

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
GAELIC COMMITTEE - 7 AUGUST 2008

Agenda Item	5ii.
Report No	G-18-08

Gaelic Language Act Implementation Funding

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Summary

This report provides an update to Members on the bids being prepared by Highland Council for funding support under the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 As required by the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 The Highland Council submitted a draft Gaelic Language Plan to Bòrd na Gàidhlig in October 2007. Following discussions and amendments this Plan was formally approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on 19th May 2008.
- 1.2 In order to support public bodies implement their statutory Gaelic Language Plans the Scottish Government has made £1.4million available in 2008/9 under the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund. This Fund is open to bids from Public Bodies throughout Scotland, but is principally aimed at those who are implementing, have prepared, or are about to prepare, a Gaelic Language Plan.
- 1.3 This Fund will be administered by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The Bòrd published their policy and guidelines for funding applications on 20th June 2008 with a deadline for submission of bids of 31st July 2008.
- 1.4 On this occasion the Bòrd is inviting bids covering a three year period up to March 2011.

2.0 Council bids

- 2.1 As outlined in the previous paper there are over 100 individual actions and targets. Delivery of these actions will be spread across Council Departments, supported by the core Gaelic Development Team.
- 2.2 Under this approach individual Service Departments have been asked to consider the actions for which they have primary responsibility and to prepare GLAIF funding bids for submission to Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The submission of bids will be co-ordinated by the Gaelic Development Team.
- 2.3 A key principle behind the GLAIF funding is that, if awarded, it will decline annually for multi-year projects. For example Year 1 – 80%, Year 2 – 50%, Year 3 – 30%, Year 4 – 0%. Continued funding for multi-year projects will be subject to satisfactory monitoring reports.

- 2.4 The move to three year funding is welcome. This will allow better financial and project planning. However given the Council's budgetary timescales it is impossible for Officers to accurately predict at this stage, the availability of match-funding for GLAIF projects into the years 2009/10 and 2010/11. Therefore it is proposed that detailed GLAIF bids are submitted for the remainder of 2008/9 and 'indicative' bids for the subsequent two years. These can be further refined in discussions with Bòrd na Gàidhlig as the Council's budgetary approvals progress.
- 2.5 At the time of writing bids are still being prepared to meet the 31st July deadline. It is not possible to summarise here the total number of bids, nor the funding for which Highland Council is applying. A verbal update will be provided to the meeting outlining the bids submitted.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are invited to note and comment on the availability and nature of the GLAIF funding and the means by which the Council's submissions are being prepared.

Signature:

Designation: Director, Education, Culture and Sport Service

Date: 23 July 2008

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