

COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD  
HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Agenda Item	4.
Report No	RES/50/18

**Committee:** Corporate Resources Committee

**Date:** 21 November 2018

**Report Title:** **The Gaelic Team, Gaelic and Culture Update**

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

**1. Purpose/Executive Summary**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a *summarised* update to Members on the current corporate developments, projects and initiatives relating to Gaelic and cultural development.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to:-  
Comment on the work undertaken and make recommendations which can be incorporated into the relevant developments and activities as they progress.

**3 Fàs Foghlaim – (FF) Film to be shown at the start of the Committee Meeting**

3.1 Mr Donald Ewan Mackinnon a recognised Gaelic filmmaker was commissioned to produce the Fàs Foghlaim film.

3.2 FF was previewed at the Ant- Alltan which is a conference for Gaelic teachers that is organised annually by Stòrlann who produce Gaelic medium resources for teachers.

3.3 The film is a corporate resource which will be viewed by parents at Gaelic Open days, Gaelic “fun days” and other appropriate community events where there currently is Gaelic Medium education provision.

3.4 The film is aimed at parents and guardians of children who may not have considered Gaelic Medium Education as an option and may have concerns or may not be confident in placing their child/children in Gaelic Education.

3.5 FF includes interviews from established bilingual educationalists and academics, Head Teacher, teachers, parents, musicians, and community representatives as a means of demonstrating the benefits of bilingualism.

- 3.6 FF aims to give an honest and open description of Gaelic Education including any concerns, benefits and opportunities which it presents.
- 3.7 It will be made available on all social media plat-forms and on USB sticks which will be distributed to parents who may not have immediate or easy access to social media.
- 3.8 It is our understanding that other Local Authorities aim to produce similar resources for their local authority areas. This resource will be available to other local authorities.
- 3.9 The Gaelic Team are organising a “soft launch” at BSGI on November 8

#### **4. The Royal National Mòd Dunoon 2018 (Mòd)**

- 4.1 The 2018 Mod took place in Dunoon in Argyll and Bute 12 – 20 October. There were many competitors in the children and adult sections from the Highland Council area.
- 4.2 The links below *summarises* the many successes from across the Highlands - Skye and Lochalsh, Caithness, Sutherland, Lochaber, Inverness, Badenoch, and Ross-Shire at the Mòd. [https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11378/council\\_congratulates\\_inverness\\_teacher\\_s\\_mod\\_gold](https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11378/council_congratulates_inverness_teacher_s_mod_gold)  
[https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11369/skye\\_councillors\\_congratulate\\_gaelic\\_ambassador\\_of\\_the\\_year](https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11369/skye_councillors_congratulate_gaelic_ambassador_of_the_year)  
[https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11375/success\\_at\\_the\\_m%C3%B2d\\_for\\_clann\\_thr%C3%B2ndairnis\\_from\\_skye](https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11375/success_at_the_m%C3%B2d_for_clann_thr%C3%B2ndairnis_from_skye)
- 4.3 The Highland Council in partnership with Wipro (HC ICT provider) sponsored the Under 13 Folk Group Competition which was won by Clann Thròrdairnais in the Trotternish area of Skye with pupils from both Staffin and Kilmuir schools sharing a cash prize of £500 from Wipro.

#### **5. Future Mòds**

- 5.1 The 2019 Mòd will be hosted in Glasgow, and the 2020 Mòd is returning to Inverness.
- 5.2 The Gaelic Team are working with the City Committee Manager and An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG) to support the voluntary Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the Inverness Mòd in relation to submitting a funding application to the Inverness Common in Good Fund. The application will be submitted in the next financial year. The Gaelic Team in conjunction with LOC/ACG will be drafting an Action Plan for the 2020 Mòd this will include the setting up of a Mòd Liaison Group.

#### **6. The Economic and Cultural Benefit of the Mòd**

- 6.1 The Mòd has established itself as a major cultural event, not only in the Gaelic calendar but also throughout the Scottish diaspora. It has brought invaluable income into the area where the Mòd is being held as it takes place in the early Autumn when the visitor season is generally quieter. In so doing, it has not only provided an invaluable contribution to the celebration and development of Gaelic language and culture but has also made an invaluable contribution to the local economy.

Each year, Mòd is hosted by a different area, town or city.

6.2 In recent years, the Mòd has been hosted by:

- Paisley 2013
- Inverness 2014
- Oban 2015
- Western Isles 2016
- Lochaber 2017.

6.3 Lochaber is as an excellent Mòd host area as well as having the added advantage of being accessible.

6.4 In terms of economic impact, the 2014 Inverness Mòd has been the most successful to date but An Comunn anticipate that the Lochaber Mòd could be relatively close to that of the 2015 Mòd in Oban in terms of the generation of spending and the associated economic impacts.

6.6 Therefore, it can be seen that the Mòd not only makes a substantial contribution to the economy of its local host areas at a traditionally quieter period for tourism, but also contributes to the equally important wider national objective of increasing the take-up and use of Gaelic.

6.7 The Mòd also raises the profile of Gaelic and many of the competitors and winners receive media exposure and it also provides them with a platform to launch their music careers. Overall this gives the Highland Council a very positive public platform.

6.8 On 21 February a report will be submitted to the City of Inverness Area Committee which will focus on both the economic and the cultural/linguistic impact of the Mòd to the host area. The report will support the funding application from the LOC to the Common Good Fund.

## **7. Gaelic Language Plan 3 (GLP3) 2018 - 2023**

7.1 The Highland Council's third generation Gaelic Language Plan was approved by Bord na Gàidhlig subject to one point which the Bòrd required further clarification. This matter has received attention; the Council await a formal notice from the Bord to inform it that GLP3 has been approved.

7.2 GLP3 has been referred to in the Scottish Parliament as an example of best practice in the development of Gaelic Plans within Local Government.

## **8. Memorandum of Understanding Highland Council and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO)**

8.1 The Highland Council works in partnership with SMO on major infrastructure and strategic developments e.g. The Kilbeg project which includes the development of a 'new' village in Sleat on the Isle of Skye; affordable housing and the development of sports facilities in the area. The Director of Development and Infrastructure and the Head of Development Regeneration are actively involved.

8.2 The Principal Professor Boyd Robertson and the Vice Principal John Norman MacLeod retired in the Summer. Dr Gillian Rothach has been appointed as Principal and Dr Marsaili Macleod appointed as Vice Principal and Head of Studies.

8.3 The Gaelic Team work in partnership with SMO on specific projects which are included in the Gaelic Plan.

The following are examples of projects which take place annually:

- Gaelic Family Learning Week
- Seachdain na Deugairean
- Bursary Scheme for students who attend SMO

8.4 Representative of the Gaelic Team aim to meet the Principal and staff representatives before the Festive break.

## 9.

### **The 40<sup>th</sup> Celtic Media Festival Aviemore June 2018**

9.1 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, prizes in an international competition across all the main content genres in television, radio, film and digital media.

9.2 Celtic Media Festival is held annually 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)
- 2015 (Inverness)

9.3 For nearly 40 years, CMF has brought together those who value the languages and cultures of the Celtic countries as portrayed on screen and broadcast. It is a unique festival that has grown and flourished, on a scale that attracts conference speakers and that can showcase emerging talent yet intimate enough for delegates to meet the decision-makers. The Celtic Media Festival is supported by broadcast, film, cultural and economic development organisations throughout the Celtic countries and regions.

9.4 On May 22<sup>nd</sup> a representative from the Gaelic Team attended the Badenoch Area Committee gave a short presentation on the background to the CMF. In November the Gaelic Team, and the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee will work with CMF representatives to set up a Local Liaison Group to support the CMF in organising the Festival to take place in the area.

9.5 The Scottish Government have committed part funding for the event.

9.6 HC Elected representative and staff aim to meet CMF representatives before the Festive break.

## 10. **Grants for Gaelic Language Education (Scotland) Regulations 1986 Gaelic Specific Grant/ Capital Funding 2018-19**

10.1 The grant allocated by the Scottish Government in this financial year 2018-19 is £939,000.

10.2 The Scottish Government has written to the Director of Care and Learning inviting the Council to bid under the Scheme of Gaelic Specific Grant for Gaelic Education for the

financial year 2019/20. The Gaelic Team are currently working on the submission. The closing date for the bid to be submitted is December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018.

## **11. Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF)**

- 11.2 Gaelic Team submitted 13 funding applications requesting a total of £285,598 to the GLAIF fund which is administered by BnaG.
- 11.3 At the beginning of July the Highland Council were informed that a total of £227,447 had been approved. 2 applications were rejected and 1 application is on the 'table' as the Gaelic Team submitted it on behalf of GMòr and BnaG are liaising with MGALBA in relation to the application.
- 11.4 The Gaelic Team are managing and implementing the projects and initiatives which will require to be completed by the end of June 2019.

## **12. GMòr**

- 12.1 GMòr comprises representatives' from local authorities and public agencies across Scotland who are involved in drafting Gaelic Language Plans. The Gaelic Team take a lead role on national initiatives on behalf of GMòr e.g. submit funding application to
- 12.2 Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund which is managed by Bord na Gàidhlig. The next meeting takes place in East Ayrshire Council (Kilmarnock) on 30 November.

## **13. Iomain Cholmcille – Gaelic Shinty Project**

- 13.1 The National Gaelic Shinty Project worked in partnership with the Highland Council's Gaelic Team to organise a national shinty event for P4 – P7 Gaelic Medium pupils from schools across Scotland.
- 13.2 Cupa Iomain na h-Òige – (Youth Shinty Cup) – is in its third year. The event is an annual fixture on the Gaelic sporting events calendar.
- 13.3 The event is based in the Highlands but open to schools across Scotland. Cupa Iomain na h-Òige is gaining momentum, with teachers, parents and the young people all highlighting that it provides an opportunity for the participants to use their language and sporting skills in an inclusive and fun manner.
- 13.3 Cupa Iomain na h-Òige, is held entirely in the medium of Gaelic. Iomain Cholmcille is a project dedicated to encouraging the use of Gaelic in the shinty world and regularly organises international exchanges with Irish-speaking hurling teams for both men and women.
- 13.4 Cupa Iomain na h-Òige has receives support from the Council and Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Bord na Gàidhlig presented the Cupa Iomain na h-Òige to the winner of the competition, while the Council provided support for a trophy, Duais Gàidhlig Iomain na h-Òige – Youth Shinty Gaelic Award – which goes to the team most committed to using the language on the pitch and during the event.
- 13.5 The Highland Council presented specifically designed medals to each team member who took part in the event. 14 teams from urban and rural schools took part. There were 6 players on in each side, 8 in a team. Teams from Dingwall, Lochaber, Inverness, Portree, Glasgow and Edinburgh took part.

13.6 Portree Gaelic School won the shinty competition with Dingwall Gaelic Medium being presented with the Duais Gàidhlig for commitment to the language. There was positive media coverage in relation to the event and BBC ALBA filmed and interviewed a number of young people who participated. The attached are releases relating to the events, the Chair of Corporate Resources Cllr Alister Mackinnon presented the medals and a Trophy to the winning team.

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11270/gaelic\\_youth\\_shinty\\_gets\\_boost\\_from\\_b%C3%B2rd\\_na\\_g%C3%A0idhlig\\_and\\_iomain\\_cholmcille](https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11270/gaelic_youth_shinty_gets_boost_from_b%C3%B2rd_na_g%C3%A0idhlig_and_iomain_cholmcille)

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11342/highland\\_schools\\_come\\_out\\_top\\_at\\_shintythe\\_bught](https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/11342/highland_schools_come_out_top_at_shintythe_bught)

#### **14. Oran Mòr Event**

14.1 A part of the celebration of the 2018 Year of Young People Fèisean nan Gàidheal (FnanG) received financial support from EventScotland organise a national event to celebrate the language and culture of the area.

14.2 The Oran Mòr was an all-day concert event and took place as part of the Blas Festival in the Northern Meeting Park on 15 September. Oran Mòr was the only large-scale event to take place as part of YoYP within the Highlands.

14.3 This was a family-friendly event with bands chosen by a panel of young people who would perform at the event.

14.4 Videos/ short films were shown on large screens including the YOYP film, and The Highland Council Convener Cllr Bill Lobban welcomed the young people/ attendees and the audience. Mrs Maree Todd MSP - Minister for Children and Young People also spoke at the event.

14.5 There was an ensemble performance with young musicians and singers from across Scotland. Approximately 800 of young people took part. This show cased Highland Council's commitment to the Gaelic Language, culture and heritage.

#### **15. Ant-Alltan**

15.1 Ant-Alltan, is a national conference (organised by Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig) for Gaelic teachers and Early Years Practitioners and took place in Aviemore on 26 and 27 September.

15.2 The conference provides a platform to engage in professional learning opportunities for Gaelic educationalists, through collaboration and the sharing of good practice within engaging workshops and presentations.

15.3 This is the largest and most comprehensive continues professional development for Gaelic Medium Teachers across Scotland.

15.4 The conference provided a professional learning opportunity for Gaelic educationalists and gave delegates the opportunity to have a look at new initiatives for teaching and learning through a series of talks and workshops.

15.5 Key presentations were made across the two days. As a former GM pupil Ms Kate Forbes, MSP, presented in Gaelic. Ms Forbes challenged professionals to engage with and embrace ever-changing technological advances within the classroom; to

support children and young people in developing relevant experiences and skill-sets that support and enhance the Countries thriving Digital Economy.

- 15.6 Joan MacKay, Assistant Director, Education Scotland delivered a presentation regarding the importance of engaging with the Developing the Young Workforce agenda across all educational sectors. By recognising, celebrating and nurturing key skills and talents as children move through their education, individuals will be better equipped to make relevant educational decisions that support and enhance effective career choices and work towards a positive destination for every young person leaving school.
- 15.7 Educational practitioners from across Scotland had the opportunity to watch a pre-launch pre-view of Highland Council's Fàs Foghlaim (**see point 3**) promotional film.

## **16. The National Secondary Schools' Gaelic Debate**

- 16.1 The Debate was established in 1999 and is now in its 20th year.
- 16.2 This year's competition is funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, The Scottish Government, Skills Development Scotland, The Highland Council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Glasgow City Council, Education Scotland and the Scottish Qualifications Authority. with in-kind support provided by Comunn na Gàidhlig, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, The Scottish Parliament and BBC Radio nan Gaidheal.
- 16.3 16 teams representing 13 Secondary Schools across Scotland will participate in the first 2 rounds in Stornoway, on 6th and 7th November, with the 4 highest scoring teams progressing to the semi-finals which will take place on the evening prior to the debate final on Tuesday 27th November in The Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh. The final will be held in The Scottish Parliament.
- 16.4 The Final, which will be broadcast live on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal, and also webcast on the Scottish Parliament website, will start at 19:00 and finish at approximately 20:30. The Presentation of the National Secondary Schools' Gaelic Debate 2018 Award will be made by SQA. The presentation of the shield for the Best Debater of the entire competition will be made by BBC Radio nan Gaidheal.
- 16.5 Following the presentation of the Award, guests will be invited to the Garden Lobby for the Cross Party Group on Gaelic's annual Reception where the Vice Convener of the Cross-Party Group, Donald Cameron MSP, will welcome the guests.

## **17. National Gaelic Awards**

- 17.1 The finalists have been announced for this year's Daily Record and BnaG Scottish Gaelic Awards.  
The awards pay tribute to all aspects of Gaelic culture, education and language the winners will be revealed, November 14, in Glasgow.

## **17.2 Other Activities**

The Gaelic Team with support or co-operation from other agencies organise many open days and "fun days" for young people/ parents and toddlers across the Highlands where GME is currently available. The aim is to support the schools and increase the number of young people entering the Gaelic Medium system.

The Gaelic Team organise many Gaelic Adult Learning Classes which are targeted at various levels of language learning, from beginners to intermediate. The classes are primarily focussed on areas where Gaelic education is available to support parents in their language learning journey.

## **18. Implications**

### **Resource**

Resources are accounted for in respect of Gaelic development.

### **Legal**

No issues have been identified.

### **Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)**

Positive implications in relation to communities where Gaelic medium education is based.

### **Climate Change / Carbon Clever**

No issues have been identified.

### **Gaelic**

The various developments continue to, and will have a positive implication in relation to corporate Gaelic and cultural development as part of the Councils Gaelic Language Plan.

Designation:

Director of Care and Learning

Date:

12 November 2018

Author:

Morag Anna Macleod MacLeod Mitchell & the Gaelic Team



## **GAELIC SECONDARY TEACHERS**

Please note that the below lists the number of teachers – some teachers may be part-time or in the case of subject teachers will also teach English Medium pupils.

### **Schools with Gaelic Learners only**

Alness Academy – 1 teacher  
Charleston Academy – 1 teacher  
Culloden Academy – 1 teacher  
Millburn Academy – 1 teacher

### **Schools with Gàidhlig Fluent only**

Kingussie High School – 1 teacher  
Nairn Academy – e-Sgoil

### **Schools with Gaelic Learners and Gàidhlig Fluent**

Farr High School – 1 teacher  
Gairloch High School – 1 teacher  
Plockton High School – 2 teachers  
Ullapool High School – 2 teachers

### **Schools with Gaelic Learners, Gàidhlig Fluent and Subjects through the medium of Gaelic**

Ardnamurchan – 2 teachers. S1,2,3 Geography, History, RE  
Dingwall Academy – 3 teachers. S1,2 Geography, History, Modern Studies  
Inverness Royal Academy – 2 teachers + supply + school cover. S1,2 History, Geography, Modern Studies, RE, PSE; S3 History, Geography, Modern Studies; S4 History, Modern Studies.  
Lochaber High – 2 teachers. S1,2 – French  
Mallaig High School – 1 teacher. S1 Health & Wellbeing  
Portree High – 11 teachers. 7 of these are subject teachers only – S1,2 History, Geography, Modern Studies, Science, Home Economics, Mathematics, PSE, Tutor Time; S2 Drama; S3 History, PSE, Tutor Time; S4,5 History, PSE, Tutor Time; S6 PSE, Tutor Time  
Tain Royal Academy – 3 teachers. 1 of these subject teacher only – S1,2,3 Home Economics

**Gaelic Learners Secondary 18-19**

	GL1	GL2	GL3	GL4				GL5				GL6					
	BGE	BGE	BGE	Nat 3	Nat 4	Nat 5	GL4 Total	Nat 4	Nat 5	Higher	GL5 Total	Nat 4	Nat 5	Higher	Adv. Higher	GL6 Total	<b>GL Total</b>
Alness	59	55	0		3		3			1	1				1	1	<b>119</b>
Ardnamurchan	18	32	8			4	4		2	2	4					0	<b>66</b>
Charleston	134	148	28			3	3		1	2	3			2	1	3	<b>319</b>
Culloden	198	38	21			2	2				0					0	<b>259</b>
Dingwall	43	0	18		2	1	3			3	3		1			1	<b>68</b>
Farr	15	15	20			1	1			2	2				1	1	<b>54</b>
Gairloch	11	10	6			3	3			1	1					0	<b>31</b>
Inverness Royal	30	13	15			5	5			1	1			1	2	3	<b>67</b>
Lochaber	151	135	61			2	2			1	1				1	1	<b>351</b>
Mallaig						2	2				0					0	<b>2</b>
Millburn	39	24	23			23	23			5	5				1	1	<b>115</b>
Plockton	26	26	14			3	3				0			1		1	<b>70</b>
Portree	52	59	42	1		8	9		1	1	2			1		1	<b>165</b>
Tain	77	82	23		7		7	3			3					0	<b>192</b>
Ullapool	2	7	3				0				0					0	<b>12</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>282</b>				<b>70</b>				<b>26</b>					<b>13</b>	<b>1890</b>

Gàidhlig Secondary Numbers 18-19

	GA1	GA2	GA3	GA4				GA5			GA6			GA Total	
	BGE	BGE	BGE	Nat 4	Nat 5	Higher	GA4 Total	Nat 5	Higher	GA5 Total	Nat 5	Higher	Adv. Higher		GA6 Total
Ardnamurchan	1	6	1		4		4			0			1	1	13
Culloden		1					0			0				0	1
Dingwall	7	12	6		7		7	2	2	4	1		2	3	39
Farr					2		2			0				0	2
Gairloch	7	2	3		2	1	3		2	2		1		1	18
Inverness Royal	32	23	14		7		7		5	5		1	2	3	84
Kingussie	3	0	4		1		1		2	2				0	10
Lochaber	5	9	6				0			0				0	20
Mallaig	5	3	4		3		3	1	2	3				0	18
Nairn Academy	3	4	1				0			0				0	8
Plockton	4	2	2		1		1			0		1		1	10
Portree	24	26	33		15		15		12	12	1	2	6	9	119
Tain	4	3	2		2		2		1	1				0	12
Ullapool	4	1	8		2		2	2		2				0	17
<b>Totals</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>84</b>				<b>47</b>			<b>31</b>				<b>18</b>	<b>371</b>

**Gaelic Medium Subject Teaching 18-19**

	GM1	GM2	GM3	GM4	GM5/6	<b>GM Total</b>
	BGE	BGE	BGE			
Ardnamurchan	1	5	1			<b>7</b>
Dingwall	7	12				<b>19</b>
Inverness Royal	32	23	7	4		<b>66</b>
Lochaber	5	9				<b>14</b>
Mallaig	5					<b>5</b>
Nairn		4	1			<b>5</b>
Portree	23	26	35	9	1	<b>94</b>
Tain	4	3	2			<b>9</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>219</b>

**No of pupils in Non-certificate classes only**

GM4	GM5	GM6	<b>GM Total</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
			<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
			<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>
			<b>0</b>	<b>66</b>
			<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
			<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
			<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
15	29	19	<b>63</b>	<b>157</b>
			<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>282</b>