

Agenda Item	<b>5a.</b>
Report No	<b>RES/53a/17</b>

## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Corporate Resources Committee

**Date:** November 15 2017

**Report Title:** **Gaelic Strategy & Implementation Group.**

**Report By:** Area Care & Learning Manger (West)- Lead Officer Gaelic, and Gaelic Development Officer

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Elected Members on the setting up of the Gaelic Strategy & Implementation Group and also to highlight the current strategic development in relation to Gaelic

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 Recommending to Elected Members that the GSIG meets on a quarterly basis and that GSIG reports bi-annually to the Resources Committee and the Corporate Services Committee.

2.2 Members are asked to:

- i. Agree that the GSIG continues to operate both at strategic and corporate level in relation to all aspects of Gaelic, including cultural development, across all services.
- ii. Agree that the GSIG liaises, when necessary, with external agencies, other Local Authorities and the Scottish Government.

### **3. Gaelic Strategy & Implementation Group.**

3.1 Following the Local Government Election of May 2017 it was agreed that a Gaelic Strategy & Implementation Group would be established.

3.2 The GSIG members include the Chairpersons of each of the Highland Council Strategic Committees and representation from each of the political parties. GSIG is promoted as a cross party group. All Highland Council Services were invited to nominate a Senior Officer to represent their respective Services on the GSIG.

#### **3.3 Elected Members of the GSIG are as follows:**

Cllr Alister Mackinnon – Chair Corporate Resources Committee (IND)

Cllr Alasdair Christie – Chair People Committee (Lib Dem)

Cllr John Finlayson – Vice Chair People Committee (IND)

Cllr Allan Henderson – Chair Environment, Development and Infrastructure (IND)

Cllr Raymond Bremner - SNP

Cllr Derek Macleod - Conservative

#### **3.4 Officials Representing Council Services**

Norma A Young – Area Care & Learning Manager (West) Lead Officer Gaelic

Morag Anna MacLeod Mitchell - Gaelic Development Officer (Corporate)

Sandra Nicolson – Housing Management Officer

Kenny MacInnes – Principal Economy Officer Development & Infrastructure

Meg Gillies – Customer Service Officer, Chief Executives Office

3.5 Meetings of the GSIG took place on September 26th and November 1st. The next meeting is scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup> 2018.

### **4. Terms of Reference**

4.1 The terms of reference/ remit of the Gaelic Strategy and Implementation Group

- *To monitor the implementation of the Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan 3*
- *To monitor the implementation of, and compliance with the Highland Council's corporate programme and other relevant Plans in relation to Gaelic.*
- *To draft reports and submit information as requested to the relevant strategic committees, i.e. Corporate Resources Committee / People Committee*
- *To liaise with partners and to lobby as appropriate, in order to promote Gaelic and its associated culture across the Highland Council area.*
- *To provide a means of liaison with Bòrd na Gàidhlig in relation to the Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan and other developments in relation to Gaelic and Cultural development.*
- *To liaise and work with the Scottish Government on common themes and aims in relation to Gaelic and Cultural development.*

## **5. Strategic Documents**

5.1 The draft Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan was submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig on September 18<sup>th</sup> 2017. The Highland Council has received acknowledgement from Bòrd na Gàidhlig who will now process the plan in line with their internal scrutiny process.

5.2 The main strategic items on the GSIG agenda at the initial meetings were the draft Gaelic Language Plan and the Local Voices: Highland Choices Draft Highland Council Programme. The GSIG will contribute to a further Report on the Highland Council Programme.

## **6. Gaelic Education**

6.2 A Gaelic Education position paper will be submitted to the People Committee in December.

## **7. Gaelic an Economic Asset**

7.1 HIE produced a report Gaelic an Economic Asset. The GSIG agreed that the report will be taken forward at the meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>

## **8. Census 2021**

8.1 The GSIG has discussed the importance of the next census in relation to Gaelic. The GSIG is aware that the planning for the census is being designed and managed in Scotland, to best meet the needs of its users. It will be conducted primarily online, while offering support and alternative routes of completion where required.

The GSIG intends to submit suggestions, in co-operation with national organisations, in relation to the formulation of appropriate question/s relating to Gaelic language, culture and heritage.

## **9. Implications**

9.1 Resource – The resource implications have been taking into consideration

Legal – Currently there are none

Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – Taken into account

Climate Change/Carbon Clever – Maximising use of IT to reduce travel

Risk – Should the GSIG not continue, there will be no strategic guidance and a lack of Service co-ordination in relation to the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan

Gaelic – Substantial input in relation to Gaelic development which includes the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan

Designation: Gaelic Development

Date: November 7 2017

Author: Morag Anna MacLeod Mitchell

Background Papers: