

Agenda Item	7
Report No	G/20/21

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Gaelic Committee

Date: 16 December 2021

Report Title: Gaelic and Gàidhlig Medium Education Update

Report By: Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide elected Members with an update on Gàidhlig and Gaelic education in The Highland Council.
- 1.2 This report also updates Members on current developments in the key areas of current and future development which will support the growth of Gaelic Education in Highland Council encompassing the key priorities of GLP3 and outcomes of the Gaelic Specific Grant.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - i. Consider the report and note the increasing pupil numbers across provision of Gaelic Medium and Gaelic Education in Highland; and
 - ii. Note the areas of current and future development in Education including the progress of the GME Catchment Consultation process.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource - The resource implications are within the current main budget stream which include Gaelic Specific Grant, COVID support fund, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (Bòrd na Gàidhlig).
- 3.2 Legal - The Highland Council have a requirement to implement its Gaelic Language Plan under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act of 2005.

- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) - The Report complies with The Highland Council policies on Equality.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever - The Gaelic Team currently attend all meetings online and virtually, thus reducing the requirement for business travel.
- 3.5 Risk - The Risk is minimal and adheres to the current National and Highland Council guidance in relation to COVID-19.
- 3.6 Gaelic - The report enhances Gaelic Development within The Highland Council area and supports the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan.

4. Education Development and Support Projects

- 4.1 Education Officers are continuing to provide support and development towards priorities of the Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan and have put a range of initiatives in place that help to support the delivery of GE and GME. Some examples are provided below.
- 4.2 Oideas - A recent innovative partnership project called Oideas is now underway and is nationally available across various media platforms. Oideas is a series of podcasts about Gaelic Medium Education and was launched in September. Following a collaboration between the Council's Gaelic Team and SMO Initial Teacher Education team, the project was created to support teachers with an opportunity to connect through social and digital media.
- 4.3 In each podcast, Gwen Culbertson talks to high school or primary school experts about the role, challenges and best solutions working in GME. The questions during the podcasts focus on professional development for teaching students and teachers. The podcast is also a great opportunity for anyone interested in Gaelic Medium Education to listen to teachers and experts reflect and discuss. SMO has actively marketed the podcasts in an effective way using social media under the brand Oideas with digital support from TELT media.
- 4.4 Oideas aims to provoke new thinking, raise questions and share information between Gaelic teachers who are often facing similar challenges in their respective classrooms. Podcasts are linked [here](#)

An example of the Social Media campaign to raise the profile of this project can be seen in Appendix 1.

- 4.5 Sgoil nan Goireasan Gàidhlig / Gaelic Content Creating School Scheme - A priority highlighted in GLP3 under Theme 3 Gaelic In Education, point 3.5 states as an outcome that Education should '*Review the learning materials and learning resources provided to support Gaelic education with an aim to support Highland staff in sharing resources within a digital platform.*'
- 4.6 To support this priority, The Highland Virtual Academy has provided digital support to Gaelic Education via the Highland Digital Schools Hub. A new development is proposed to encourage collaborative working between schools to continue the legacy of the Hub. This is in the form of a project titled 'Gaelic Content Creating School scheme' (SNGG = Sgoil nan Goireasan Gàidhlig). This has been initiated, to encourage colleagues to share resources with others.

- 4.7 Schools who engage in the project will receive an award level dependant on the number of resources sent in, which gives them the right to use the logos and title “Sgoil nan Goireasan Gàidhlig”. This recognises their contribution to the resource bank and highlights their collaborative working practice.
- 4.8 Recommendations have been made that digital resources as well as downloadable materials would be invaluable and could be shared via the Gaelic Medium portal on the Highland Digital Hub. Schools have already shared resources that can be used by others and further encouragement will be given to others to take part as this project develops and progresses.
- 4.9 Please see Appendix 2 for posters shared with all GME teachers in Highland.

5. Catchment Consultations Update

5.1 Gàidhlig Medium Catchment Areas

As previously advised, the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education recommends that local authorities should establish GM catchment areas for schools that offer GME. The establishment of GM catchments is subject to statutory consultation under the Schools (Consultation) Act Scotland 2010. These are resource intensive exercises, not only for Highland Council but also for Education Scotland, who must appoint an Inspector to assess each proposal. Of the 20 Highland primary schools offering GME, 11 GM catchments have been created, with a further 3 proposals currently out to consultation. The latest position on each current exercise is described below.

5.2 Newtonmore Primary School

The public consultation closed on 3 September 2021, with 4 responses received. The report from Education Scotland was received on 30 September. Officials are currently considering the responses, with the intention that a final report for decision will be presented to the Education Committee on 24 February 2022.

5.3 Acharacle Primary School

The public consultation closed on 8 October 2021. Thirteen responses were received, although one was submitted after the deadline for the consultation period had closed. The report from Education Scotland is expected shortly. Officials will then begin considering the responses, with the intention of submitting a final report for decision to the Education Committee.

5.4 Glenurquhart Primary School

The public consultation exercise began on 29 November 2021 and will extend until 4 February 2022.

6. 2021 / 2022 Pupil Data

- 6.1 Annually, The Gaelic Team audit all Gaelic Medium and Gaelic Learner provision pupil number data and staffing across all schools in Highland.

The data is set out in the table in 6.2 below. This shows increasing numbers across all sectors of Gaelic Education. It is encouraging to see ELC numbers increasing by 7.82% after the recorded decrease last year.

The ELC data collected represents children enrolled from August. ELC has 3 intakes across the session; it is anticipated that this total will increase with predicted enrolments in January and April.

6.2 Pupil numbers across GME ELC, Primary, Secondary, Secondary subjects through the medium of Gaelic and Gaelic Learners in Secondary school:

Year	GME Nursery/Partner Centre Pupils	GME Primary School Pupils	Secondary School Pupils Fluent Gaelic	Secondary School Pupils Subjects through Gaelic	Secondary School Pupils Gaelic Learners
2016-17	264	896	343	265	1,829
2017-18	287 Up 8.01%	923 Up 2.93%	341 Down 0.59%	259 Down 2.32%	2012 Up 9.10%
2018-19	307 Up 6.51%	963 Up 4.15%	373 Up 8.58%	282 Up 8.16%	1,887 Down 6.62%
2019-20	320 Up 4.06%	1,034 Up 6.87%	388 Up 3.87%	261 Down 8.05%	2,131 Up 11.45%
2020-21	283 Down 13.07%	1,058 Up 2.27%	414 Up 6.28%	286 Up 8.74%	2,208 Up 3.49%
2021-22	307 Up 7.82%	1,082 Up 2.22%	438 Up 5.48%	287 Up 0.35%	2,204 Down 0.18%

6.3 As reported at the Education Committee in November, Gaelic Learner pupil numbers in Highland lead nationally. According to Bòrd na Gàidhlig pupil data, 61% of Gaelic Learners in secondary schools are in Highland Schools. A link to the Education Committee report can be found here: [Education Committee Gaelic report](#)

The table below shows that the absolute number of Secondary Gaelic Learners in Highland has grown successively in each of the last 3 years and this is in the context of the number of learners across the whole of Scotland declining in 2020/21, so Highland is bucking the national trend. The rate of increase over the same period is notable as well. Nationally, the numbers have increased by just over 10% across Scotland, compared with Highland where the increase has been 17%.

Secondary Gaelic Learners	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
BnaG Total Scotland	3266	3605	3599
Gaelic Learners in Highland	1887	2131	2208
% Gaelic Learners in Highland	58%	59%	61%

6.4 Pupil Attainment

Information on pupil attainment for Level 4-6 Gaelic Learners and Gàidhlig was brought to the last meeting of the Gaelic Committee in September. This showed growth in the number of pupils attaining success in both Gaelic and Gàidhlig Scottish Qualifications. The Scottish Government's online benchmarking tool - Insight - has not gone live in time for reporting to this committee. Therefore comparisons between Highland SQA attainment data and that of other authorities and certain national measures is not yet possible. Further information be presented to the Gaelic Committee when the data from Insight is available.

A link to the September Gaelic Committee report can be found here: [Gaelic Committee education report](#)

6.5 Location of GLE provision across Highland.

Gaelic Secondary Learners is available at the following Secondary schools: Alness Academy, Ardnamurchan High School, Charleston High School, Millburn Academy, Culloden Academy, Dingwall Academy, Dornoch Academy, Farr High School, Gairloch High School, Inverness Royal Academy, Kinlochleven High School, Lochaber High School, Mallaig High School, Plockton High School, Portree High School, Tain Royal Academy, Ullapool High School.

7. Key Elements of Education Development in GLP3 and Gaelic Specific Grant Projects

7.1 A pilot is underway with the Highland Virtual Academy to support Gaelic in BGE. Gaelic is now delivered via online teaching to 2 x S1 classes and 2 x S2 classes in Kinlochleven High School for Gaelic learners.

A weekly lesson for each class is being delivered online using Google Classrooms and all work is completed through Google Suite. Currently there are 25 pupils in S1 and 28 pupils in S2 receiving GLE. This development contributes directly to GLP 3 commitment to 'a systematic and sustainable approach to increase the percentage of Gaelic Learners in establishments'. Possible expansion with GLE delivery within other schools will be discussed. Links to the GLEANS challenges also encourage Secondary Modern Languages teachers to deliver Gaelic as an additional language or as part of an IDL - Social Subjects; The Clearances, The Jacobites etc.

7.2 1+2 probationer training will also be provided to those teaching within Gaelic L2 and L3 schools. This will be an online morning session and a follow-up after school sessions to provide continued support and momentum. Links to online resources and recorded training sessions are highlighted through the Highland 1+2 CLPL website to allow for any one that missed the sessions to catch up. Schools delivering Gaelic as an L2 and L3 will continue to be supported with training courses highlighted and the signposting of online self-study courses for teachers looking to improve their own Gaelic language skills. Schools that asked for support during the 2021 Scottish Government survey will be targeted this session.

7.3 Gaelic Specific Grant *Project 3 – Gaelic in Early Learning and Childcare, Primary and Secondary Education Description:* This initiative looks to plan and implement with stakeholders and partners, opportunities for continued professional development, working with our school communities and GME provision senior managers within schools to ensure we are responsive to their needs, working in partnership with other authorities when required.

7.4 Examples of current development work in these areas are as follows;

- Digital networking events will be co-ordinated by the Gaelic Team for GME Primary, Secondary and Probationer teachers across Highland to re-connect with colleagues. This is particularly important for teachers new to Highland or working in rural schools.
- 2 online sessions have been held this session and it is expected that a further 4 sessions over the next two terms will also be held. Forms have been sent out to staff asking for suggestions on topics and areas of professional learning, which will help guide and structure the forthcoming sessions. These networking events will become the basis for future CLPL events, guided by the

discussions and requirements. Sharing good practice with colleagues will also allow for the invaluable sharing of teacher skills and knowledge.

- Sharing good practice with GME colleagues across Highland, discuss and encourage the creation of online resources, contribute to audit questions on policy implementation and resources, as detailed in GLP3.
- A variety of Thinglinks have been created for various curricular topics. This is an online resource that contains direct links (buttons) to various resources (See Appendix 2); specialist topic websites, YouTube videos, teaching videos and downloadable activity tasks that teachers can then use to support their teaching. Some of the SNGG content is also shared on these Thinglinks as well as through the Digital Hub. These resources are responsive to specific requirements throughout the year and are a useful tool to gather information in the one place.
- An online Christmas Ceilidh is planned for the 10th December this year and will feature a number of Gaelic Medium settings who will join up via an online meeting and broadcast live to the other settings by singing carols and performing musical sets. This was following a request from Head Teachers to use digital platforms to link school communities. This will become part of a development that encourages the use of online tools such as the Google Suite to aid and support learning across Highland.
- A further development is earmarked for Term 3, where Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Port Rìgh and Bun-sgoil Ulapul will take part in shared learning as online lessons are delivered as a joint project, with teachers taking turns in delivering teaching online to pupils from both settings and reconvening to discuss progress and plan next steps. This project would become a model for further development in other schools.

Please see Appendix 2 for further information on how these projects are promoted with Highland Gaelic provision schools.

Designation: Kate Lackie, Executive Chief Officer for Performance and Governance

Date: 1 December 2021

Author: Lena Walker Education Support Officer
Ruairidh MacKay Education Development Officer

Oideas

FOGHLAM TRO MHEADHAN NA GÀIDHLIG

● CUR AIR BHOG

30.09.21

Pod-chraolaidh ùr mu fhoghlam
tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

● Agallamhan le sàr-eòlaichean
foghlam na Gàidhlig!
Eòlas, beachdan is cnuasachadh!



SABHAL
MÒR OSTAIG
Ionad Nàiseanta Cànan is Cultar na Gàidhlig



The Highland
Council
Comhairle na
Gàidhealtachd

Appendix 2

COFAIDH IS CÒMHRADH

CÒMHRADH AIR-LOIDHNE

Thigibh còmhla air-loidhne, air cùisean FtMG gus ur beachdan a lorg..

Chan e tachartas foirmeil a tha seo, 's bidh cuspairean diofraichte againn rin deasbad gach turas..

DIARDAOIN 02/12
 Tidsèaran Bun-sgoile
 15.30 - 16.30

DIARDAOIN 09/12
 Tidsèaran Àrd-sgoile
 15.30 - 16.30

Quinnichibh's kòraibh-a-steach am form-fics againn!

Briog air na cinn-là airson googlemeet fhosgladh

Umha

SGOIL NAN GOIREASAN GÀIDHLIG
DEAS BHOIN SGOIL

- 10 Goireasan FVG air an co-roinn
- Teisteanas umha air a thoirt seachad
- Logo umha air a thoirt seachad
- Eòrlas £10 air a thoirt seachad

Airgead

SGOIL NAN GOIREASAN GÀIDHLIG
DEAS BHOIN AIRCRO

- 20 Goireas FVG air an co-roinn
- Teisteanas airgid air a thoirt seachad
- Logo airgid air a thoirt seachad
- Eòrlas £20 air a thoirt seachad

Òr

SGOIL NAN GOIREASAN GÀIDHLIG
DEAS BHOIN SGOIL

- 30 Goireas FVG air an co-roinn
- Teisteanas òir air a thoirt seachad
- Logo òir air a thoirt seachad
- Eòrlas £30 air a thoirt seachad

FAODAR LOGOTHAN SNGG A CHLEACHDADH AIR SOIDHNEADH POST-D, BONN DHULLEAGAN-LÌN, IS EILE

THA SINN A' SREACH COMPLEIXEAN DE GHOIREASAN FÌOR NHATH, AIRSON LITEARRAS DIOSEATACH, STEIN IS DL, A THA SINN TOILCHTE A CHO-SÒNN THAR NA SÀIDHEALTAICH

USHEANAR-TAKE AIRSON TEAGAS DIOSEATAICH:

- YADSEANADHEAR POWERPOINT
- TIMULINGS
- LÀRACH GOOGLE

USHEANAR-TAKE AIRSON INNKACHACH SGOILEARACH:

- DEANACHÈAR
- GOIREASAN EADAR-OBRAICHAÈ








The Highland Council
 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Thòisich na gaireasan Thinglink tron ghlasadh ann an 2020. Tha iad air an cumail taobh a-staigh Hub Sgoil Dhìdeatach na Gàidhealtachd agus faodar stuthan ùra a chur riutha aig àm sam bith.

SI = Seallaidhean Iomlan - Àir. sheallaidhean on chaidh a chruthachadh.
SM = Seallaidhean as Motha - Àir. sheallaidhean ann an aon latha.

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Staitistearachd Thinglink
THINGLINKS
Thinglink Statistics

 SI/TV: 507 : SM/MV: 65	 SI/TV: 1080 : SM/MV: 448	 SI/TV: 147 : SM/MV: 27
 SI/TV: 443 : SM/MV: 48	 SI/TV: 540 : SM/MV: 52	<p>The Thinglink resources started during lockdown in 2020. They are hosted within the Highland Digital School Hub and new materials can be added to them at any time.</p> <p>TV = Total Views - No of views since it was created. MV = Most Views - No of views in a single day.</p>
 SI/TV: 199 : SM/MV: 64	 SI/TV: 212 : SM/MV: 60	

Cèilidh NA NOLLAIGE!

SEINN!
CEOL!

GLÈDIDH AN DÈTT...

DIHAOINE 10MH AN DÙBHLACHD @ 10M
A bheil geansaigh Nollaig oirbh?



PRESS CTRL KEY AND CLICK ON EACH IMAGE TO SEE FULL VERSION