

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
Gaelic Committee - 18 September 2008

Agenda Item	6.
Report No	G/25/08

Gaelic Manager's Update

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Summary

This report provides an update to Members on various issues of potential interest to the Gaelic Committee. In particular the outcome of the Council's bids for financial support under the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF).

1. Background

1.1 The Gaelic Manager's Update paper is intended to inform members on issues of interest or relevance to the Gaelic Committee. This paper focuses on:

- The outcomes of the Council's bids to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for GLAIF funding;
- Progress on the recruitment of staff to the Gaelic Development Team;
- Progress on implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan

2. GLAIF bids

2.1 As was reported to the August Committee, the Council made 14 applications to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for GLAIF funding. These applications were discussed by the Bòrd on 3rd September 2008 and all but one of the Highland Council bids were approved, some of these bids were approved with revisions and with relevant conditions

2.2 Details of the Council's bids, the amount of funding offered, and any revisions or conditions is included in the **Appendix** to this paper.

2.3 The revised funding offers and project conditions appear to be broadly acceptable. However, at the time of writing these offers and conditions have just been passed to the project officers responsible for the individual bids. In due course, staff will be able to confirm whether or not the projects are able to proceed on that basis. It is expected that this information can be updated verbally to Committee.

2.4 If these offers and conditions are acceptable it is understood that the Highland Council will receive a significant proportion of the GLAIF funding available during this particular financial year, some £228,000 in total for the remainder of 2008/9; £199,000 for 2009/10; and £167,000 for 2010/11.

- 2.5 A number of these projects have the potential to significantly raise the profile of the Gaelic Language within the Council, as per the requirements of the Gaelic Language Plan. In particular the roll out of Gaelic Awareness Days and briefing sessions to Service managers and interested Members.

3. Recruitment

- 3.1 The recruitment for the post of Gaelic Administration and Resources Officer has been successfully concluded. The successful applicant started in the new role on Monday 8th September.
- 3.2 The recruitment process for the Gaelic Education Development Officer is underway with external advertising having taking place in order to generate interest from potential applicants outwith the Highland Council. The deadline for applications was Friday 12th September.
- 3.3 Advertising has been agreed, and is to be published imminently for the post of Gaelic Childcare and Family Resources Officer.
- 3.4 Approval to recruit Translation Officers (as per the GLAIF bid outlined above) is to be sought at the October meeting of the Resources Committee and the Vacancy Monitoring Group thereafter. It is hoped that the Senior Translator could be in post early in the New Year and that they would then play an immediate role in the subsequent recruitment of a Translator.

4. Gaelic Language Act Implementation

- 4.1 As stated in the council's Gaelic Language Plan an officer-level group: the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Group (GLAIG) has been established. This Group includes representatives from all Services and is intended to act as a conduit for the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan across the Council.
- 4.2 Among the key issues being taken forward by the GLAIG Group at this stage are:
- identification of key staff within Services who ought to attend the first rounds of 'Gaelic Awareness' training
 - A communication for 'all users' highlighting the approval of the Gaelic Language Plan and its implications for the Council and reminding staff of their responsibilities to implement actions under the Plan
 - The refinement of a 'Good practice guide' on signage, both within the Council itself, but also for third parties, external contractors etc.

- 4.3 With GLAIF funding now approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig it is anticipated that progress on staff language training and Gaelic awareness seminars can be moved forward very quickly.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Members are asked to note and comment on the report and the GLAIF appendix.

Signature:

Designation: Director, Education, Culture and Sport Service

Date: 4 September 2008

Author: Donald MacNeill, Gaelic Development Manager

Proiseactan GLAIF Chomhairle na Gaidhealtachd: An Lunastal 2008

The Highland Council GLAIF projects: August 2008

	<u>Project title</u>	<u>Project outline/proposal</u>	<u>BnG Decision, Rationale & Conditions</u>
1	Translation unit	Establish Council-based translation unit. Two FTE translators and independent provision as required. Intended to achieve consistency of Gaelic usage and rapid provision of translation requirements. Service Level Agreements to be sought with other public bodies.	Approved. Evidence required of collaborative working with other public bodies. Close liaison with CnES on training & accreditation
2	Ainm is Aite	Intergenerational oral place-name tradition project. Builds on successful Skye and Lochalsh pilot in 2007. School and community groups to identify tradition-bearers and to record place names and local derivations. CD to be produced. Links to work of Ainmean Aite Alba.	Approved. Conditions - Subject to a successful lottery bid for project funding
3	Progressive language classes	Range of classes. Including Ulpan; conversation classes; parent classes with Gaelic creche. Badenoch, Ross & Skye	Approved. 30% of project costs in year 3 with a view to mainstreaming. No conditions
4	Obair drama le sgoiltean	Drama in schools & drama workshops for GME. To be delivered in association with Feisean nan Gaidheal and Meanbh-chuileag. Includes opportunities for pupils to write & perform own drama works.	Approved. Conditions - Limited to GME & GLPS. To work in collaboration with GASD & National Gaelic Arts Strategy
5	Sgriobhadh sa sgìre	Boosting Gaelic literacy skills and awareness. Includes school projects with visiting writers/talks/events. Community efforts to raise profile of Gaelic literature through promotions, events and workshops.	Approved. 80-50-30% funding over years 1 -3 with view to budget mainstreaming
6	Staff training & awareness	Enhanced provision of Gaelic learning opportunities for Highland Council staff, to include a roll out of Gaelic Awareness training and the development/delivery of an "accredited public sector Gaelic course"	Approved. Funding for course development (1 year) & delivery only, not staff costs or cover costs. 80-50-30% funding over years 1 -3 with view to budget mainstreaming

7	Feis spors	Week long residential sports coaching and instruction festival for lower secondary GME pupils; minimum of 8 different sports on offer, aimed also at providing opportunities for interaction between pupils from different areas.	Approved. No conditions
8	Community development post	Pilot post to develop Gaelic medium community activities focussed around Bunsgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis. Intended to support parents of GME primary pupils as well as others by providing appropriate Gaelic Learning opportunities. Project includes provision of further Ulpan tutors.	Approved. Part year costs. No conditions
9	Web 2.0 training	Pilot development and use of blogging, social networking sites to promote Gaelic learning. Staff from THC and partner LA's to be involved as students in pilot phase.	Approved. Collaborate with mygaelic.com as appropriate
10	An Sgailean Ur	Build on and extend multi media Gaelic schools film skills project	Approved. No conditions
11	Treanadh spors	Train Gaelic medium outdoor activity coaches to professional level, including trial courses for young people	Approved. 6 month pilot & evaluation prior to a decision on ongoing development costs
12	Spors Mor	Pilot two-day national Gaelic sports event P5-7	Approved. Approval based on 33% reduction in estimated project costs. Subject to clarification of numbers participating & meeting participant travel costs
13	Baile failte	10fte at Highland Folk Museum brought to fluency and trained in interpretation (2010/11 provision)	Noted & future application anticipated