

Agenda Item	5
Report No	G/2/20

**COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD
THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

Committee: Gaelic Committee

Date: 3 August 2020

Report Title: Update Gaelic Language Plan 3 - 2018-23

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Highland Council reports annually to Bòrd na Gàidhlig on the implementation of the Council's Gaelic Language Plan 3 2018 -2023 (GLP3).
- 1.2 Bòrd na Gàidhlig invites the Highland Council to complete a corporate Annual Return which is a standard template issued to all local authorities and public agencies, who are currently implementing Gaelic Language Plans.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - i. Discuss and agree the report.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource
The resource implications are currently within the current main budget streams which include Gaelic Specific Grant Fund, and Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (Bòrd na Gàidhlig).
- 3.2 Legal
The Council is required to take cognisance of, and note the importance of, The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005.

- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)
Gaelic development takes account of policies which relate to the above.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever
Meetings take place online and virtually.
- 3.5 Risk
GLP3 requires to be implemented across all Council Services especially Education, if not, there is a risk of not achieving the targets set out in the Plan.

4. Summary

- 4.1 On 14 July 2020 the Annual Return 2019-2020 was submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The Annual Return includes data on Primary Indicators, National Plan Priorities, Promotion of Gaelic Education, Corporate Parenting, Equalities, Corporate Service Aims, Gaelic Language Corpus and Staff.

5. Gaelic Language Plan 3

- 5.1 GLP3 has 6 themes which are as follows:
Theme 1 Gaelic in the Home, Early Learning and Childcare
Theme 2 Gaelic in the Community
Theme 3 Gaelic in Education
Theme 4 Gaelic in the Arts, Culture and Heritage
Theme 5 Gaelic in the Workplace
Theme 6 The Social, Economic and Cultural Value of Gaelic
- 5.2 To date the Gaelic Team's main priorities are implementing the enabling actions set out in GLP3 as per the hyperlinks below, focussing on the following areas:
- Early Years, Young People and Families, particularly Education
 - Early Learning and Childcare, and Communities
 - Arts, Culture and Heritage, and Economy
 - The Workplace, providing and enhancing opportunities in relation to developing
 - Gaelic awareness and usage, taking cognisance of the current evolution of new technologies.

http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/21508/the_highland_council_gaelic_language_plan_2018-2023

http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/21507/plana_g%C3%A0idhlig_chomhairle_na_g%C3%A0idhealtachd_2018-2023

- 5.3 To implement the enabling actions set out in GLP3, the Gaelic Team annually submit funding applications to the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF) which is administered by BnaG, and to the Scottish Government Gaelic Specific Grant Fund. The Gaelic Team apply to other local and national funding streams should, they become available.

Project No	Project Name
2021/3008	Gàidhlig airson Inbhich
2021/3009	Birth to Three Strategic Partnership
2021/3010	Prògram Taic BSGP
2021/3011	Ball-coise Gàidhlig
2021/3012	Èideadh na Sgeòil

6. COVID-19 Lockdown Initiatives

6.1 Due to COVID-19, the Gaelic Team were and are following Government guidance in relation to physically distancing. Therefore, all children and young people have experienced significantly less social interaction than would normally be the case. As it is vital, especially for children in their formative years when learning an additional language where total immersion forms part of their language acquisition, it was necessary to rethink this engagement.

6.2 The Gaelic Team developed innovative projects which maximised the use of current ICT services to support additional language usage in the home. Some examples of these projects are listed below. This was vital for non-Gaelic speaking parents who had placed their children in Gaelic Medium Education. This is ongoing work which will continue to take advantage of delivering such support virtually.

6.3

Projects

A series of shinty videos which have been produced by Iomain Cholmchille, with support from the Gaelic Team. The videos provide much-welcome additional Gaelic language resources for pupils in Gaelic Medium education and pupils learning Gaelic. The videos set a variety of weekly extra-curricular shinty challenges which young people participate in which contribute to the health and well-being agenda of young people. These videos are available on the #cleachdiaigantaigh

A series of 9 short videos, have been created by Gaelic Team to assist non-Gaelic speaking parents who have young children entering Gaelic medium education.

The videos called “Spòrs agus Seinn Còmhla ri Ellen”, “Fun and Sing along with Ellen”, are each around 7 minutes long and cover the typical themes encountered during the average day at home with small children.

The themes focus on the following: Getting Up, Hand Washing, Eating, Story-time and Getting Ready for Bed. This is done by using simple songs and easy phrases which parents can use with their children to introduce Gaelic use in the home environment.

The 6 Week Video Series engages children and families during lockdown combining football with speaking the Gaelic language at home.

Gaelic team liaised with FC Sonas, an innovative Scottish Gaelic Football service, with the aim to use football as a way to engage those both learning Gaelic and fluent

speakers whether young or old; providing an opportunity to enhance and strengthen Gaelic language skills as well as their football abilities.

These videos are available at #cleachdiaigantaigh initiative that will benefit many young people across the country to use Gaelic at home.

The videos set weekly football challenges which the whole family can take part in.

Currently developing a series of creative writing sessions online with Iain Finlay Macleod which is specifically aimed at P7 and S1 pupils. We are working with Gaelic Head Teachers to develop the content to ensure that the content is appropriate and applicable for the young people. The project will be completed at the end of July and will then be placed online and will be used as a resource for Gaelic Medium pupils in schools across the Highlands. This will also be included and uploaded on cleachdiaigantaigh platform which has been set up by BnaG.

Designation:

Date: 17 July 2020

Author:

Background Papers: