

Agenda Item	4
Report No	RES/01/18

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Corporate Resources

Date: 28 February 2018

Report Title: **Gaelic and Culture Update Report**

Report By: **Director of Care & Learning**

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Members, and gives an overview of progress in relation to a number of high level Gaelic corporate, Gaelic Educational and Gaelic cultural developments from December 2017 to date.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Note the contents of the Report

3. 3rd Iteration Draft Gaelic Language Plan 2017- 2022

- 3.1 The draft Gaelic Language Plan was discussed at Bòrd na Gàidhlig's (BnaG) Planning Meeting on February 15th 2018. Early indication is that BnaG Board Members gave 'positive feedback' on the draft Gaelic Plan. It is also reported that Board Members were of the opinion that the draft Plan was both robust, and aspirational.
- 3.2 BnaG will formally write to the Council, to inform of specific comments which BnaG Board Members have raised. These points mainly refer to additional detail on certain aspects of the draft Plan.
- 3.3 The Council will receive a formal letter in relation to the draft Gaelic Language Plan by the end of February.

4. Gaelic Strategy and Implementation Group

- 4.1 GSIG were scheduled to meet on 31 January 2018, this was postponed to Budgetary Meetings. The meeting was rescheduled to February 8th.

5. Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF) 2017/18

- 5.1 The Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF) was established to help public authorities in the delivery of commitments in their Gaelic Language Plans, and in support of the National Gaelic Language Plan.
- 5.2 GLAIF 2018/19 funding stream is open and the Gaelic Team will be submitting applications which will be aligned to the strategic commitments, the key performance results and the enabling actions in the Council's Gaelic Language Plan. The general applications must be submitted by 23 April. GLAIF supports projects which will commence and be fully completed between 1st July 2018 and 31st August 2019.
- 5.3 Up-date on GLAIF Projects 2017 -2018

Gàidhlig airson Inbhich – Gaelic Learning for Adults,

South Area:

- Inverness: (September to December 17) 8 classes took place including 2 Beginners Classes, and a Conversation Circle. 70 students including 18 GM parents. Parents Class – 6
- Fort William: (October to December 17) A Beginners Class 10 students 5 GM parents Parents Class – 7 Drumnadrochit: Beginners – 4, Intermediate – 5 students.
- Balnain: 4 students, Nairn: Post Beginners – 9. Total number of students – 115

West Area:

- Portree: August to December 2017 Beginners' Conversation Class with 7 students registered (6 Gaelic medium parents) Gaelic Book Club for advanced learners in the Portree area continues to meet monthly for post with 11 students attending.
- Lochalsh: Gaelic Beginners Conversational Class commencing February 2018.

North Area:

- Dingwall: September to December 2017, Beginners Conversation Class – 5 students enrolled, Intermediate Conversation Class – 3 students enrolled, Advanced conversation Class – 10 students enrolled
- Ullapool: Gaelic Beginners Conversational Class starting February 2018.
- Tain: September to December 2017, Post beginners Conversation Class – 5 students enrolled, Intermediate Conversation Class – 5 students enrolled, Beginners Pilot project – 6 students enrolled
- Wick: Gaelic Intermediate Conversational Class starting February 2018.
- Thurso: Gaelic Beginners Conversational Class commenced January 2018.
- Gaelic Intermediate Conversational Class commencing February 2018.

5.4 Program Taic BSGP (Portree Gaelic Primary School)

- A programme to support GM pupils and parents at BSGP with language homework support.
- To provide Family learning opportunities for GM families at BSGP.
- To develop and provide curricular opportunities for inter-generational Gaelic usage between local Gaelic senior citizens and young GM pupils attending BSGP.
- To work in collaboration with Gaelic agencies to deliver a programme of Arts and Sporting activities around the GM BSGP standalone school.
- To work in partnership with Portree High School to develop links with GM senior pupils and primary GM pupils at BSGP to engage in classroom activities to enable positive GM peer engagement. In collaboration with the BSGP school staff and the 0-3 Gaelic Groups increase the numbers transitioning to Sgoil Araich.

5.5 Birth to Three Strategic Partnership

- To create a strengthened and structured Birth to Three sector to feed into the pre-school, Primary and Secondary sectors.
- To increase the number of children entering GM Education especially in schools where there is currently capacity for expansion
- To increase and support the acquisition of Gaelic within the groups through quality play experiences.
- To promote the benefits of bilingualism to parents of babies and toddlers.

5.6 Club Spòrs ann an Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar (Lochaber Gaelic School Sports Club)

- To provide a range of extra-curricular sporting activities through the medium of Gaelic at Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar.
- To extend the use of Gaelic amongst young people beyond the classroom.
- To extend the young people's Gaelic language usage and expression into new activities.
- To enhance and add to the overall Gaelic experience at the new school.

5.7 Gàidhlig airson teaghlaich – Gaelic Learning For Families

The project is in the planning stages with actual events planned to take place near Easter and the Summer term.

- To widen access to a varied programme of adult Gaelic learning opportunities in Highland.
- To enable Gaelic medium parents to support their children in Gaelic medium education.
- To provide Gaelic family learning opportunities, making use of language in a range of settings.
- To provide a range of extra-curricular Gaelic medium activities

5.8 Gaelic Sports Leadership Awards

- First week of Gaelic sports leadership coaching takes place later in the month.
- The first ever Sports & Dance Leader UK Level 1 residential course will be delivered to 15 Gaelic learners aged between 12-25 years.
- 30 young people will be trained to deliver activities in GM.
- 30 young people will register with Saltire Awards.
- 30 young people will register with the HLH Leadership Programme.
- Gaelic activities will be included in the HLH Summer Programme 2018.

5.9 Fras-Sgeul (Creative Writing Programme)

- To provide young people with the opportunity to enrich their linguistic skills
- To support the enabling actions within the Curriculum for Excellence
- To assist young people in the art of expressing themselves succinctly
- To support young people in providing a sense of structure to their creative output
- To allow young people to concentrate on nouns and verbs as the basic 'building blocks' of language, permitting them too to differentiate these from adjectives and adverbs which often slow down the telling of a story
- To make language learning engaging, creative and fun

The following schools have participated in the Fras-Sgeul project.

Farr High School (various classes), Bettyhill, Mount Pleasant Primary, Thurso, Tain Royal Academy, Tain Primary, Dingwall Academy (various classes) Dingwall Primary, Gairloch High School, Culloden Academy, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis (various classes), Inverness Royal Academy (various classes) Portree High School (various classes), Plockton High School, Plockton Primary, Ardnamurchan High School, Lochaber High School (various classes), Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar (various classes), Kingussie High School, Millbank Primary, Nairn.

Staffin/Kilmuir, Portree, Mallaig High and Mallaig Primary sessions will be delivered to link with the forth coming Book Festivals in these areas.

In total 30 sessions have been delivered, 34 creative writing sessions will be delivered in 22 HC schools. Increased opportunities for language usage, language fluency, support for national educational schemes, smarter thinking in relation to Gaelic creative writing and use of Gaelic.

6. Fàs Foghlaim (Educational Growth)

- 6.1 On January 8th 2018 the Council launched Fàs Foghlaim, a 1 minute 30 second multi-media, innovative, short social media Gaelic education promotional tool.
- 6.2 Fàs Foghlaim has been created to inform parents of the benefits of bilingualism and it aims to inform parents and guardians who require further information on bilingualism especially in relation to the learning journey from birth to 5 years.
- 6.3 Fàs Foghlaim aims to be informative and assist in addressing any uncertainties which parents may have in relation to bilingual education.
- 6.4 The promotional tool includes interviews from pupils, academics, parents, education professionals, and officers.
- 6.5 Fàs Foghlaim taster will also be uploaded on to USB sticks which will be distributed to educational and pre-school professionals.
- 6.6 Since it was launched there has been up to 11,000 face-book views and 1,500 Twitter views.
- 6.7 Fàs Foghlaim can be found on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter and it has been devised to coincide with school enrolments.
<https://www.facebook.com/fasfoghlaim/> <https://twitter.com/FasFoghlaim?lang=en-gb>
- 6.8 The Head Teacher BSGI and the Gaelic Team are currently developing phase 2 of the Fàs Foghlaim project, which will be more comprehensive and includes a 15 minute piece which will be placed on you-tube and various other social media platforms.
- 6.9 The second phase will be completed in the early Spring.

7. Gaelic In Service Day

- 7.1 The Gaelic In Service Day is an annual event which offers a unique opportunity for Highland Gaelic practitioners from Early Years, Primary and Secondary settings to come together for collaborative development opportunities.
- 7.2 Last year there were in excess of 80 attendees, and this year over 100 professionals are scheduled to meet on February 21st for what is one of the largest Career Long Professional Learning (CLPL) events of its kind in the country that specifically targets Gaelic Education staff.

8. Appointment Head Teacher BSGI (Inverness Gaelic Primary School)

- 8.1 On February 12th Mrs Lena Walker was appointed as Head Teacher of BSGI.

9. Portree Gaelic Primary School

- 9.1 The new Portree Gaelic School is scheduled to open in the Spring.

10.1 GMòr

- 10.1 GMòr is a conglomerate of public sector agencies, mostly local authorities, who have, or who are currently developing Gaelic Language Plans. The Council are currently leading on the organisation of the group and the following agencies form the Group.
- 10.2 The last meeting took place on February 15th at the Scottish Government in Victoria Quay. The Council Officials took part via teleconference. The main points on the agenda were the National Gaelic Language Plan, Adult Learners, updates from the participants, and a presentation from Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan - Gaelic Language Planning. The next meeting will take place on June 14th at HQ Glen Urquhart Road.

11. FilmG

- 11.1 The annual National Gaelic short film competition FilmG awards ceremony was held in Glasgow, Old Fruit Market where they celebrated 10 years of MG Alba's Gaelic short film competition.
- 11.2 The first ever FilmG event took place in Eden Court, Inverness. FilmG is delivered by Cànan, the multi-media company who are based at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye.
- 11.3 The competition is open to all ages and aims to encourage grassroots Gaelic storytelling through film-making. More than 650 short films, including animations and sports commentaries, have been entered since FilmG was established. Due to the success Gairloch High School enjoyed in the 2017 FilmG competition, FilmG launched their 2018 call for entries on June 22nd at Gairloch High.
- 11.4 A theme is set for each year's competition. The theme chosen for this year's FilmG was "firinn" meaning truth. There were a number of categories, which included Drama Music Video, Animation, Drama/Comedy, Other, Comedy, Film Dùthchais, Sport Commentary, Documentary, Mobile Short.
- 11.5 There were 75 submissions from schools across the Country of which 17 were from Highland schools. The entries were as follows:
- Alness Academy, Millburn Academy (2 entries), Mallaig High, Ardnamurchan High (2 entries), IRA, Gairloch High, Portree High (2 entries), Tain Royal Academy, Nairn Academy, Ullapool High, Lochaber High, Dingwall Academy, Plockton Primary, and Culloden Academy.
- 11.6 Anndra Cumming from Gairloch High, took the Best Sports Commentary Award. Congratulations to Eòin Cumming, also from Gairloch High, who is Anndra's brother. Eòin took home Best Mobile Short Film.
- 11.7 Portree High School took home, for their film "Fuaim a' Bhlàir" for winning the Best Script award.

- 11.8 Millburn Academy won the prize for Most Creative Production.
- 11.9 Lana Beaton from the Isle of Skye, won 2 awards – Best Performance and Best Student Film – for her film ‘Coig Puing a Tri’. She also made it onto three short lists and won the People’s Choice award as voted by the public on the FilmG website.
- 11.10 The Council supported a major prize ‘Mar a Thachair do Dh’fhear a Sgur a Dhol dhan Eaglais’, by John Murdo MacAulay, Laura and Paul for their modern twist on a traditional tale.

12. Celtic Media Festival (CFM)

- 12.1 40th Celtic Media Festival is coming to Scotland in April 2019, The Gaelic Team have submitted a draft bid to the CMF inviting them to come to the Highlands, specifically the Badenoch area.
- 12.2 The CMF bidding process invited the Council to focus on the following headings: Location, Access and Travel, Conference/Theatre spaces, Lodging/ Accommodation, Funding, Culture/Celtic Language/ Creative industries/ Higher Education, Achievements/ Legacy, and Closing Statement.
- 12.3 The Celtic Media Festival is an annual 3 day event that promotes the languages and cultures of the Celtic Nations and Regions in media. It combines a major conference of seminars and master classes with presentations of highly sought after prizes in an international competition across all the main content genres in television, radio, film and digital media.
- 12.4 Celtic Media Festival is held in the Spring in of one of the Celtic countries. The Celtic Media Festival has been in the Highlands in 1991 (Inverness), 1995 (Fort William), 1999 (Skye), 2007 (Skye), and 2015 (Inverness).

13 Corporate Translations

- 13.1 Translation work continues on a wide range of projects across Council services.
- 13.2 These include street and place-name signage, external and internal buildings’ signage, teaching resources and wider education support materials. Many corporate documents are translated such as official reports and meetings’ agendas. The Gaelic and cultural related press and advertising materials such as news releases and job adverts are also translated.

Implications

- 14.
- 14.1 Resource
The Gaelic Team submit funding applications to the appropriate agencies in order to manage and implement the projects.
- 14.2 Legal
There are no legal implications
- 14.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)
We take cognisance of the above

- 14.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever
Participate in telephone conferencing and office communicator to assist with the above
- 14.5 Risk
Should we not be successful in attracting funding this will create a risk in relation to implementing the projects and fulfilling the requirements of the Gaelic Language Plan.
- 14.6 Gaelic
Has a positive impact on Gaelic as we are creating opportunities across Highland for Gaelic and cultural development especially in relation to young people.

Designation:

Date: February 19th 2018

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Background Papers: