

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council**

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 10 Samhain 2016
Gaelic Implementation Group – 10 November 2016**

Agenda Item	7
Report No	GIG 17/16

The Royal National Mòd 2016, and future Mòds in the Highland Area

Report by Director of Care and Learning

Summary

The report informs Members of the developments **a)** in relation to the Royal National Mòd which took place in the Western Isles from October 14th – 22nd (inclusive) **b)** the Lochaber 2017 Mòd, and **c)** Inverness 2020 Mòd.

The Report contributes to the delivery of :

- The National Performance Indicator Outcome – “We take pride in a strong, fair, and inclusive National identity”.
- The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16, Theme 3, “What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage”
- The Highland Council Corporate Plan 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’.

1. Background

1.1 The Highland Council, through an annually reviewed Service Delivery Contract (SDC) with An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG), is a principal funder of the Royal National Mod (RNM), when it is hosted in the Highlands. The SDC with ACG provides for the RNM to take place in the Highland Council area every 3 years. The Mòd took place in Inverness in 2014, the 2017 Mòd will take place in Lochabar and the 2020 will take place in Inverness.

2. Mòd nan Eilean Siar MnanE (The Western Isles Mòd)

2.1 The Council supported the Under 13 Folk Group Competition, the winning Group were from Point on the Isle of Lewis. The Chairperson of the Gaelic Implementation Group Councillor Hamish Fraser presented the winners with a certificate and a trophy.

2.2 On Friday October 21st, Councillor Helen Carmichael – Provost and City Leader, attended the ACG Press Conference as ACG were formally announcing that the 2020 Mòd would take place in Inverness.

The Provost accepted the 2020 Mòd and delivered a welcome speech. The 2020 Mòd announcement was warmly welcomed and received positive media coverage.

http://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/9769/the_royal_national_mod_looks_forward_to_inverness_2020

2.3

The Provost was met by the Chair of the MnanE Councillor Norman Macdonald who is also the Civic Leader and Convenor of the Western Isles Council. Councillor Carmichael also attended a number of competitions and events on the final day of the Mòd.

3. Mòd Loch Abar (Lochaber Mòd)

3.1 Mòd Loch Abar will take place between October 13th – 20th (inclusive). A Local Organising Committee (LOC) has been established. Meetings are held regularly in BSGL and the Gaelic Development Officer attends.

4. Mòd Liaison Group (MLG)

4.1 It is proposed that a MLG be established to liaise with ACG at national and local level to:

- target the Council's resources and support;
- provide support to the ACG to organise the Royal National Mod,
- to ensure that Mòd Loch Abar is reflected nationally as a premier Gaelic cultural festival

3.3 If approved, the MLG will be set up in February 2017, it will be Chaired by the Chair of GIG. The aim of the MLG is to ensure that the Council and ACG work in partnership in relation to key events in the lead up to the Mòd taking place; and that both parties are fulfilling the requirements of the Service Delivery Agreement.

3.4 The MLG will include Council Officials, ACG President, Mòd Convenor, Chief Executive and the Chair of the LOC and focus on specific events which will included the following:

- The Mod Opening – Including Torchlight Procession
- The Opening weekend events
- Mod Fringe Programme of events
- Liquor Licencing
- Broadcasting of the Mod – via TV, Radio, Internet, Social Media etc.
- Engagement with business, visitor/tourism sectors in the local area
- Venues, including daily media/press conferences
- The Closing Events
- The Massed Choirs, and sporting events.

4. Mòd Promotion Leaflet

- 4.1 The Gaelic Development Officer is liaising with the LOC and a Mòd Promotional Leaflet is in the process of development. The leaflet is aimed at the business community and will be launched in early February 2017.

Social Media will be key to the promotion and distribution of the leaflet.

5. MLG, Mòd Inbhir Nis 2020

- 5.1 It is envisaged that, with Members approval, an MLG be established in the run up to the 2020 Mòd, further details regarding this will be included in future GIG reports.

6. Implications

- 6.1 There are no rural, legal, equality, risk, climate change/ carbon clever or Gaelic implications associated with this report at present.

Recommendation

The Group is invited to:-

- a)** to comment on the update regarding the Western Isles Mòd,
- b)** approve the setting up of an MLG in the lead up to the Lochaber Mòd; and currently provide support to the Inverness Local Organising Committee as and when required
- c)** agree to maintain close contact with An Comunn Gàidhealach both locally and nationally.

Designation: Norma A. Young

Date: October 31stth 2016

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