

Agenda Item	9
Report No	G/13/24

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Gaelic Committee

Date: 4 September 2024

Report Title: Gaelic Conference

Report By: Interim Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 The Highland Council Gaelic Conference aims to provide direct outcomes and actions to support Gaelic Language Plan (GLP) Theme, Business & The Economy. Within the theme, there are 2 key areas;

- Use Gaelic in businesses and social enterprises,
- Use Gaelic as an economic asset in Scotland.

The report provides information to Elected Members on the planning stages and planned impact of the Gaelic Conference for The Highlands and the Gaelic Language Plan.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- Consider and note the purpose of the Gaelic Conference.
- Discuss and note the impact of the Gaelic Conference on the GLP Theme of Business and the Economy.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource

The delivery of the GLP is funded by The Highland Council, Scottish Government grants and various Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnaG) funding streams.

The Conference will be supported by the Prosperity Fund.

3.2 Legal

The Highland Council has a statutory duty to have a Gaelic Language Plan in terms of Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. The duty includes an obligation to implement and accurately report commitments.

- 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 procurement process for the Gaelic Conference has included an essential commitment from the supplier that deliverables will meet Climate Change and Carbon Clever outcomes.
- 3.5 Risk
Business Continuity Plans for key risks will be carefully managed to ensure the event is a success.
- 3.6 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people).
The safety and wellbeing of attendees has been included in the supplier requirements for the delivery of the Gaelic Conference.
- 3.6 Gaelic
Positive impact on the delivery of Gaelic Language Plan outcomes Business and the Economy.

4. Executive Summary

- 4.1 The Highland Council is planning a Gaelic Conference to address and meet key areas within the Council's Gaelic Language Plan (GLP).

The Highland Council's GLP has a clear focus on increasing Gaelic usage and the number of Gaelic speakers.

Through the GLP, the Council continues to be committed to providing support and enhancing the language across services and with key partners. The GLP recognises that Gaelic contributes to the broad educational, social, cultural and economic value and wellbeing of the Highlands.

- 4.2 The Gaelic conference will gather keynote speakers from across the country and aims to attract international interest to engage in discussions and share insights into the value of Gaelic. The Gaelic conference will focus on how languages can bring benefits and positive impact on the business, economy and cultural value.

5 Gaelic Conference Purpose

- 5.1 The purpose of the 1 day conference is to evidence the cultural value and impact of Gaelic's economic potential in Business and Employability across The Highlands.

The Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan includes a key theme for business and the economy.

- 5.2 The Gaelic conference will focus on the impact of Gaelic's economic potential in Business and Employability.

This provides direct outcomes for GLP Theme: Business & The Economy;

- Use Gaelic in businesses and social enterprises,
- Gaelic an economic asset in Scotland.

5.3 Gaelic Language Plan – Public Consultation

Following public consultation on the draft Gaelic Language Plan, comments were received in response to the theme on Business and The Economy. In response to the comments, The Highland Council strengthened this theme of the GLP.

The Gaelic conference will be delivering on Business and Economy outcomes partly in response to the consultation feedback as it will evidence and offer insight to the value of the Gaelic across the Highland economy.

6 Conference Overview

- 6.1 We aim to ensure broad participation from different sectors bringing together key note speakers with experience in using Gaelic to add value, benefit employability and increase economic and wellbeing outcomes.

Stakeholders from across Highlands as well as international guests will be included at the Gaelic conference to capture networking opportunities.

- 6.2 Minority languages from other countries face similar issues to Gaelic language. There are benefits to sharing experiences, strategies and success solutions as well as stories that have been effective in their contexts. This can offer insight and direction for the purposes of impact from the Gaelic Conference.

International dialogue will also provide opportunity for cross culture collaboration. This approach will foster or build on networks for partnerships to support to maximise resources and impact.

7 Case Studies and Best Practice

- 7.1 The Gaelic conference will plan and scope keynote speakers and participants to learn from case studies and best practice examples of Gaelic in Business and The Economy. The conference aims to capture key insights and provide key take aways from each session.
- 7.2 Essential to the Gaelic conference are examples of language preservation and revitalisation efforts through the Business and The Economy theme of GLP.
- 7.3 A further report with key recommendations and the impact from the Gaelic Conference will be presented to the Gaelic Committee following the event.

Designation:

Date: 20 August 2024

Author: Lena Walker

Background Papers:

Appendices:

