

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT SERVICE COMMITTEE**

**6 August 2009**

**Recent Actions to Develop Shinty**

**Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service**

Agenda Item	
Report No	

**Summary**

This report updates members on progress to implement the objective in the Council's programme to promote shinty.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Council's programme has an objective to "Support the development of sporting activities and, in particular, encourage the development and growth of shinty."
- 1.2 The post of Shinty Development Officer based in the Camanachd Association is part funded by the Council, and a Service Level Agreement ensures that this post works with schools and young people to promote participation in shinty.
- 1.3 Highland Council's Active Schools Coordinators also support programmes of participation in shinty.

**2. Actions to promote Shinty**

- 2.1 Progress in promoting shinty over the last three years is shown in the table below. More schools are delivering shinty as part of the PE curriculum, there are more after school clubs for shinty through Active Schools and there are better links to shinty clubs developing the pathways from school to club shinty. Participation figures have increased across the board for the last 3 years with big increases in the numbers of boys and girls playing the game.

**2.2 PARTICIPATION FIGURES**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Primary schools participating in shinty	61	72	82
Boys primary aged shinty participation	1003	1414	1462
Girls primary aged shinty participation	388	574	722
Secondary schools participating in shinty	13	17	19
Boys participation in secondary school age shinty	285	371	429
Girls participation in secondary school age shinty	30	83	181

### **3. Specific Actions to promote Shinty**

3.1 A number of actions have been taken to promote shinty: -

- A shinty steering group made up of the Active Schools Manager, **sportscotland** and the Camanachd Association has been set up to develop school aged participation in shinty. This group helps implement the Strategic Development Plan for shinty.
- In 2007 a Primary schools Shinty World Cup event was run by our Active School Co-ordinator and Camanachd Association Development Officer. Five Celtic games events for over 700 Primary 7 pupils were held last year, with shinty as one of the core activities. This has assisted with stronger club links and links to further education through use of UHI students at these events.
- Coaching courses to develop skills and knowledge have been held for PE teachers, Active Schools Co-ordinators and volunteers.
- Shinty is part of the extended Highland sports development network team that brings together all of the sport specific development officers.
- Council Officers have been meeting regularly with the Camanachd Association and more recently with the Schools Camanachd Association to work closely to develop ways of growing shinty in school curriculum, after schools clubs and developing strong pathways and links to clubs.
- Gaelic language Shinty courses for Gaelic learners have been successfully developed in Skye, and it is proposed to roll these out as a means both of promoting shinty and as part of the programme to increase the number of people speaking Gaelic.

### **4. Future Actions to Support Shinty**

4.1 A summary of Highland Council's Service Level Agreement with the Camanachd Association is attached as Appendix A. Members will be invited to comment on this.

4.2 Active Schools staff will continue to develop shinty as part of their programme.

4.3 Interest has been expressed in establishing a national centre for shinty. Sportscotland has indicated that they would be prepared to support such a venture, and that their funding would be channelled through the sports governing body. Officers will work with the Camanachd Association and assist where required.

### **5. Conclusion**

5.1 Good partnership working between Sportscotland, the Camanachd Association and the Highland Council has resulted in the numbers of young people participating in shinty have growing significantly over the last 2 years.

**6. Recommendation**

6.1 It is recommended that: -

- a) Members comment on the current programme for increasing numbers participating in shinty.
- b) Members approve the details of the service level agreement with the Camanachd Association

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 10 July 2009

Author: Graham Watson, Community Development Manager

Ref:

**SUMMARY: SERVICE DELIVERY AGREEMENT****Purpose of Agreement**

The Highland Council will contribute partnership funding to the Camanachd Association for the purpose of providing a Highland Shinty Development Officer's post.

**Length of Agreement**

The Agreement will run from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 and will be subject to annual review of performance. The Agreement may also be reviewed if or when partner organisations experience significant changes to their structures or key personnel.

**Payment**

Subject to the conditions of the Agreement having been met, the Council will contribute £9180 in 2009/10 and provide inflationary increases in the following two years. In circumstances where the post becomes vacant or is subject to early termination, the Council's contribution will be proportionate to the number of months the post is filled during the year.

**Notice**

The Agreement may be terminated by either party by three months written notice. In these circumstances, both parties will work together to plan and manage termination to minimise the impact on those affected particularly employees and service users.

**Services to be Provided**

The Camanachd Association will manage the post on a day to day basis. The partnership shinty steering group will oversee the work of the post and agree performance and monitoring targets and methods of review and evaluation. The Council will be involved in recruitment for the post where required.

The postholder will work in partnership with groups including the Active Schools' network, sports development staff, teachers, Coaching Highland, **sportscotland**, Schools' Camanachd Association, Highland Disability Sport and local clubs to:-

- Contribute to the development of a strong participation base in primary and secondary schools and support the development of shinty within the school environment
- Contribute to the development of opportunities for schools to compete in competitions, festivals and events
- Contribute to the development of coach education plans and coach training
- Contribute to strengthening pathways for young people to participate in the sport at community and club level
- Support disability sport within the context of the service provided
- Contribute to the development of Gaelic language shinty courses
- Contribute to the development of joint initiatives