

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**Gaelic Committee – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009**

Agenda Item	
Report No	

**FÀS – CREATIVE and CULTURAL INDUSTRIES CENTRE - Sabhal Mòr Ostaig  
Partnership Agreement in Return for Council Support**

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport

**SUMMARY**

This report sets out the details of a proposed agreement with Sabhal Mor Ostaig to collaborate with the Council on a number of projects in return for the assistance the Council provided to develop FÀS – the Centre for Creative and Cultural Industries which is sited on the College Campus.

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Highland Council provided a capital grant to Sabhal Mor Ostaig to assist with the construction and equipping of the FÀS Centre. FÀS contains television and radio production facilities including a studio, artists workshops, a Learning Centre, research, educational and publishing facilities, a child care centre and a base for Tobar an Dualchais – the company digitising archive material related to Gaelic, Highland and Scottish culture. The Council's grant enabled the College to attract match funding from a wide range of sources including HIE, ERDF, MG Alba, Scottish Government etc at a crucial stage in the Centre's genesis.
- 1.2 A condition of the Council's funding was that the College should identify how it may assist the Council implement aspects of its Gaelic Plan. Discussions have taken place between Council and College staff and a list of potential projects has been drawn up which will form the basis of an initial one year partnership agreement. The agreement will be reviewed annually and the proposals listed can be amended, added to or substituted with others.
- 1.3 This agreement supports and contributes to the overall aim to establish closer collaborative working between the Council and Sabhal Mor Ostaig as outlined to the Gaelic Committee in a previous report [ref no G14/08] in June 2008.

**2. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT - INITIAL PROPOSALS**

The following are suggested as realistic and achievable projects for the first year of the partnership agreement.

**2.1 Gaelic Language Short Courses**

10 places per annum will be reserved for Council staff on the College programme of short courses where the course fee will be waived. Allocation of places will be arranged and co-ordinated through the Council's Employee Development Unit.

## 2.2 **School and Youth Groups**

Discounts will be offered to Highland Council School and Youth Groups visiting the College for language learning initiatives as follows:

Primary and Secondary School Groups	10% discount on all costs
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Secondary Schools	10 free places for Secondary Pupils on College arranged courses
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## 2.3 **Develop work with 3 local Secondary Schools [Plockton, Portree, Mallaig]**

Investigate how the College can help to expand the Gaelic Medium curriculum in the three neighbouring secondary schools eg explore if SMO courses would link with Secondary Courses in, for instance, Modern Studies.

## 2.4 **Council Placements for SMO Students**

Placement opportunities in schools are well established but some other options could be available eg. in the new Translation Unit, TECS, Social Work. (Highland Council will contact Services for options). Certain Schools would welcome involvement of a Gaelic speaker, to help with particular projects and there is a need to agree better liaison so placement timings are better known when planning school projects.

## 2.5 **Writing/Literacy Training**

Cur Peann ris Paipear / Sgillean Sgrìobhaidh (NUJ) Investigate what could be made available to Council Staff to improve their Gaelic Literary skills - and what could be offered either as an in-service day for teachers or at another convenient time for other staff.

## 2.6 **Media Training for Young People**

College to set up a pilot across 3 local ASGs – Plockton, Portree & Mallaig.

9 days [3 x 3] – Writing, Directing and Interview Techniques - involving young people in their community with an opportunity for intergenerational work, local history and heritage links using both FAS facilities and the school base.

## 2.7 **SMO / The Arts / Residencies / Community Links**

All projects will need to maintain the Gaelic ethos of the College throughout. An Open day for FÀS is planned for September. Highland Council will help with developing links with between the College and the Community and encourage School/Community use of college facilities eg, for evening classes.

The Council will work with SMO on west Highland Arts opportunities and towards incorporating a community dimension to the residency programme.

## 2.8 Highland Folk Museum

SMO will assist with Gaelic instruction for staff, interpretation and generally towards developing a Gaelic ethos at this site.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 The Gaelic Committee is invited to note and comment on these proposals so that the initial year of the Partnership Agreement can be established.

Signature:

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