

Agenda Item	4
Report No	G/1/20

**COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD  
HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**Committee:** Gaelic Committee

**Date:** 3 August 2020

**Report Title:** Role and Remit of the Gaelic Committee

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance

**1. Purpose/Executive Summary**

1.1 In December 2019 the Council approved the establishment of a new strategic committee structure and associated changes to the Scheme of Delegation. The inaugural meeting of the newly established Gaelic Committee was due to take place earlier in the year. However, due to Covid-19 the meeting was postponed and so this is the first meeting of the Committee and the following report details the role and remit of the committee for Members' consideration.

1.2 Whilst this report sets out what the committee will consider as standard, the first meeting is primarily an establishing meeting to agree the membership, role and remit of the Committee and consider an approach to developing the Committee workplan. In addition, this first Committee will also have an update on the Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan 3. The full remit of the committee, including scrutiny of budgets & expenditure, policy development and performance will come forward in future meetings.

**2. Recommendation**

2.1 Members are asked to consider the following report and agree:

- i. the general reporting requirements set out in Section 4; and
- ii. the specific remit as set out in Section 5.

**3. Implications**

3.1 There are no resource, community, climate, or risk implications arising from this report.

3.2 Legal: The Highland Council has signed up to the Scottish Government's National Gaelic Language Plan. There is a requirement for the Council to implement its's own Plan and to regularly report on progress in doing so.

- 3.3 Gaelic: Replacing the previous Gaelic Implementation Group with a formal committee of the Council is intended to raise the profile and prominence of Gaelic in the organisation and helps to reinforce the commitment the Council has made to promoting and enhancing Gaelic language and culture throughout the organisation as well as across the Highland region.

#### 4. Summary

- 4.1 The following list summarises the areas that all Council Committees will consider over a number of committee cycles with a view ultimately to delivering reports on a quarterly basis where appropriate. It is anticipated that the Gaelic Committee will do the same:

- Budget monitoring and scrutiny\*
- Performance/quarterly reporting and statutory reporting requirements
- Review of external audits and inspections
- Policy development
- Responses to external consultations
- Responses to Legislative/Regulatory changes

#### 5. Specific Committee functions as set out in the Scheme of Delegation

- 5.1 The Scheme of Delegation, approved by the Council in December 2019, sets out the specific remits for all of the new strategic committees. The remit for the Gaelic Committee has yet to be included in the Scheme to enable the new Committee members to consider and agree what this should be. The following consequently sets out proposed general and specific responsibilities for discussion and approval.

##### **General:**

- To promote and support the indigenous Gaelic language, heritage and culture of the Highlands and to oversee the implementation of the Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

##### **Specific:**

- To monitor, scrutinise and promote the implementation of the Council's Gaelic Language Plan, including the delivery of Gaelic education.
- To liaise with Bòrd na Gàidhlig on the strategic development of Gaelic language.
- To work with Gaelic development agencies in promoting, developing and sustaining the Gaelic language, heritage and culture in the Highlands.
- To work with the Scottish Government and Parliament in relation to legislation relating to Gaelic language.
- To monitor the implications of legislation in respect of Gaelic language and advise the Council of its impact across the Highlands.
- Budget monitoring and scrutiny of *Gaelic specific* funding, grants and expenditure\*

##### **Governance**

- The Committee minutes will be reported to Full Council.

#### 6. Committee Work Plan

- 6.1 It is proposed to arrange a series of engagement sessions with internal and external stakeholders in the coming weeks to discuss and agree the priorities for the

Committee. A draft workplan will be brought to the next meeting of the Gaelic Committee on 21 October 2020.

**7. Sub Committees and Working Groups**

- 7.1 As agreed at Council in December 2019, any formal working groups or boards that report to Committees or to the Council must have an agreed purpose, remit, and terms of reference as well as a proposed duration. In addition to submitting minutes to the parent committee, all formal sub groups must submit an annual report to Council.

**8. Amendments to the role and remit of Strategic Committees**

- 8.1 As the Committee is newly established, there will be an opportunity to submit changes to Council's Scheme of Delegation to Council in December 2020 to provide Members and officers time to reflect on the operation of the new Committees and make any adjustments deemed appropriate.

**Designation: Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance**

**Date: 14 July 2020**

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