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| Agenda Item | 9 |
| Report No | G/22/23 |

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Gaelic Committee

Date: 8 December 2023

Report Title: Gaelic Plans Fund and GLP Outcomes

Report By: Interim Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report informs members of:

- a) a summarised update on the five Gaelic Plans Fund awards that were submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig; and
- b) the key areas of current and future development which the Gaelic Plans Fund will support, including the strategic and operational activities of the Gaelic Team to implement the Gaelic Language Plan (GLP3) outcomes.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Discuss and note the report.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource

The resource implications are within the current main budget streams which include Gaelic Specific Grant, Taic Freumhan (Bòrd na Gàidhlig) and Gaelic Plans Fund (Bòrd na Gàidhlig).

3.2 Legal

The Highland Council has 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 online and virtually, thus reducing the requirement for business travel.
- 3.5 **Risk**
There are no risk implications arising from this report.
- 3.6 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)**
There are currently no implications.
- 3.7 **Gaelic**
The report enhances Gaelic development within The Highland Council area and supports the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan.

4. Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnaG) Gaelic Plans Fund

- 4.1 The Gaelic Plans Fund, formerly the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF), is a funding stream available to support public authorities deliver their outcomes within their Gaelic Language Plans, and in support of the aims and commitments of the National Language Plan.
- 4.2 The Fund will also assist other public authorities in the delivery of projects ahead of their formal notice to produce a Gaelic Language Plan. The Fund will support projects which will commence and aim to be completed between 1st August 2023 and 31st August 2024.

5. Gaelic Team Gaelic Plans Fund Application Submissions

- 5.1 The Highland Council Gaelic Team submitted five applications to the Gaelic Plans Fund (Bòrd na Gàidhlig) in April 2023. The following is a summary of each application.

6. Birth to Three Strategic Partnership

- 6.1 A strong and vibrant Gaelic Pre-Birth to Three sector is regarded by Highland Council and Bòrd na Gàidhlig as being of crucial importance in sustaining the numbers coming through into our Gaelic pre-school and then transitioning to the education continuum, thereby ensuring a healthy future for Gaelic Medium Education (GME) in Highland Council schools.
- 6.2 The Birth to Three Strategic Partnership project aims to continue to support this sector by employing Gaelic toddler support workers in as many areas as possible.
- 6.3 Recruiting staff for the posts, and the short-term funding, has proved to be a challenge.
- 6.4 Bòrd na Gàidhlig have recently commissioned a report which will include national research to evaluate the current variety of models of support for the Gaelic Birth to Three sector and to make recommendations as to how best to strengthen support for this crucial sector going forward.

7. Gaelic For Adults

- 7.1 This project aims to provide Gaelic learning opportunities to adult learners in Highland Council areas primarily where GME is available. These classes support parents and

others in these communities to learn Gaelic and to create a foundation for future progression.

- 7.2 Most of these classes will take place in-person, and a number are also being offered online as this enables us to provide Gaelic learning opportunities to rural areas some of the more rural areas where tutors are unavailable.
- 7.3 All adult learners who have children in GME or are employed by Highland Council benefit from a 50% discounted rate.
- 7.4 In the Highland area there is a programme of classes taking place, with a focus on areas where GME is delivered. All classes are subject to demand and the availability of tutors. SpeakGaelic is the main resource presently being utilised and all tutors have been provided with a training opportunity in using their resource materials.

8. Clann, Coimhearsnachd Còmhla

- 8.1 This project will focus on Gaelic Community and Youth initiatives within the Dunvegan and Portree communities, and delivered in partnership with GME school staff, parents, pupils, Gaelic organisations, and High Life Highland.
- 8.2 The project will be vital for the growth of GME and for increasing Gaelic usage amongst young people, and for raising the profile of Gaelic within these communities.
- 8.3 The project will focus on the following two outcomes:
 - a) Organise two community Gaelic cultural events, in Portree and Dunvegan. The events will raise the profile of GME and strengthen the Gaelic language and culture in the community; and
 - b) Create Gaelic extra-curricular opportunities for both GME secondary and primary pupils, to increase their Gaelic usage in a community setting.

9. Conaltradh is Corporra (Gaelic Digital Corporate and Communication)

- 9.1 The project contains three main areas of work, which are detailed in the following subsections.
- 9.2 Gaelic Digital Social Media – to increase and maximise the use of and raise the profile of Gaelic on the Highland Council's (THC) social media platforms and the THC website. This will require social media training for Communication, ICT and Gaelic Teams within the authority and following on from this social media campaigns.
- 9.3 Gaelic in the Work-Place courses – to create downloadable Gaelic courses.
- 9.4 Simultaneous Translation – to create opportunities to use simultaneous translation at The Highland Council meetings. This will require training and the purchasing of appropriate equipment.
- 9.5 This project has not been awarded funding and will progress should the monies be allocated.

10. Taobh Tuath 's a Deas ri Chèile

- 10.1 The project will focus on working with Gaelic communities in the North and South regions of The Highland Council area, bringing communities together with a programme of innovative events. School communities will be linked together and both online and face to face activities will be organised.
- 10.2 The project will prioritise working with young people in both school and community settings, providing increased extra-curricular activities, training, and opportunities to use Gaelic out-with school settings.
- 10.3 To increase Gaelic language and culture awareness, the project will deliver Gaelic culture events. The events will be linking with both schools and communities and will promote GME education and Gaelic Adult learning classes.
- 10.4 The project aims are as follows: to increase the awareness of GME, to bring school communities together, to increase the range of extra-curricular activities available to GME pupils and to increase the mentoring and training opportunities for young people.
- 10.5 The project will benefit GME pupils in the North and South areas in Highland, new and existing GME parents, Gaelic Education staff, young Gaelic speaking coaches/tutors, and the wider Gaelic community.

11. Gaelic Plans Fund Financial Breakdown

- 11.1 The total sum requested from Bòrd na Gàidhlig was **£115,320**. The Gaelic Team were awarded a total of **£82,150**. Funding for The Conaltradh is Corporra (Gaelic Digital Corporate and Communication) and Taobh Tuath 's a Deas ri Chèile projects are awaiting decisions from Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Designation:

Date: 17th November 2023

Author: Shona Paterson, Margaret Mulholland, Dolina Grant, Gaelic Community Learning and Development Officers

Background Papers:

Appendices: