

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**GAELIC COMMITTEE – 21 MAY 2009**

Agenda Item	8.
Report No	G/19/09

**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.

**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.

**2. GLAIF (Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund) projects**

2.1 Members will be aware that the Council is undertaking a number of projects, focussed on targets within the Gaelic Language Plan, with financial assistance from Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

2.2 These include, in no order of priority:

- Translation Unit
- Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis (BSGI) community development post
- 'Outward Bound'
- Ainm is Àite (schools/community placename project)
- An Sgàilean Ùr (film project)
- Progressive Language Classes
- Staff training and awareness
- Fèis Spòrs
- Web 2.0 training
- Spors Mòr
- Schools Drama
- Sgrìobh sa sgìre (Gaelic literature project)

2.3 With three exceptions, these projects are progressing very successfully. The exceptions are the Translation Unit; the BSGI community post and the 'Outward Bound' projects. Although the Senior Translation Officer is now in post and operating very effectively, approval to recruit a second Translator is still required from the Resources Committee. Similarly the BSGI Community Development post has not been filled as approval to recruit is still required from the Resources Committee. Funding for this project was withdrawn from the last round of GLAIF approvals by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on the basis of no Council expenditure having been

made. A fresh application has been submitted to the current round of GLAIF applications. The Outward Bound project, an admittedly ambitious pilot project to try and identify and train Gaelic-speaking 'outdoor activities' coaches has been abandoned due to staffing issues within partner organisations, and a lack of current capacity within the private sector.

- 2.5 The 'Ainm is Àite' and 'An Sgàilean Ùr' projects are being taken forward by the Arts Outreach Officer and are progressing well, with films from the An Sgàilean Ùr project having recently been submitted to the Celtic Film and Television in Caernarvon. A fuller report on these projects, including a short film are being proposed for the September meeting of the Gaelic Committee.
- 2.6 The Staff Training and Awareness project, and Progressive Language Classes are also being taken forward. Another paper to this Committee has outlined proposals to deliver staff language training, in addition to this there have been a series of 'Gaelic Awareness' days for Council managers during the last financial year; and assistance offered to several staff to attend more advanced Gaelic grammar classes and sessions at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. The Progressive Language Classes are being taken forward in many areas including Inverness, Badenoch and Skye. Taken together some 80 – 100 people are participating in Ùlpan Gaelic classes directed or instigated by Council staff.
- 2.7 The Fèis Spòrs project is a sports coaching and tuition event due to take place in Skye during the current summer term, for which preparations are well underway.
- 2.8 The latter 4 projects: Web 2.0; Spòrs Mòr; Sgrìobh sa Sgìre; and schools drama are being managed by the Gaelic Development Officer, who will offer a verbal update and presentation to Members on their progress.
- 2.9 Taken together these projects, overseen by Council staff and supported by partner organisations are providing significant opportunities to enhance the profile of Gaelic; for people, particularly the young, to undertake exciting activities through the medium of Gaelic; and for others, Council staff and people in the community to learn and develop their Gaelic language skills. All of these are areas of activity committed to within the Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

### **3. Glenurquhart Gaelic Medium Education provision**

- 3.1 Members may be aware of a strong demand for Gaelic Medium Education provision in Glenurquhart. Assessment of potential pupil numbers has now been undertaken and levels are such that a new Gaelic unit is justified.
- 3.2 This is most likely to be established within Drumnadrochit, serving communities within the typical extended catchment of Gaelic Medium provisions. Although detailed accommodation options are still being considered, any unit would most likely consist of demountable-type units within the grounds of Glenurquhart Primary school – at least in the short to medium term.
- 3.3 It is hoped that such a provision might be offered for the beginning of the 2010-11 school year, i.e. with a Gaelic unit being operational by August 2010.

3.4 Allied to this development is the provision of some Gaelic 0-3 and 3-5 childcare and pre-school provision. The 0-3 provision is being encouraged at the moment through the establishment, with Council support of a 'Ceuman Beaga' group in the village. Demand and participation in this group has been very high so far. It is hoped to offer 'Gaelic enriched' 3-5 pre-school provision through an established provider, the Glenurquhart Childcare Centre, from August 2009 as a first step, and then to move to proper Gaelic Medium pre-school provision at the same time as the primary provision in August 2010.

**4. Recommendation**

4.1 Members are asked to note and comment on the contents of this report and the accompanying presentation.

Signature:

Designation: Director, Education, Culture and Sport Service

Date: 07 May 2009

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Ref: HF/DM

Background Papers