

Agenda Item	<b>8</b>
Report No	<b>G/8/22</b>

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Gaelic Committee

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022

**Report Title:** Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund

**Report By:** Kate Lackie  
Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a summarised update for Members on the five Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF) applications which have been submitted by the Council to Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnaG).

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Note the applications submitted to BnaG have been awarded a total of £101,675;
  - ii. Consider the GLAIF projects that the Highland Council Gaelic Team are managing, leading, and participating in; and
  - iii. Note that one application is still awaiting decision from Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

### 3 Implications

- 3.1 Resource - The Gaelic Team have submitted 5 funding applications to the BnaG GLAIF Funding stream. This funding enhances the on-going work of the Gaelic Team and assists BnaG and the Highland Council to work in partnership, where appropriate, in delivering the aims of BnaG National Gaelic Plan.
- 3.2 Legal - The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 has given Gaelic a legal status. Highland Council must take cognisance of the Gaelic Language Act.

- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) - The funding applications do take cognisance of the above.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever / Risk – There are no direct implications arising from this report.
- 3.5 Gaelic - The funding which is awarded by BnaG through the GLAIF Funding stream is vitally important for the Gaelic Team as it assists in implementing the key performance indicators of the Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan. The funding enables the Gaelic Team to both sustain and develop new and innovative projects which generate positive partnership working with community groups, Gaelic and cultural organisations and with Highland Council stakeholders all of which lead to focusing on the priorities of the National Plan and the Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

#### **4. Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnaG) Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF)**

- 4.1 BnaG established the GLAIF funding stream to assist public authorities in the delivery of commitments in their Gaelic Language Plans, and in support of the National Gaelic Language Plan.
- 4.2 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.

This fund supports projects which will commence and aim to be completed between early August 2022 and 31st August 2023.

The Gaelic Team must provide annual reports on the progress of each GLAIF project to BnaG.

#### **5. Gaelic Team GLAIF- Submissions**

- 5.1 The Gaelic Team submitted 5 GLAIF funding applications to BnaG in April 2022. The following is a summary of each of the GLAIF projects which were submitted and their current status.

#### **6. Birth to Three Strategic Partnership – awarded £60,000**

- 6.1 The Birth to Three Strategic Partnership between Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Highland Council has been a successful project which has had a substantial impact on the Gaelic 0 to 3 sector in the Highland Council area.

Recently, the Gaelic Team has worked in conjunction with the Care and Learning Alliance to enable the 0 to 3 sector to be supported by experienced and fluent Gaelic playworkers working in conjunction with voluntary committees across the area to support Pàrant is Pàiste groups and encourage the transition into GME.

- 6.2 The areas covered by the project are Thurso, Bonar Bridge, Tain, Dingwall, Inverness, Nairn, Glenurquhart, Newtonmore, Ullapool, Gairloch, Acharacle, Mallaig, and Ballachulish. Skye was previously covered by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The Gaelic Team are currently engaging with Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Education Team to discuss how to support Skye and Lochalsh going forward.

- 6.3 0-3 Gaelic family support is complex due to the reliance on the voluntary sector. Groups are run by parent committees and as children grow and move on, committee members change frequently. The Gaelic Toddler workers and groups aim to build positive relationships and provide a range of support, first and foremost of which is delivering Gaelic language play activities, stories and songs within the group whilst modelling Gaelic language usage to improve language acquisition and parental usage in the home.
- 6.4 The following aims give an overview of the rationale behind the 0-3 GLAIF project:
- Building awareness of Gaelic usage in the community, Gaelic Medium Education and promoting the benefits of bilingualism.
  - Provide regular quality support and structure to 0 to 3 Gaelic groups.
  - Deliver the play sessions where required within pre-existing groups and, in the event of groups ceasing to exist, work with the Council's Community Learning and Development (CLD) teams to deliver play sessions, as needed, to re-establish the group.
  - Support parents with child-centred foundation language learning.
  - Work closely with the Council's Gaelic CLD Officers who support groups with organising Gaelic promotional and fun events within the community and, this year in particular, in order to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on community participation.

## **7 Gàidhlig airson Inbhich (Gaelic for Adult Learning) Awarded £30,000**

- 7.1 The Highland Council seeks to continually increase Gaelic learning opportunities for adults across the Highland area. The project will focus on areas within the Highland Council where there is existing Gaelic Medium provision in schools and extending provision to new areas by increasing the profile of Gaelic.
- 7.2 The Highland Council currently operates a structured, progressive learning approach in areas where Gaelic Learning classes have greater numbers of students, thus enabling access to a clear pathway from beginner through to university level Gaelic courses if desired.
- 7.3 The ongoing demand for Gaelic classes requires the supply of new tutors which the Highland Council actively engages in achieving through tutor training events. The training is additionally useful for existing tutors as Continued Professional Development.

A very popular Gaelic for Parents class will continue online as it enables a wider group of parents from across Highland to participate. New methods of delivering Gaelic Adult Learning classes have continued to develop during the year as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This blended approach incorporating online classes with face-to-face learning will continue as online classes have proved to be beneficial in reaching a new and wider audience who may be unable to access traditional Gaelic learning classes.

Face-to-face learning is also available, with many tutors adopting SpeakGaelic as the structure to their progression planning. These classes cater to those seeking a more structured learning environment with additional media content providing an even more immersive experience.

## **8. Gàidhlig anns a' Choimhearsnachd (Gaelic in the Community) - Awarded £5,675**

- 8.1 The Gàidhlig anns a' Choimhearsnachd project, will consist of a programme of Gaelic medium activity days/sessions for children and young people as well as incorporating family learning into the sessions. The programme will be delivered over the year including during school holidays. The project is intended mainly for families of children in primary school and young people attending Gaelic Medium secondary education in the Inverness and North areas.
- 8.2 The project aims to achieve the following:
- i) Raising awareness of the Gaelic language, particularly in areas where Gaelic is not commonly spoken.
  - ii) Promoting Gaelic Medium as an education choice and the benefits of bilingualism.
  - iii) encouraging young people to choose Gaelic while transitioning to secondary education and later in their school career when making subject choices.
  - iv) Helping pupils in fluency and language support post- Covid
- 8.3 The project looks at supporting and developing the language acquisition skills of pupils through wider exposure to immersion experiences and Gaelic awareness experiences thus promoting the increased use of Gaelic language by young people. For wider inclusion and greater participation, the project will deliver some activities for Gaelic learners as well as for children in Gaelic medium education.

A summer activity programme for 2023 will be incorporated into the project to enable participants to hear Gaelic during the holidays.

## **9. Prògram Taic BSGPR – Awarded £6,000**

- 9.1 As with Gàidhlig anns a Choimhearsnachd, Prògram Taic BSGPR aims to support families and the school community in Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh.
- 9.2 The project will be delivered in collaboration with the Head Teacher and GM staff, Gaelic organisations and community groups. The project will ensure greater use of Gaelic and will enable young people to further develop their Gaelic fluency and ability to communicate in the Gaelic language through participating in the organised activities and events.
- 9.3 The project aims to achieve the following:
- Informing parents and families of the opportunities available to them in relation to Gaelic medium education to increase the school roll.
  - Accessibility and inclusion for all pupils attending BSGPR.
  - Increasing pupil exposure to Gaelic both after-school and during curriculum time.
  - Raise the profile of Gaelic to young people in a positive image.
  - Provide work opportunities for secondary GM pupils who have gone through GME or are currently in secondary GME.
  - Increase partnership working to prevent duplication in resources within Community Gaelic Development.

9.4 To further develop the project in 2022-23 a Gaelic sports festival will be organised for GME pupils in Dunvegan, Kilmuir and Staffin primaries. The project will expand the outdoor learning opportunities available to GM pupils. The GM sailing after school club in 2021 was a huge success and offered pupils in BSGPR P7 the opportunity to engage with GM pupils from Kilmuir and Dunvegan and pupils have expressed they would love to engage in more sailing lessons.

## 10 BSGLA Club Sports – Application decision pending

10.1 Club Spòrs has played an important part in widening the Gaelic Medium community environment at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Lochabar since its opening. It has enabled an enhanced and attractive overall Gaelic experience at the school. It has widened the young people's Gaelic language usage and expression into new activities, expanding their linguistic register and willingness to use the language out with the classroom, thereby improving both confidence and fluency.

10.2 It is important to note the legacy impact of Club over the previous years. The club has also provided employment and training opportunities for three young Gaelic speakers who have been employed to deliver and develop the activities. Three of the previous young sports leaders have now gone on to do Gaelic Medium teaching using their experience in Club Spòrs to support their personal development and teaching applications.

The project involves continuous partnership working with the Active Schools Co-ordinator at High Life Highland as well as the whole school community.

10.3 The project aims to achieve the following:

- A) Promoting Gaelic usage, learning and promotion particularly among young people.
- B) Providing opportunities for young people to use Gaelic in the workplace and develop work skills.
- C) Strengthening Gaelic skills, promoting awareness of Gaelic and creating more opportunities to use Gaelic among public authorities and their staff.

## 11. GLAIF funding

11.1 In summary, Bòrd na Gàidhlig has awarded the Highland Council the following for each project:

Birth to 3 Strategic Partnership	£60,000
Gàidhlig airson Inbhich (Gaelic Adult Learning)	£30,000
Gàidhlig sa Choimhearsnachd (Gaelic in the Community)	£5,675
Prògram Taic BSGPR	£6000
BSGLA Club Spòrs	In Process

Progress and outcomes are reported as part of the PRMS Performance report.

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

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