

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council**

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 14 Samhain 2013
Gaelic Implementation Group – 14 November 2013**

Agenda Item	8
Report No	GIG 22/13

Engagement on Gaelic with Skills Development Scotland

Report by the Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Summary

This brief Report is part of the Implementation Group's overview of the implementation of the GLP 12-16 Theme on Economic Development. It provides Members with an overview of our engagement with Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on the implementation of our respective Gaelic Language Plans. Two productive meetings have taken place between SDS and Council Officials and another, involving Bòrd na Gàidhlig, is being arranged to agree specific actions required to progress the issues outlined below.

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- The National Performance Outcomes 2, 3, 4 and 13
- National Gaelic Language Plan Outcomes **Education: Schools & Teachers; Education: Post-school Education, Communities and Workplace.**
- The Programme of The Highland Council and its cross cutting commitment to 'the principle of equal respect for the Gaelic and English languages, whilst also recognising the diversity of indigenous language and dialects within the Highland area'.
- The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan Themes on *Home and Community, Education, Workplace and Economic Development.*

1. Background

1.1 Skills Development Scotland is highlighted as a key delivery partner in the implementation of the Economic Development Theme in our Gaelic Language Plan. However, our recent engagement has shown that SDS also has a part to play in terms of the Plan Themes regarding Home and Community, Education, Workplace and Economic Development.

1.2 The following provides Members with an overview of Council engagement with SDS and how this serves to progress implementation of both ours and SDS's Gaelic Language Plans. This Report should be read in conjunction with the general Report on implementing the Economic Development Theme, also on this agenda.

2. SDS and Highland Council Interface and Action on respective GLPs

2.1 Gaelic Adult Learning

2.1.1 SDS is one of the core funders of Deiseal Ltd, which has developed Ùlpan. As Members will be aware, along with with Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Council is

currently undertaking a review of all **Gaelic Adult Learning opportunities** in Highland which also involves Clì Gàidhlig, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and Deiseal Ltd. We have agreed with SDS that the outcomes from this exercise will inform potential partnership working on adult learning, going forward.

2.1.2 We will also work with SDS colleagues regarding **ILA Provider Status** for the Council's Adult Gaelic Learning Courses.

2.2 Gaelic Careers Events

2.2.1 In March 2013, Highland Council and SDS jointly organised a **Gaelic Careers event** – *Siuthad!* (Go for It!) - in Eden Court Theatre, Inverness. This event encouraged young Secondary pupils to continue with their Gaelic up to qualification level and showcased a vast range of Gaelic related career opportunities. A total of 102 pupils attended from all over Highland as well as some from Argyll and Bute Council. We are shortly to discuss, with SDS and Bòrd na Gàidhlig colleagues, establishing this as an ongoing annual event from 2014.

2.2.2 We have still to engage formally on **Tachartas na h-Òigridh**, a possible national partnership Gaelic Youth Event. However, there may be potential to involve pupils in Highland, nan Eilean Siar and a school in the Central B

2.3 Possible Childcare and Nursery Qualifications through High School

2.3.1 We are in early discussion about the possibility of establishing an Int. 1 Childcare Pilot Project in a Highland High School. This would provide opportunities for pupils to work towards a **childcare qualification through High School**; and also encourage us to “grow our own” in terms of Gaelic education nursery and early years staff.

2.4 Workplace Initiatives

2.4.1 We aim to work with SDS and with Clì Gàidhlig to ascertain whether a range of organisations in Inverness could partner up for a new programme of Sessions on ***Gaelic Awareness, Gaelic Grammar and Gaelic Use in the Workplace.***

2.4.2 In tandem with SDS, we will update and link the **Gaelic Content on our respective Websites.**

2.5 Renewed National Progress on Gaelic in Economic Development.

2.5.1 The Council and SDS will renew efforts to seek to factor Gaelic into **national Government Labour Market Intelligence Data**; and to re-energise engagement on the **Gaelic Employment and Skills Partnership.**

2.5.2 We will continue to positively engage with, and contribute to, the HIE commissioned study into the **Economic and Social Value of Gaelic as an Asset.**

2.5.3 We will work together where appropriate to maximise the economic and employment benefits of the **Royal National Mod in Inverness in 2014**.

2.6 Gaelic for Senior Citizens in Social care

2.6.1 The Council, NHS Highland and SDS colleagues will commission an assessment of the demand for, and the potential to provide, opportunities for Gaelic speaking senior citizens to speak and hear Gaelic within publicly funded care provision.

3. Next Steps

3.1 We have had two useful meetings with SDS colleagues and we are currently arranging an implementation meeting with BnG colleagues to push forward action on these agendas.

4. Implications

4.1 There are no Resource, Legal, Equalities, Climate Change or Risk implications associated with this Report at present.

5. Recommendations

Members are invited to:

- Comment on current and potential collaborative work between the Council and SDS; and
- Agree to press ahead with joint actions on the shared agendas in the SDS and HC GLPs; and
- Agree to the commissioning of an assessment of the demand for, and the potential to provide, opportunities for Gaelic speaking senior citizens to speak and hear Gaelic within publicly funded care provision.

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 1 November 2013

Author: Kenneth A Murray