

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council**

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 18 Gearran 2016
Gaelic Implementation Group – 18 February 2016**

Agenda Item	6
Report No	GIG 2/16

**Formal Extension of the Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16
Report by the Director of Care and Learning**

Summary

This Report provides Members with confirmation of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's formal approval of a one year extension to the Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16; to 18 September 2017.

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- The Scottish Government's National Performance Framework;
- The National Gaelic Language Plan;
- The Highland Single Outcome Agreement;
- 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's Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16.

1. Background

- 1.2 The Chief Executive wrote to the then interim Chief Executive of Bòrd na Gàidhlig on 27 November 2015, (**Appendix 1**) seeking formal approval for a 1 year extension to the Council's Gaelic Language Plan, to September 2017.
- 1.2 This was because the Education (Scotland) Bill's passage through Parliament meant new Statutory Gaelic Education Guidance for the Council to have regard to; and the fact that Bòrd na Gàidhlig's own National Gaelic Language Plan is due for renewal in 2017.
- 1.3 The Council's third GLP was due for renewal, consultation, Council approval, followed by Statutory Approval by Bòrd na Gàidhlig by 18 September 2016. It was considered that, in view of the foregoing; in order to ensure that new Gaelic Education Guidance could be factored into the Council's new GLP; and that our Plan and BnG's might be more closely aligned, an extension would be sensible and strategically sound.

2. Follow Up

- 2.1 Following discussions a report was submitted to the GIG meeting in August 2015, which detailed the reasons and set out the mitigating factors for allowing and approving an extension date.

2.3 Following this meeting a further meeting took place between Council Officers and the Bòrd at the end of September, at which it was expressed that BnaG would look favourably on an extension.

3. Response

3.1 On February 3 a response was received from the current interim Chief Executive (**Appendix 2**), which formally approved an extension to the Council GLP.

4. Recommendations

Members are invited to:

- Members are invited to note the response from Bòrd na Gàidhlig formally approving a year's extension to the Council GLP 2012-16.

Designation: Director of Care and Learning
Date: 5 February 2016
Authors: Kenneth A Murray, Gaelic Development Manager,
Morag Anna MacLeod Mitchell,



Joe Moore
Interim Chief Executive
Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Great Glen House
Leachkin Road
Inverness
IV3 8NW

Please Ask for:

Direct Dial: (01463) 702837

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: Friday, 27 November 2015

Dear Mr Moore

The Council's second generation Statutory Gaelic Language Plan 2012-2016 (GLP2) was approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on 18 September 2012, under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005.

The Council's Third Generation Gaelic Language Plan (GLP3) was due for formulation, consultation and Council approval over the next 10 months; and scheduled for Statutory Approval by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on or before the 18 September 2016. On 16 April 2015, I received a letter from the former Chief Executive of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, confirming that the present iteration of the Highland Council's GLP was to end on 18 September 2016.

Several discussions have taken place between the Council and Bòrd na Gàidhlig regarding extending GLP2 by one year, to September 2017. An extension was greeted positively at a meeting between me, your former Chief Executive Iain Campbell, Mr Bill Alexander, Director of Care and Learning and Kenny Murray Gaelic Development Manager on 22 June 2015.

Following these discussions, a Report (available at: http://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3554/buidheann_buileachaidh_na_g%C3%A0idhlig) was submitted to the Council's Gaelic Implementation Group (GIG) on 25 August 2015. This set out the factors that could influence the preparation of, and consultation on, GLP3 and contained recommendations which were discussed and approved by Members at GIG 25 August 2015. Following GIG, a meeting took place between Council Officers and the Bòrd on 23 September at which it was intimated that the Bòrd would look favourably on an extension.

I am now seeking formal approval for a one year extension to our GLP2, to September 2017. The full set of mitigating factors is included in the aforementioned GIG Report; and includes our desire that our GLP3 is properly prepared and aligned with the Education (Scotland) legislation and associated Statutory Guidance; and with the terms of the new National Gaelic Language Plan 2017. We also look forward to seeing a draft of the expectations of high-level aims relating to GLP3 at your earliest convenience, prior to their submission to the Minister for agreement in principle.

I trust that this formal request will meet with the Bòrd's approval and I look forward to hearing from you and to working with you in relation to the formulation of GLP3.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd – with best wishes

Steve Barron
Chief Executive

01 Gearran 2016
01 February 2016

Steve chòir,

**Leasachadh den treas cuairt de Phlana Cànan Gàidhlig
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd**

Tapadh leibh airson ur litreach de 27 Samhain a thaobh a' chuspair gu h-àrd

Tha mi toilichte daingneachadh as leth Bòrd na Gàidhlig gum bi seasamh aig an dàrna chuairt den phlana Gàidhlig aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd gus an tèid aontachadh air an treas cuairt às dèidh dhuibh a chur a-steach chun a' Bhùird air 18 Sultain 2017.

Tha sinn a' dèanamh fuighair ri bhith ag obair leibh tron phròiseas ùrachaidh

Is mise le spèis,

Bruce Robertson
Ceannard Eadar-amail

cc Coinneach Moireach, Manaidsear Leasachaidh Gàidhlig
Morag-Anna NicLeòid Mitchell, Oifigear Leasachaidh Gàidhlig

**Development of the third iteration of the Highland
Council Gaelic Language Plan**

Thank you for your letter of 27 November regarding the above

I am pleased to be able to confirm that Bòrd na Gàidhlig agrees that the validity of the current iteration of the Highland Council Gaelic Plan be extended until the Bòrd approves the third iteration after its submission on 18 September 2017

We look forward to working with you throughout the renewal process.