI, 1 team from Millbank Primary, 2 teams from Craighill Primary, and 1 team from Newtonmore Primary.

- 15.6 There are 48 teams from 29 schools will take part in 6 regional competitions, with the top teams qualifying for the finals which will be held in Inverness on the 27th May.

## **16. Shinty Tournament**

- 16.1 Planning has commenced with the Camanachd Association in relation to organising a Shinty Tournament for pupils in GM Education.

## **17. FilmG 2014-15**

- 17.1 FilmG is a national short film digital participation competition project run by Cànan Ltd., (based at SMO) for MG ALBA.
- 17.2 FilmG had its highest number of entries since it was first launched in 2008. The 79 submissions include 51 to the youth category. Pupils from Secondary Schools across the Highlands submitted entries which were shortlisted for the awards ceremony in Glasgow on 27 March 2015.
- 17.3 All the films could be viewed online and the public were asked to vote for their favourite film by 20 March; and the Gaelic Team liaised with FilmG in relation to press and promotion.
- 17.4 Portree High School's film 'An Gàam' (The Game) won the Best Production prize.
- 17.5 Lochaber High School took home the prize for Best Performance for Fergus Munro's acting abilities in their film, 'An Agallamh' (The Interview), judges were impressed by the films challenging subject matter and as well as Munro's powerful performance.
- 17.6 A Highland Dance Group from the North of Skye, Dannsairean an Eilein Sgitheanach did well in the Open category when their film which they made with the support of filmmaking tutor Phill Todd managed to scoop three prizes. The group run by Karen Campbell from Kilmaluag won Best Community Film, Best Music Video and the People's Choice Award.
- 17.8 Students from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig submitted an entry 'Crisdean Cunnartach', a film made by students on Television Diploma course, is a parody of Danny MacAskill's film 'The Ridge' and it took home the prize for the Best Student Film.
- 17.9 A student at SMO, won the Best Documentary award for his film 'Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh' (Portree's Gaelic School).



## **18. TASGADH**

- 18.1 A new fund for Traditional Arts has been set up, Tasgadh - is devolved from Creative Scotland, managed by Fèisean nan Gàidheal (FnanG) and available to provide support for traditional artists and organisations to create, perform, tour and showcase work. Professional development applications can also be supported through the fund. The Gaelic Team are assisting with the promotion of the fund. [www.tasgadh](http://www.tasgadh)

## **19. Fèisean nan Gàidheal**

- 19.1 The Council has a Service Delivery Contract with Fèisean nan Gàidheal to manage, support and deliver Fèisean activities across the Highlands.
- 19.2 Fèisean nan Gàidheal was established in 1991 as the independent umbrella association of the Fèis movement. It is a company limited by guarantee and is funded by The Highland Council, Creative Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.
- 19.3 Around 13,000 young people annually participate in activities supported by Fèisean nan Gàidheal, 6,300 of which take part in the Fèisean themselves. Around 4,800 take part in Youth Music Initiative classes organised by local Fèisean, through a contract with The Highland Council.
- 19.4 There are currently 21 Fèisean in the Highlands: 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), and Fèis Thronairnis (Staffin)
- 19.5 Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to support the Meanbh-chuileag Theatre Company, which tours schools with plays focussing on Gaelic culture and history, from which around 2,000 benefit.
- 19.6 Fèisean nan Gàidheal is also responsible for the running of the Blas Festival, in partnership with The Highland Council and the Touring Network, and also supports Fèisean that organise Cèilidh Trails which play to around 10,000 people annually.

## **20. Blas Festival 2014**

- 20.1 Blas 2014 was launched on June 25 in Eden Court by Vice Convenor Cllr Maxine Smith, who welcomed guests. A number of Council Members attended and Blas issued press releases they were placed on the Council's website including Facebook and Twitter.

- 20.2 Council Officials provide on-going support to Blas; and the main festival included 41 Concert Events, 29 of which included a Food & Drink Element.
- 20.3 For the Blas 2014 Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage engaged Iain MacFarlane to devise a work based on the Gaelic poem, “Moladh Beinn Dòbhrain”. This poem extols the virtues of the Highland natural environment; and linked with the remit of SNH. The commission included the production of a CD and book and SNH produced a display to accompany the show. The premiere event at Great Glen House in Inverness incorporated a range of foods sourced in the Highlands. The commission had 4 shows at Blas and at each show every member of the audience received a complimentary CD/Book package.
- 20.4 Inverness Airport Mini Food Festival
- 20.5 There were 8 days of Food Events with background music, the food being the main factor for the 8 days. Inverness Airport assess that 1,471 departing passengers had access to the food on offer during the periods when they had food producers in the restaurant. The timetabling of the food events in the restaurant was decided to coincide with the periods that experience the largest numbers of outbound flights in any one-day as outgoing passengers use the restaurant.
- 20.6 Schools and Community Events
- 20.7 In partnership with High Life Highland they delivered 279 events and activities in schools and within communities across the area, including free concert performances by Blas Artists.
- 20.8 Care Homes and Hospitals
- 20.9 In partnership with ‘Live Music Now’, ‘Music in Hospitals, and An Comunn Gàidhealach they delivered music performances at a range of Care Homes and Hospitals and the Highland Hospice in Inverness as well as entertainment which patients are not able to access elsewhere.
- 20.10 Inverness Cathedral
- 20.11 They had 2 events at Inverness Cathedral one of which was filmed by BeesNees television for BBC Alba.
- 20.12 Countryside Rangers Guided Walks
- 20.13 In co-operation with High Life Highland and The Highland Council Ranger Service they were able to offer Blas visitors unique and personalised walks and activities, where they engaged with the natural environment, expanding the Blas experience into a full taste of what the Highlands have to offer.
- 20.14 House Cèilidhs

20.15 These have become an annual feature of Blas where private individuals open their homes to visitors to enjoy a 'real cèilidh' with music, song, food and a drink.

20.16 A Travelling Gallery

20.17 The Travelling Gallery visited around a dozen different venues during Blas allowing people to see works of art displayed in their own community.

20.18 Drama Workshops with Eden Court Creative

20.19 The Schools and Communities Programme also included drama work in schools with professionals from Eden Court delivering a series of workshops.

20.20 Key findings from audience feedback included:

- Their audience has continued to grow and they aim to carefully expand and develop the festival content year on year and the growth in audience numbers suggests that they are on the right track. However the statistics for age groups attending suggest they need to find new ways of attracting the youth audience (14 to 25) although they are well catered for in the schools and communities programme, in partnership with High Life Highland.
- Their overall rating has remained steady at 4.6 out of a possible 5, equating to a 92% average satisfaction across the 3 key elements defined by Blas, being Enjoyment, Value for Money and the use of the Gaelic language in event delivery.
- A separate question asking whether the festival had made a person more appreciative of the Gaelic language returned a very positive 75% Yes, which is hugely significant.
- For 50% of respondents Blas was 'quite important' in their decision to visit Scotland.
- 15% of respondents stayed in paid accommodation during their visit to Blas.
- For those coming from outwith the area, the average spend excluding travel was £1,317 per person.

## **20.21 Blas Programme 2015**

20.21 The Blas 2015 Programme will be launched at Eden Court Theatre on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am

## **21. Gaisgich Coimhearsnachd**

21.1 Six groups of young people from schools in Inverness Plockton, Sleat, Dingwall and Portree agreed to take part, with each producing a short film – a drama or a documentary - based on the commemoration of the start of WW1. The project is scheduled for completion in at the end of May.

21.2 "Sealladh" Ltd, a film company; are taking all participating groups through each stage of the process in a series of workshops from idea to script development, writing to performance, filming to editing.

21.3 Most of the filming took place by the end of March 2015. Where possible young people went to the community to film and 'Sealladh' and also arranged for interviewees to meet the classes within the school environment. Previous 'Sealladh' Sgàilean film projects which the Council and Bòrd na Gàidhlig have supported, have enhanced the skills of young people these skills have been utilised for a variety of other projects including FilmG which the Council support.

## **22. WW1 Education Sub Group**

22.1 A WW1 Education Sub Group was set up primarily to co-ordinate the educational and arts activities which are taking place across the Highlands especially in relation to Education. The Group has representation from the Council, Eden Court, HLH, Highlanders Museum, Army Cadets, and teachers from both Primary and Secondary schools. Gaelic features in the activities of the Group.

### **23.1 Sequamur – National Touring Gaelic Drama Production**

23.2 'Sequamur' is a new Gaelic language play written by DS Murray which reflected on the life of charismatic educationalist William J Gibson headmaster of the Nicolson Institute between 1894 and 1925.

23.3 An enlightened and charismatic teacher, Gibson believed in the power of progress through education. 'Sequamur' (Latin for "we will follow) Inverness, and Skye and venues included the Fort George Chapel in Ardersier.

23.4 In Inverness the 'Sequamur' promotional film trailer was projected onto the Town House in Inverness two days prior to the productions in Fort George: <http://youtu.be/WubTgFeELWE>

23.5 Simultaneous translation facilities were provided during each production for non-Gaelic speakers.

23.6 At specially arranged community matinee performances groups of senior secondary pupils were invited to attend the production. After show discussion events were delivered in many venues and schools workshops were accompanied by teaching materials and hosted by ex-teacher and writer DS Murray. 10 pupils from Millburn Academy and 11 pupils from the IRA attended the matinees in Fort George and pupils from Dingwall Academy attended the evening performances also held in Fort George. A total of 140 pupils from Portree High attended the matinee held in Aros – Portree.

23.7 A 24 page booklet and programme was also produced to accompany the show containing historical material, research and articles relating to the play.

## **24. Implications, legal, equality, risk, climate change/carbon clever or Gaelic**

24.1 There are no additional Implications associated with this Report.

**25**

**Recommendations**

Members are invited to:

- comment on progress in implementing the Arts, Media and Heritage Theme in GLP 12-16;
- agree to continue support for high profile activity and engagement for National linguistic and cultural events for the Highlands.
- agree continuing engagement with the National Gaelic Arts Strategy
- agree that the Council continues to work with partners to host high profile Gaelic-related arts, media and cultural events in Highland to provide economic benefits within the Council area.
- maximise the use of the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Residency programme in association with our joint MoU; and
- agree to work on the MoU between the Council and the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia..

Designation: Head of Policy and Reform

Date: 18 May 2015

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## Appendix 1

### Theme 3 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage

#### Strategic Commitment 1

We will engage with partners and contribute to national strategic initiatives and policy formulation for Gaelic in the arts, media and heritage sectors.

#### Partners

Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Creative Scotland, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, BBC ALBA

#### Key Performance Results

- A contemporary and visionary Gaelic Arts strategy influenced by The Highland Council.
- The Sabhal Mòr Ostaig national residency programme will interface, and develop links with other arts events organised by the Council.

#### Enabling Actions

- (i) Participate in the work of the National Gaelic Arts Strategy Forum.
- (ii) Work with the Year of Homecoming 2014 Team to include Gaelic and culture as a core element in their planned activities and events.
- (iii) Work with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to support and maximise the impact and the outcomes of the Residency Programme.
- (iv) Engage with BBC ALBA and identify areas where collaborative initiatives would be appropriate; including the potential for expanding Gaelic content on local radio stations within the Highlands.

## **Theme 3 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage**

### **Strategic Commitment 2**

We will increase the profile and build the use of Gaelic within Council funded organisations and events within the Highlands.

#### **Partners**

High Life Highland, An Comunn Gàidhealach, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Fèis Rois, Comunn na Gàidhlig

#### **Key Performance Results**

- A successful Royal National Mod in Inverness in 2014.
- Increased number of participants and visitors attending the Royal National Mod and its associated activities, when the events take place in the Highlands.
- Increase the number of Provincial Mod competitors participating in the Royal National Mod when based in the Highlands.
- Increased use of Gaelic in Fèisean activities.
- Increased visibility of Gaelic in High Life Highland activities and outputs.

#### **Enabling Actions**

- (i) Work with An Comunn Gàidhealach to deliver a Royal National Mod in Inverness in 2014 befitting the world's premier Gaelic cultural event; particularly given the other international events Scotland is hosting in 2014.
- (ii) Work with An Comunn Gàidhealach and other stakeholders to increase the number of participants, and visitors to Royal National Mods when they are based in the Highlands.
- (iii) Work with An Comunn Gàidhealach to undertake a review of Provincial Mods and identify action that would maximise competitor attendance at the 2014 Royal National Mod in Inverness.
- (iv) Work with the Blas Festival organisers to promote Gaelic arts productions produced by young people, for example viewings of their short films, drama events, and readings of creative writing.
- (v) Work with Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Fèis Rois through our Service Delivery Contracts, to support Fèisean based in the Highlands in promoting and increasing Gaelic in their outputs.
- (vi) Work with High Life Highland and others to raise the profile of and increase the use and visibility of Gaelic within High Life Highland and Council supported visitor attractions, leisure facilities, museums, archive centres and events.
- (vii) Work with Comunn na Gàidhlig to develop and support relevant sporting activities, e.g. football and shinty through the medium of Gaelic.

## **Theme 3 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage**

### **Strategic Commitment 3**

We will develop opportunities for people to engage with Gaelic through the media, arts and creative industries.

#### **Partners**

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, MG ALBA, Comhairle nan Leabhraichean (Gaelic Books Council)

#### **Key Performance Results**

- Further progress with Gaelic education, arts and economic development within the projects delivered under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.
- Gaelic Short Films created and produced by young people in Gaelic Education.
- Gaelic Film Clubs and media production programme for young people.
- Create Gaelic authors/writers in schools programme.
- Two new Competitions – one for young people and one for adults for music or literature.
- Negotiate the hosting of the Traditional Music Awards in the Highlands during the lifespan of the Plan.
- Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia.
- Youth groups visits to Ireland, Wales or other Countries with lesser used languages.

#### **Enabling Actions**

- (i) Work with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to implement the projects agreed between both organisations under the Memorandum of Understanding.
- (ii) Work with media specialists to develop short films and set up film clubs specifically around Associated School Groups where Gaelic Education is provided.
- (iii) Work with media and film making professionals to support the annual Gaelic FilmG Awards.
- (iv) Work with other agencies to develop a series of visiting Gaelic writers/authors in schools programme.
- (v) Provide support and advice to local groups to attract funding for specific Gaelic projects based in the community.
- (vi) Develop links with the broader linguistic and cultural diaspora for example Nova Scotia, and other Countries with lesser used languages such as Ireland and Wales.
- (vii) Engage with MG ALBA and the organisers of the Traditional Music Awards to discuss hosting this event in the Highlands.
- (viii) Revise the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia to develop mutually beneficial educational, cultural, and economic links.



