

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council**

Agenda Item	6
Report No	GIG 6/16

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig 26 den Chèitean 2015
Gaelic Implementation Group 26 May 2015**

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

Report by the Director of Care and Learning

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. Background

1.2 The National Gaelic Language Plan 2012-17 identifies 8 Development Areas which are of priority for Gaelic development including applications to GLAIF they are as follows:-

- Home and Early Years
- Education: Schools and Teachers
- Education: Post-school Education
- Communities
- Workplace
- Arts & Media
- Heritage & Tourism
- Corpus

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

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.

2. MG ALBA /BBC ALBA

2.1 BBC ALBA is now firmly established with Gaelic speakers and learners. They have a limited, despite this, and a high number of repeats the core audience remains strong, with over 70% of Gaelic users tuning in each week and watching on average about 5 hours per week.

2.2 New and original programming is highly valued by the core audience, both on TV and on the iPlayer. However use and enjoyment of the iPlayer still remains a challenge in many of the viewing communities where broadband provision still remains patchy.

2.3 We have been informed that the News programme An Là, delivered from Inverness and covering the Highlands and Islands, national and international stories, generally remains the most popular show for Gaelic speakers, but in recent months the Gaelic drama 'Bannan, and the obs documentary 'Air an Lot' (On the Croft) have also been among the most appreciated shows.

2.4 Music, sport and documentaries, continue to reach out to a wider audience. According to recent data, a series on the airports and the midwives of the Highlands and Islands, for example, have wide appeal and make BBC ALBA a must watch destination for viewer who wish to see programmes rooted in Scotland's communities.

2.5 In the Autumn 2015, the Council responded to the consultation on the BBC Charter.

3. National Arts Strategy – CreativeScotland

3.1 Creative Scotland are currently drafting their Arts Strategy which is due to be published in June 2016. The Gaelic language, arts and culture will be included in the document and Creative Scotland are working closely with partners Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

3.2 The Gaelic Arts Organisations have a high success rate in attracting funding from the 'Open' Project Funding.

3.3 Bòrd na Gàidhlig are currently developing the next National Gaelic Language Plan 2017-22. There will be a section within the plan specifically relating to the Gaelic Arts and Culture.

4. National Gaelic Language Plan Seminar

- 4.1 On March 17th Bòrd na Gàidhlig ran a seminar on the National Gaelic Language Plan 2017 – 2022
- 4.2 Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages official open the event.
- 4.3 There were various plenary sessions one of which was lead by Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Gaelic Arts and Culture Officer and the Director of Arts and Engagement, Creative Scotland.

5. LearnGaelic.net

- 5.1 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

6. Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland (AÀA)

- 6.1 AÀA liaises regularly with the Senior Translations Officer and the Gaelic Officer.
- 6.2 AÀA, has just embarked on a new heritage project in partnership with SNH and Soillse on the place-names of Colonsay and Oronsay. The project follows SNH's series Gaelic in the Landscape and this will be the 4th booklet that AÀA has worked on for SNH.
- 6.3 The project's focus is to gather place-names and any associated stories from an area where Gaelic is still spoken but in danger. The project is primarily interested in smaller features that do not appear on the map, or differ from the map name, in order to preserve them for the next generation.
- 6.4 Fieldwork training was conducted on Colonsay with the volunteer fieldworkers who will spend the next eight weeks interviewing locals and gathering place-name evidence.
- 6.4 AÀA is also working on various requests for the Highland Council, The Scottish Parliament, Transport Scotland and Ordnance Survey. In addition they are contributing a weekly Gaelic place-name to the Scotsman Gaelic page and have been asked to contribute some Gaelic articles on place-names.
- 6.6 In 2015/16 (records from 1 Apr 15 to 25 Feb 16) they received 166 enquiries with a total of 923 names. The final figures for 2015/16 will be available at the end of May 2016. Last year's clients included: Highland Council, SNH, BnG, OS, AECOM, CRP, The Scottish Parliament, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI, Historic Environment Scotland, Transport Scotland, Glen Nevis Holidays Ltd, Sleat

Community Trust, BBC, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, Bear Scotland, Glasgow Live, Argyll & Bute Council and East Ayrshire Council.

- 6.7 They are also progressing with their database with 603 new database entries bringing their total up to 2,627. This more than doubles their annual target of 300 and they aim to reach 3,000 entries by end March 2017.

7. Cuach na Cloinne – The Childrens' Cup

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 The 2016 Cuach na Cloinne competition, which is aimed at P4-7 pupils in Gaelic medium, is currently underway. This year, 54 teams from 29 schools are taking part. Regional competitions have been, or will be held in Lewis, Uist, Skye, Inverness, Ardnamurchan and Glasgow with the successful teams from these regional competitions qualifying for the national finals next month.
- 7.3 This year, the national finals are being held at Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abair.
- 7.4 In the Highland Council area, 21 teams from 12 schools are participating in Cuach na Cloinne 2016.

8. Fèisean nan Gàidheal

- 8.1 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. It is one of Creative Scotland's Regularly Funded Organisations having been awarded £1.4m for the years 2015-18.
- 8.2 The Council has a Service Delivery Contract with FnG to manage, support and deliver Fèisean activities across the Highlands. FnG runs, organises and manages a wide and varied range of activities and events. They also work in partnership with other organisations to deliver many Gaelic arts and language related projects. The following is a summary of activities in the Highland area.
- 8.3 Around 14,000 young people annually participate in activities supported by FnG, 5,500 of which take part in the Fèisean themselves. Around 4,600 take part in Youth Music Initiative classes organised by local Fèisean, through a contract with The Highland Council.
- 8.4 There are currently 21 Fèisean in the Highlands which are members of FnG: Fèis an Earraich (Isle of Skye), Fèis Lochabair (Lochaber), Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan (Ardnamurchan), Fèis Chataibh (Sutherland), Fèis a' Bhealaich (Applecross), Fèis Rois Òigridh (Ullapool), Fèis Rois nan Deugairean

(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 Thròndairnis (Staffin), Fèis a' Bhaile (Inverness), Fèis Òigridh na Mara (Mallaig), Fèis Inbhir Narann (Nairn), Fèis Spè (Speyside), Fèis a' Chaolais (Inverness), Fèis na Apainne (Appin) and Fèis an Iar Thuath (Scourie).

- 8.5 Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to deliver services to Fèisean such as funding, training, resources and support from a team of Development Officers.
- 8.6 Fèisean nan Gàidheal is also responsible for the running of the Blas Festival, in partnership with The Highland Council and also supports Fèisean that organise Cèilidh Trails which play to around 10,000 people annually.
- 8.7 Traditional Arts Fund, 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.
- 8.8 Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Fèisgoil service is developing and combines formal education work and additional contract agreements with local authorities and public bodies to deliver Gaelic drama, a Gaelic pantomime, Gaelic tuition in primary schools, a Gaelic Drama Summer School and the Youth Music Initiative work in Highland, Renfrewshire and other local authority areas. Through Fèisgoil Meanbh-chuileag Theatre Company tours schools with plays focussing on Gaelic culture and history, from which more than 3,000 benefit.
- 8.9 Fèisgoil delivered Gaelic classes in Lochaber and Caithness schools in a pilot project for The Highland Council in 2014 and is currently assisting schools in Skye with preparation for local Mòds and the National Mòd.

9. Fèis Rois

- 9.1 Fèis Rois has developed a Strategic and Artistic Plan 2015/16
Fèis Rois's Strategic and Artistic Plan for 2015/16 meets the Scottish Government's Strategic Objectives and National Outcomes:
 - Wealthier and Fairer: Providing employment opportunities for 100+ freelance artists during the year; investing in youth employment; providing 6 FTE jobs in the Highlands; tackling inequalities by supporting young people living in areas of rural, social & economic deprivation;
 - Safer and Stronger: Building community through our work across Ross-Shire;
 - Smarter: Providing learning opportunities to support people of all ages to develop the four capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence;
 - Greener: Developing the use of online resources; working with SNH to promote the environment;

- Healthier: Promoting health & well-being by encouraging people of all ages to participate in music-making and artistic activities.

9.2 The plan also addresses several of the development areas outlined in the National Gaelic Language Plan 2012-2017, including providing opportunities for people to develop skills and use the Gaelic language in:

- Education
- Communities
- The Workplace
- The Arts

Column 3 highlights the ways in which the Fèis Rois Strategic and Artistic Plan meets Creative Scotland's ambitions and connecting themes of:

- Excellence & Experimentation is valued and recognised (Excellence & Experimentation)
- Everyone can access and enjoy artistic and creative experiences (Access)
- Places and quality of life are transformed (Place)
- Ideas are brought to life by a diverse, skilled and connected leadership and workforce (Leadership & Workforce)
- Scotland is a distinctive creative nation connected to the world (International)
- Creative Learning
- Equalities & Diversity
- Digital
- Environment

10 The 2017 Lochaber Royal National Mod

10.1 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 area in 2014, 2017 and 2020. The Gaelic Officer is supporting the Local Organising Committee.

10.2 Work is commencing on producing a printed and an online version of a Mòd Promotion leaflet.

10.3 A GLAIF application has been submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig to set up a Mòd Academy to support pupils in the Lochaber area who aim to participate in the competitions.

11. Gaelic Staff Training – Alness Service Centre

11.1 As a follow up to the inclusion of a Gaelic 'salutation' on the automated switchboard system which operates across all Council Services in Highland, it was agreed that Gaelic Training Session/s would be organised for staff based in Osprey House - Alness Service Centre.

11.2 On May 11th The Gaelic Officer ran a Gaelic Training Sessions for staff working in Service Centre. 15 Customer Service Assistants and the Customer Service Officer participated in the Training.

11.3 The Training Sessions included:

- setting the context of Gaelic in the Highlands and Islands
- information on the Gaelic Language Plan
- Gaelic Medium Education/ benefits of bilingualism
- information on where in Highland the Gaelic Schools are based and the areas where currently Gaelic medium provision is located in the Highlands
- information on the Gaelic/Cultural organisations which the Council supports
- arts, Media and Heritage including (Broadcasting MG ALBA)
- small element of basic Gaelic grammar
- tuition on how to say Good Morning and Good afternoon in Gaelic and a few other standard phrases.

11.4 All the staff received laminated flash cards with the standard phrases, which will act as a prompt for staff should they choose to use the phrases within their daily operational duties.

11.5 The training was well received and a follow up refresher session can be arranged if required.

12. Implications.

12.1 There are no additional implications at present.

13.	Recommendations Members are asked to comment on the report.
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Designation: Director of Care & Learning

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