

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**Gaelic Committee - 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

Agenda Item	9.
Report No	G/12/09

**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. Staffing**

2.1 Recruitment of a Senior Translator to manage the Council's Translation Unit has been concluded. The successful candidate is Jo MacDonald who has been working as a freelance translator for a number of years. She will take up her post on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March.

2.2 It is hoped that proposals for the remaining three outstanding posts within the Gaelic Team: 'Junior' Translator; Community Development Officer for BSGI; and Gaelic Development Officer (Policy and Strategy) can now be submitted to the Resources Committee in April.

2.3 External staffing: The UHI are currently seeking to recruit 7 new Gaelic-related posts at a variety of levels from Project Co-ordinators and Directors to Admin and Clerical staff. This team will be charged with contributing to the development of Gaelic at the UHI Millennium Institute. In addition Comann na Gàidhlig are recruiting two part-time Community Development staff, one of whom is to be based in North West Skye.

**3. National appointments – Scottish Government and Bòrd na Gàidhlig**

3.1 It has been announced that Michael Russell MSP is now the new Scottish Government Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution. This remit includes responsibility for Gaelic. Mr Russell has worked in the past in the Gaelic media including a rural cinema project in the Western Isles, and running his own Gaelic TV production company.

3.2 It has also been announced that Arthur Cormack is to be the new Chairman of Bòrd na Gàidhlig. He had been filling this role as interim Chairman since summer 2008. An announcement on the Bòrd's new Chief Executive is expected within the next few months.

**4. Celtic Film Festival**

- 4.1 The annual Celtic Film Festival takes place on the 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> of March. This year the event is taking place in Caernarfon and is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year.
- 4.2 The Council has occasionally been represented at Member level in the past and it may be appropriate to consider whether their ought to be representation at the 30<sup>th</sup> Festival

## **5. mygaelic.com**

- 5.1 Bòrd na Gàidhlig have now launched the new Gaelic social/networking site [www.mygaelic.com](http://www.mygaelic.com).
- 5.2 The site is intended to attract and inform visitors looking to find out more about Gaelic, and includes a comprehensive Gaelic events calendar, which can be viewed by all visitors to the site. The target audience of the site is people aged 16 – 45+ who do not have Gaelic; who are learning Gaelic; or who are fluent in the language.
- 5.3 In order to help cater for the needs of all three of these groups there are three versions of the site. It is available in English, Gaelic, or Simple Gaelic.

## **6. New Course for Gaelic Medium Drama Teachers in Highland**

- 6.1 A new Continuous Professional Development (CPD) course in drama has been developed for Gaelic medium teaching staff in Highland. This has been developed by the Community Learning and Leisure team with the help of Eden Court Theatre and Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and delivered through the medium of Gaelic.
- 6.2 The course gives teachers the opportunity to learn some drama techniques for use in the classroom and to gain the confidence to use those skills. The first course was delivered in February and will be offered again during the October in-service training days.
- 6.3 It is hoped that this will be the first of a suite of arts related CPD courses developed specifically for teachers working in Gaelic medium.

## **7. Recommendation**

- 6.1 Members are asked to note and comment on the contents of this report

Signature:

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Date: 26 February 2009

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Ref: HF/DM

Background Papers: