

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd  
The Highland Council**

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 29 Cèitean 2014  
Gaelic Implementation Group – 29 May 2014**

Agenda Item	<b>8</b>
Report No	<b>GIG 12/14</b>

**National and International Gaelic-Related Arts, Media and Cultural Events  
Taking Place in Highland during 2014 and 2015**

**Report by the Director of Education, Culture & Sport**

**Summary**

This Report provides Members with an update on the implementation of Gaelic Language Plan 2012-2016 Theme 3 “What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage”.

The report informs Members of forthcoming national and international Gaelic related events, which will take place in the Highlands between the beginning of September 2014 and mid April 2015. Gaelic language and culture will be central to activities in each of these events:

- Blas Festival from 5-13 September 2014;
- Royal National Mòd from 10–17 October, which includes a Mòd Fringe Programme;
- Na Trads’ - The Trads (The Scottish Traditional Music Awards) 13 December 2014; and
- The Celtic Media Festival from 22- 24 April 2015.

The Council’s Gaelic Team, Tourism Co-ordinator, Events Officer and PR Officials are liaising internally and advising and supporting the organisers of the events.

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- National Performance Outcomes 2,5,4, and 13
- Scotland’s National Gaelic Language Plan across its development areas on the Arts, Media, Heritage, and Tourism
- 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’; and
- The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan.

**1. Background**

1.1 The Council has managed to attract a number of significant national and international events to the Highlands between the beginning of September 2014 and the middle of April 2015. These events have Gaelic language and culture at their core; and will involve many Gaelic speakers and learners -

from pre-school children to senior citizens. The Blas Festival and the Mòd also form part of Highland Homecoming 2014.

## **2 Blas Festival 2014**

- 2.1 The Blas Festival was created by The Highland Council in partnership with Fèisean nan Gàidheal and the Touring Network. The Council contracted Fèisean nan Gàidheal to work with members of the Touring Network and others to develop the festival for the Highlands and the Festival is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.
- 2.2 The Blas Programme will be launched in Eden Court on 5 June. The following gives a flavour of the events taking place in venues across the Highlands.
  - Cherish the Ladies, MÀNran, Còisir G, Cèol nan Fèis, and The MacGillivrays of Culrossie

## **3. Royal National Mod**

- 3.1 The world's premier Gaelic festival - The Royal National Mod (Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail) - will take place at various locations in Inverness between 10 and 18 October 2014. Organised by An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG) and its Local Organising Committee, it is expected that more than 3,000 competitors will take part in the event. Individuals, groups and choirs will be competing in a range of competitive disciplines including Gaelic music and song, Highland dancing, instrumental, drama, sport and literature. Amongst the activities planned are a parade of competitors, volunteers, young people and civic dignitaries through Inverness to get proceedings underway - and the traditional massed gathering of the Mòd choirs on the final day. The final weekend will also see the International Shinty-Hurling match between Scotland and Ireland at Bught Park and the staging of the 2014 Inverness BID Street Theatre Festival.
- 3.2 Iomall a Mhòd (The Mod Fringe) Programme is currently being developed and the following is a summary of the activities which will form part of the Programme - exhibitions, recitals, traditional music sessions in various in the City, an outdoor Arts in Education Programme, Gaelic learning taster sessions, literature events, celebration of the links between the Highlands and Nova Scotia, a torchlight parade, local produce and food tasting sessions.

## **4. “Na Trads” – The Trads (2014 Scottish Traditional Music Awards)**

- 4.1 The Scots Trad Music Awards is an national bilingual awards event which celebrates Scotland's traditional music in all its forms and creates a high profile opportunity to bring the music and music industry into the spotlight of media and public attention.
- 4.2 The awards are organised by ‘Hands Up for Trad’, Mr Simon Thoumire. Since 2008 the awards have been sponsored by MG Alba, and for several years the event has been bilingual and has been televised on BBC Alba.

4.3 The following are the various categories for which awards are presented:-  
Album of the Year: Club of the Year: Composer of the Year: Community Project of the Year: Event of the Year: Gaelic Singer of the Year: Instrumentalist of the Year: Live Act of the Year: Citty Finlayson Scots Singer of the Year: Scottish Dance Band of the Year: Scottish Folk Band of the Year: Pipe Band of the Year: Traditional Music in the Media: Music Tutor of the Year: Up and Coming Artist of the Year: Venue of the Year Award:

## **5. Celtic Media Festival (CMF)**

5.1 The 36<sup>th</sup> Celtic Media Festival is coming to Inverness in 2015. This is a high profile event

5.2 The CMF is an annual film and broadcast conference that celebrates the languages and cultures of the Celtic nations in broadcasting and the media.

5.3 The CMF are a non-profit organisation and are supported by BBC Scotland, MG ALBA, BBC Northern Ireland, RTÉ, TG4, Northern Ireland Screen, BBC Cymru (Wales), and S4C (Welsh Language Channel)

5.4 The festival is a 3 day event, and attracts in excess of 400 delegates from the media and broadcasting industry from several countries including Scotland Southern Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales, Isle of Man, England and France including Brittany.

5.5 The people who attend and speak at CMF are the decision makers in broadcast, film and radio. They are executives of national channels and high profile producers who decide where programmes and films will be made.

5.6 CMF will be promoting Inverness and the surrounding area as a filming location in their sessions.

5.7 CMF celebrates the languages and cultures of the Celtic Nations and Regions, Celtic languages form a large part of the festival. As the festival will be in the Highlands, Gaelic within the media will be a key to the event.

5.8 There will be Gaelic throughout the conference, with most of the brochure and the website being bilingual. The awards will be presented in Gaelic with simultaneous translation facilities being available for delegates.

5.9 As Celtic Media Festival is a non-profit organisation, they rely on funding from several organisations.

5.10 The following is a summary of the various categories:

- Spirit of the Festival, Arts, Animation, Best APP, Children, Drama Series, Feature length drama, Factual Entertainment, Factual Series, Innovation, Music Programme, Radio Documentary, Radio Presenter/Personality, Radio Sports, Radio Station of the Year, Young People.

## 6. Cross Service Support

- 6.1 It is proposed that a Cross Service Council Officials Group is set up to provide support and advice to the organisers of each of the events' as in summary, they do require advice and support in relation staging the event in the City.

## 7. Implications

- 7.1 There are no additional implications associated with this Report at present.

<b>8.</b>	Recommendations  Members are asked to:
8.1	<p>a) Comment on the range of events supported and hosted by Highland Council in the coming year;</p> <p>b) Agree that a Cross Service Council Officials Group is established, which will provide a co-ordinated approach to support and advise Members, the Executive Leadership Team and the organisers of the aforementioned events;</p> <p>c) Agree to continue support for high profile partnership marketing and promotional activity and engagement for these national and international events</p> <p>d) Agree that the Council works with partners to continue to attract high profile Gaelic-related arts, media and cultural events in Highland to provide economic benefits within the Council area.</p>

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 19 May 2014

Authors: Kenneth A Murray, Gaelic Development Manager

Morag Anna MacLeod Mitchell, Gaelic Development Officer