

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Report No</b>	<b>RES/12/19</b>

**COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD  
HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**Committee:** Corporate Resources Committee

**Date:** May 23 2019

**Report Title:** **Gaelic and Culture Update  
Aithisg Ùrachaidh Gàidhlig agus Cultair**

**Report By:** Interim Director Care and Learning Service

**1. Purpose/Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a summarised update for Members on current Gaelic developments in the Highland Council especially in relation to funding applications and national projects.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i) Note and acknowledge the developments to date which the Highland Council Gaelic Team are leading on and are participating in.

**3. Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF)**

- 3.1 GLAIF was established to assist public authorities in the delivery of commitments in the Gaelic Language Plans, and in support of the National Gaelic Language Plan.

- 3.2 GLAIF has also been used to assist other public authorities in the delivery of projects ahead of their formal notice to produce a Gaelic Language Plan.

- 3.3 This fund supports projects which will commence and be fully completed between early July 2019 and 31st August 2020. The GLAIF funding stream closed on 18 April 2019

#### **4. Gaelic Team GLAIF Submissions**

- 4.1 The Gaelic Team submitted GLAIF funding applications to BnaG in mid-April. The following gives a summary of each of the GLAIF projects which were submitted.

#### **5. Birth to Three Years of Age**

- 5.1 The project aims to continue the Birth to Three strategic partnership between the Highland Council and BnaG. This funding is used to support the 0 to 3 sector in the areas of Highland which lack local Gaelic speaking play leaders, and to provide information and advice to groups which have managed to recruit local workers.

In partnership with the Care and Learning Alliance, four part-time Gaelic Toddler Development Workers are employed to provide direct Gaelic play input to Mallaig, Acharacle, Newtonmore, Glenurquhart, Nairn, Cluich and Ceuman Beaga in Inverness, Dingwall, Tain, Bonar Bridge, Thurso, Gairloch, Ullapool and Plockton.

The project contributes to the growth of Gaelic medium education by engaging with parents and babies/toddlers who attend the Gaelic Toddler groups and supporting them to transition into GME. The project also assesses the training needs of those working in the sector and contributes to the skills pathway which partners are all seeking to develop.

#### **6. Sports Club BSGLA**

- 6.1 Club Spòrs at BSGLA involves a partnership between the Highland Council Gaelic team, the Head teacher and the Active Schools Co-ordinator from Highlife Highland who work together to provide a successful programme of out-of-school sports activities through the medium of Gaelic. The Saturday Club Spòrs has an excellent turn out from pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7. It enables the use of Gaelic to extend beyond the class-room thereby encouraging Gaelic usage, fluency and attainment. Club Spòrs after-school shinty and football are also well attended.

#### **7. Extra-Curricular Activities**

- 7.1 The Cur-seachadan taobh a' muigh na Sgoile project will consist of a programme of 10 Gaelic workshops for young people culminating in a weekend residential. The programme will be delivered over the year and will crossover into school holiday. The activities will be varied consisting of outdoor activities, music, song, drama and filming, all designed to be attractive and relevant for young people today. The project is intended for children at upper primary level and young people attending Gaelic medium secondary education in the Inverness and North area. The intention is to encourage young people to choose Gaelic while transitioning to secondary education and later in their school career while making subject choices. The project will focus on supporting and developing the language acquisition skills of pupils thus promoting the increased use of Gaelic by young people. This project will include 2 workshops /events for Gaelic Learner pupils in secondary school.

The project will develop a programme of extra-curricular activities, and will be a safe avenue of social networking opportunities. The aim is to work closely with schools and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in delivering this project.

#### **8 Gaelic Sports Leadership**

- 8.1 Gaelic Sports Leadership project will offer a progressive coaching programme for Gaelic medium young people who have completed level 4 in Sports Leadership in the Western Isles and Highland Council areas the opportunity to further progress their leadership awards coaching skills onto level 5 of the programme. The Gaelic Sports leadership awards will provide excellent additional skills which will support the young fluent Gaelic people in their future career choices.

The Sports Leader UK resources are available in Gaelic medium. Securing this additional funding would allow us to further develop the project by making it available for young Gaelic speakers in the Western Isles to train alongside Young Gaelic speaking peers from the Highlands. The Gaelic Sports Leadership project will be delivered by Highlife Highland who are currently the only organisation offering the SLUK course through the medium of Gaelic. The project will enable local authorities to increase the availability of Gaelic sporting activities offered to GM pupils and will also provide employment opportunities to the Gaelic young leaders who have completed level 5 of the Sports Leadership Awards.

## **9. Gaelic Adult Learners**

**9.1** The Highland Council seeks to continually broaden access for adults to Gaelic learning classes across the area. The focus is on particular regions within the Highland Council area where there is existing Gaelic Medium provision in schools with a view to extending provision to new areas by increasing the profile of Gaelic and leading to demand from the public for Gaelic learning classes.

The Highland Council operates a structured, progressive approach in areas where there are greater numbers undertaking Gaelic Learning classes enabling students to access a clear pathway forward to university level Gaelic courses if desired.

This demand for Gaelic classes requires the supply of new tutors which the Highland Council is proactive in achieving through an annual tutor training event. The training also helps existing tutors with their Continued Professional Development.

This year an additional pilot project is planned. This will involve using immersion techniques developed from GM Education experience to use in adult learning. This class aimed at Beginner level parents in Inverness will involve the use of two tutors in the class with a focus on music, song and movement matching the simple, repetitive language being used in the sgoil-àraich. The course will be evaluated at the end of the year and if shown to be successful, further funding will be sought to create a CD and course materials to enable this to be accessible to a wider range of parents in more communities.

## **10. Gaelic Family Learning Days**

**10.1** The Gaelic Family Learning Days project will offer 2 Family Learning events, one to be held for families with children in Gaelic Medium Education living in the North Area including Dingwall, Tain, Ullapool and Thurso. The second event, based in Inverness, will be open to GM families from Inverness, Drumnadrochit, Nairn and Dingwall. The events are aimed specifically at Gaelic medium learning activities for the entire family and are offered as additional opportunities for families to use Gaelic out with the school setting. The parents will attend Gaelic adult learning classes, at the appropriate level, while the children are engaged in a variety of extra-curricular, fun activities through the medium of Gaelic e.g. arts & crafts, drama, orienteering and bush craft. There will also be at least one activity during the day which the whole family will come together for e.g. Drama games. There will also be some social event e.g. a ceilidh, nature walk for the whole family either later that day or the previous evening.

This project is again intended to give families in the North area equal opportunity to participate in affordable, local Gaelic learning activities without having to travel long distances. This project holds the family at the centre of learning; involving parents in their children's learning journey.

This second year of the project will be a continuation of the first pilot stage, encouraging progression in Gaelic learning.

## **11. Gaelic Sports Leadership**

11.1 The project will train and upskill young Gaelic people which will provide them with additional skills to deliver activities after school and in the school holidays. The project has the potential to engage with a large number of GM primary pupils through attendance at after school activities and community initiatives. The project is a great example of an initiative that will engage with and support our Gaelic young people in our communities.

## **12. Gaelic in the Work Place**

12.1 Gaidhlig san Àite-obrach Project is a Bilingual Gaelic language learning resource App and webpage which will be available for Highland Council Members and staff that have access to ICT services.

The App and webpage will be developed over a 2 year period in collaboration with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and the Highland Council Translation Service. The first phase commencing in September 2019 and will be completed in June 2020.

The core functionalities of the App will include the following:-

- An introduction to Gaelic within the Highland Council
- Audio which will include Gaelic words and phrases, and topics which are relevant to Gaelic usage in the work place
- A Word of the Day for staff to increase their vocabulary usage
- Interactive quizzes to test the language learners progression
- A glossary of words with definitions which are relevant to the workplace

## **13. GME Head Teacher CPD Training**

13.1 The Highland Council seeks to meet its requirements to support Gaelic Education across early learning and childcare settings, throughout primary and secondary school years and through to undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Provision is underpinned by the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act (2005), the Education (Scotland) Act (2016) and the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education (2017).

Language is central to our cultural heritage and national identity and essential for supporting a diverse and inclusive society. This is reflected through statutory requirements to protect and promote the use of Gaelic.

## **14. Mòd Academy**

14.1 The Gaelic Team are working in partnership with An Comunn Gàidhealach to develop a Mòd Academy Initiative for Gaelic L3 Inverness City Schools (Kinmylies, Kirkhill, Muirtown, Cauldeen, Holm, Crown, Milton of Leys, Inches and Drakes). The Initiative will also include BSGI, Nairn - Millbank GME, Dingwall GME and Glenurquhart GME. A total of 13 schools.

The Mòd Academy project will organise tutors to deliver Gaelic learning and usage tuition, Gaelic song tuition, Gaelic choral singing tuition, where appropriate bàrdachd (poetry), and folk group tuition. The tuition will be relevant to the Mòd syllabus, competitions and focus on participating in the 2020 National Mòd.

An Comunn will deliver Youth Mòd Awareness events visits to 13 L3 schools in the area, with priority given to L3 schools out-with the City.

## **15. BSGP Support Programme**

15.1 Program Taic BSGP (stand-alone Gaelic Medium Primary School in Portree opened in the last term of session 17/18) is a full academic year 19/20 project which will continue to work in partnership with BSGP and local Gaelic agencies to deliver a Gaelic medium support programme for BSGP pupils 3-18 and parents. The project will focus on supporting and developing the language acquisition skills of pupils thus promoting the use of Gaelic by young people. The project will develop a programme of extra-curricular activities, as well as organising family learning events and outdoor education

opportunities in partnership with the local CnaG Iomairt Officer and Spòrs Gàidhlig. We will continue to develop and offer during curriculum time the successful làithean Cultur event to Sgoil-àraich and BSGP pupils to ensure accessibility and inclusion for all pupils attending BSGP.

## **16 Gaelic Creative Writing in Schools**

**16.1** The Cas-Cheum project aims to develop Gaelic creative writing in schools.

The Gaelic Team aim to focus on schools where there are opportunities to currently expand and support Gaelic medium education both in primary schools and in Secondary education.

A Gaelic writer will visit these schools and deliver a series of Gaelic creative writing sessions. The sessions will be offered to specific schools to enhance their literacy skills using the new technologies. The creative writing subjects will be selected by the pupils in association with their teachers. The young people will learn how to write for radio by writing short minute long plays/dialogues and record them; they will also have the opportunity to upload on a podcast channel.

## **17 The Buidheann-obrach Feumalachdan Taice a Bharrachd airson Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig**

### **Gaelic Medium Education (GME) Additional Support Needs (ASN) Working Group**

**17.1** The Buidheann-obrach Feumalachdan Taice a Bharrachd airson Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig /GME ASN Working Group has previously delivered successful outcomes for Gaelic Education in Highland and comprises professionals working in Early Learning and Childcare, Primary, Secondary, Additional Support Needs, Speech and Language Therapy, Psychological Services and Translation Services. The working group welcomes engagement, input and support from external agencies and other Local Authorities. This has recently included Education Scotland, Stòrlann, Glasgow University, Stirling University and Scotland's National Centre for Languages (SCILT). This broad range of multi-agency professionals has helped to ensure that developments are challenged and scrutinised appropriately, which supports high expectations and strong working group standards.

## **18. The Cùm Ort! (Keep Going!)**

**18.1** The Cùm Ort! project, which is supported through external funding, is based on Highland Council's English medium 'Hop On!' resource. Cùm Ort! seeks to develop a professional, bespoke, Gaelic Medium (GM) Reading Intervention Programme for primary schools. The professionals supporting the project contribute a broad spectrum of skills, experience and expertise, relative to the effective support of pupil learning and achievement. The project works towards the creation of a developmentally and linguistically appropriate resource that supports the raising of attainment in literacy and across the GM curriculum, by supporting the acquisition and development of early reading skills. Supporting texts are written in Gaelic, use age-appropriate language and were not developed as a direct translation, which can cause difficulties. A pilot will take place to evaluate the impact of the resource and associated evidence will contribute to programme development, prior to publication. The sixty programme texts are vibrant, contemporary and offer varied subjects/topics with associated illustrations/cartoons/photos that are colourful, engaging and stimulating.

## **19. Buidheann-obrach Gràmair airson Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig Gaelic Medium Education Grammar Working Group**

**19.1** As part of an agenda for improvement within Gaelic Medium Education (GME), as identified through a self-evaluation process and in consultation with all GME practitioners, partners and Heads of Service; The Highland Council identified the

requirement for a Gaelic Grammar Progression Framework. This resource would provide progressive benchmarks for use across GME settings; carefully considered and developed by experienced professionals for use throughout the Broad General Education (BGE) of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and building on existing materials from The Highland Council, Education Scotland, Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig and other Local Authorities.

- 19.2 In the short term the Frèam-adhartais Gràmair airson Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig / GME Grammar Framework Progression project works towards a coherent, progressive GME Grammar Framework, with careful consideration for the relevance and accessibility of content at each given stage CfE level. A flexible, non-linear delivery approach is adaptable to the age and stage of learners and will support teacher confidence in the benchmarking of individual pupil's grammar development, which will support the delivery of relevant, challenging and appropriate learning experiences that simultaneously develop and/or consolidate key grammar milestones, as part of an inter-disciplinary learning approach.

## **20 Gaelic Learner Education and 1 +2 Languages**

### **20.1 Gaelic Learner Education and 1+2 Languages**

The 1+2 Language Learning initiative is a statutory entitlement for Scottish learners by school session 2020-21. This entitlement can be met through any language, with many Highland settings selecting Gaelic.

### **20.2 English Medium Provision**

26 English Medium Primary Schools deliver Gaelic as their L2 and 69 Primary Schools have selected Gaelic as their sole L3 language or as part of a menu of languages.

- 20.3 Opportunities should be available for pupils to access additional languages from Secondary 1, with a requirement for L2 to be available through to the end of Secondary 3. In the secondary setting 1+2 Gaelic is often referred to as Gaelic Learner Education (GLE). In the Senior Phase of secondary school, if Gaelic is the L2, a demand exists and staffing is available, an entitlement exists for GLE to be available as a National Qualification through the SQA, as currently delivered across thirteen Highland Secondary schools. There are 15 Secondary schools delivering Gaelic Learner Education to those who were educated in Primary education through English.

## **21 Celtic Media Festival (CMF)**

- 21.1 The 40<sup>th</sup> CMF is taking place in the Aviemore/ Badenoch and Strath-Spey area 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> June (inclusive). The CMF has been in the Highlands in Inverness in 1987, 1991 and 2015; Skye in 1999, and in Fort William in 1995 and in 2007. To help celebrate the Festival's 40th year we are working in partnership with the organisers to make the Festival a success.

The CMF is an annual three day event that promotes the languages and cultures of the Celtic Nations and Regions in media.

- 21.2 The Highland Council and the Celtic Media Festival set up a local organising committee to assist in delivering the Festival in the area.

Nominees from across the UK, Ireland and Europe will compete across 23 award categories including Arts, Comedy, Current Affairs, Drama, Factual, Sport and Radio. Delegates from across the UK, Ireland, France, Spain, and Canada will be in the area for a number of days.

## **22. Royal National Mòd (RNM)**

- 22.1 The RNM takes place in Inverness from October 9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> (inclusive) 2020. An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG) has set up the Local Organising Committee Committee (LOC). The LOC is a formally constituted as a sub-committee of the national ACG and a voluntary committee which supports ACG to deliver the RNM. The LOC is required to deliver a range of resources as set out in the official RNM Manual. The LOC have submitted a funding application to the City of Inverness Grants Sub Committee.
- 22.2 Royal National Mods after 2020, a scoping exercise paper is being drafted in consultation with ACG to explore the possibilities regarding future RNM's being hosted in the Highlands beyond 2020. The draft will be discussed by the Mod 2020+ Group in early June.

## **23. Gaelic Strategy and Implementation Group (GSIG)**

- 23.1 The Chair of GSIG has invited, via the Gaelic Team, BnaG's Chief Executive to the next meeting of GSIG.

## **24. Resource**

- 24.1 The Gaelic Team have submitted funding applications totalling **£167,644.53** to BnaG GLAIF Funding stream. The funding if approved enhances the on-going work of the Gaelic Team and also assists BnaG and the Highland Council to work in partnership where appropriate in delivering the aims of BnaG National Gaelic Plan.
- 24.2 Legal  
The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 has given Gaelic a legal status. Highland Council has to take cognisance of the Gaelic Language Act.
- 24.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)  
No implication
- 24.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever  
Meetings relating to the GLAIF application process were conducted using ICT Facilities
- 24.5 Risk  
Not receiving adequate financial support from the GLAIF funding stream will lead to developments not taking place, or a reduction in Gaelic activities taking place and reduced support in areas where it is crucial that operational support is required and is currently provided.
- 24.6 Gaelic  
The funding which is awarded by BnaG through the GLAIF Funding stream is hugely important for the Gaelic Team as it also assists in implementing the key performance indicators of the Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan.  
The funding enables the Gaelic Team to develop new and innovative projects which focus on the priorities of the National Plan and the Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

Designation:

Date: May 14<sup>th</sup> 2019

Author: Gaelic Team

Background Papers