

Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council

Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 20 Gearran 2014
Gaelic Implementation Group – 20 February 2014

Agenda Item	5
Report No	GIG 2/14

Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16 Theme 3 Implementation Report
“What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage”

Report by the Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Summary

This Report provides Members with an update on the implementation of Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16 Theme 3 “What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage”. The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- Government National Performance Outcomes 2, 4 and 13.
- Scotland’s National Gaelic Language Plan across its Development Areas on the Arts and Media, and 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 Implementing GLP 2012-16 Theme 3 “What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage”

1.1 The Arts, Media and Heritage Theme is reproduced at **Appendix 1** below for ease of reference. The Theme has three Strategic Commitments and the undernoted provides a progress report on implementation.

1.2 Strategic Commitment 1

We will engage with partners and contribute to national strategic initiatives and policy formulation for Gaelic in the arts, media and heritage sectors.

1.3 Strategic Commitment 2

We will increase the profile and build the use of Gaelic within Council funded organisations and events within the Highlands.

1.4 Strategic Commitment 3

We will develop opportunities for people to engage with Gaelic through the media, arts and creative industries

2. National Gaelic Arts Strategy

2.1 The National Gaelic Arts Strategic Forum meets quarterly and discusses the strategic development of Gaelic language arts and culture at a local, national and international level.

- 2.2 This forum includes organisations which fund the arts and developmental bodies for Gaelic arts development – Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Creative Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, BBC ALBA, MG ALBA, COSLA, VOCAL, and the Scottish Government.
- 2.3 Currently two of the top priorities for the forum are Gaelic Drama and Gaelic International development. In the last 13 to 14 months Gaelic Drama Network has been facilitated and funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Creative Scotland. This fund helps support Gaelic Drama projects at local and regional level. <http://www.gaidhlig.org.uk/bord/cothroman-taic-airgid/maoin-drama.php>
- 2.4 VOCAL is the national association for culture in Scotland with each local authority having representation. VOCAL has set up a sub-committee called the Strategic Forum for Culture.

3 BBC/MG ALBA

- 3.1 BBC ALBA is now firmly established and has seen a growth in viewers of the channel during 2013 with more people than ever watching; with very high awareness and approvals levels.
- 3.2 Gaelic speakers and learners are making good use of the channel with 70% of them tuning in every week, with news being the most appreciated and viewed genre.
- 3.3 The news is delivered from Inverness and covers Highlands & Islands, national and international stories to great effect with a team of video journalists; who also make contributions to other BBC news programmes on radio and TV.
- 3.4 The channel reaches over 30% of viewers in the Highlands and Islands every week. In addition to news, viewers strongly appreciate the showcasing of music festivals and local lifestyle stories such as the series on the Raigmore midwives, the Bethesda hospice and various documentaries; as well as the opportunity to see shinty and Highland football teams Inverness Caledonian Thistle and Ross County in the Scottish Premiership.
- 3.5 Importantly, BBC ALBA also managed to commission a high-end Gaelic TV drama – a mini-series of 3 episodes produced on location in Skye by a Skye-based company, written by a Lewis-based writer and with the entire production taking place through the medium of Gaelic. The show will air on BBC ALBA later this year and they hope that support from agencies will enable them to extend the pilot to a returning series.

4. LearnGaelic.net

- 4.1 The LearnGaelic.net website has high levels of participation and usage. LearnGaelic is a one-stop shop for anyone and everyone interested in

learning Scottish Gaelic. MG Alba, the BBC, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Board of Celtic Studies Scotland and SMO are also key partners in LearnGaelic.net.

5. Fèis Rois

- 5.1 Fèis Rois is one of 19 organisations in the UK to be awarded £10,000 from the BBC Performing Arts Fellowship. They appointed a graduate from Kiltarilty of the BA Folk Music course at the University of Newcastle to join them as their Fellow from April – November 2013.
- 5.2 The graduate had the opportunity to develop her skills in community music and she now continues to teach on a number of their programmes. They were also awarded £8,000 from Creative Scotland to offer employment to a 16-19 year old as part of the modern apprenticeship scheme.
- 5.3 They appointed a young person from Glenelg in August 2013. She is working full-time for a year as a Project Co-ordinator. She is working towards a Level 3 National Award in Community Arts Management whilst working for Fèis Rois.
- 5.4 In May/June 2013, Fèis Rois took four young musicians over to Australia to perform at the National Celtic Festival in Portarlington, and to pilot the Fèis Rois Ceilidh Trail model in Victoria. The Australian musicians were here on a return visit from 23rd January – 2nd February.
- 5.5 Three young musicians from Fèis Rois travelled to Bucharest in November 2013. They played for the Caledonian Ball to raise funds for a charity called Light into Europe. The Ball was attended by the British Ambassador. Light into Europe (www.lightintoeurope.org) works with hearing and/or sight impaired young people. Whilst they were in Bucharest, the musicians led some community music sessions with these young people.
- 5.6 Feis Rois recently launched a CD called Fàs, which features several professional musicians who all started their musical journeys at Fèis Rois. The CD is available to purchase at www.feisrois.org and at Fèis Rois events. The musicians all donated their tracks, so the sales of the album will raise funds to contribute to supporting the next generation of young musicians in Ross & Cromarty.
- 5.7 A Fèis Rois participant was awarded an international Travel Bursary supported by the British Council and The Saltire Society. The Award consists of £1,500 to pursue a research project, including international travel, together with a certificate and membership of the Saltire Society. The successful individual was a Gaelic speaker, who proposes to spend a month in Catalonia learning about the Catalan language and culture, focussing mainly on the music and dances of the region and to undertake tuition and mentoring in these fields.
- 5.8 Three young musicians who first met when they took part in the Fèis Rois Ceilidh Trail in 2011 have gone onto form The Mischa Macpherson Trio and

have been shortlisted in the final of the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award. They find out if they have won at a ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall in London in February.

- 5.9 Following a successful pilot in 2012, Fèis Rois received support from Creative Scotland and SNH to develop their National Ceilidh Trail across Scotland in 2013. This ran in addition to the local Ross-Shire Trail.
- 5.10 Fèis Rois has been awarded £30,000 to commission former participant, John Somerville to write new work inspired by The Hector, the ship that sailed from Loch Broom to Pictou, Nova Scotia. The work will involve partnerships with Canada and Australia.
- 5.11 Following a pilot project supported by the Lottery in 2011, Fèis Rois continues to develop its successful lifelong learning programme. Over 100 adults attend evening classes in Ross-Shire and, in particular, a session at Tulloch Castle is popular with over 30 adult learners attending every week. 6 – 8 people attend a Cearcall Còmhradh (Conversation Circle) in Dingwall every Wednesday.
- 5.12 The core business remains strong with over 500 people taking part in the residential Fèisean this year and over 180 young people taking part in after school classes every week in Lochcarron, Ullapool, Evanton and Avoch.
- 5.13 Fèis Rois nan Deugairean was the most recent residential course. One hundred secondary school pupils took part in Fèis Rois nan Deugairean which took place in Ullapool from 7 – 11 October 2013. Seventy three young people from Ross-Shire were joined by twenty seven of their peers from across Scotland, including Inverness, Orkney and the Western Isles. They participated in workshops led by the thirteen-strong tutor team. Ensemble playing has become hugely popular amongst the teenagers at Fèis Rois with sixty five of the one hundred participants choosing group work for their afternoon class.
- 5.14 20% of the participants were fluent Gaelic speakers with 47% remembering the Gaelic they learned the previous year and building on their language skills this year. 79% of participants said they enjoyed having the opportunity to use and/or enjoy Gaelic at the Fèis.

6. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Residency Programme (SMORP)

- 6.1 SMO has supported residency programmes since it was first established, with the late Somhairle MacLean being the first Writer in Residence based at SMO.
- 6.2 The SMORP has developed over the years and they now have a full residency programme of 4 Artists in Residence, they are all currently funded by Creative Scotland's – Creative Futures Programme.
- 6.3 SMO has a dedicated Visual Artist Studio based in the Creative Industries building known as FÀS.

- 6.7 The full complement of the Artists in Residence is as follows:
A Visual Artist, a Writer, a Musician, and the most recent addition – a Gaelic Drama expert.
- 6.8 The Residencies are offered on an annual basis, they are required to spend 50% of their time at SMO. The main aim of the Residency Programme is to create an environment for the Artists to develop their own work which will add to the Gaelic corpus within each of the Artists' specific field.
- 6.9 The Writer contributes to the development of Gaelic writing at SMO and in the community, by providing support to an established writers' group which includes students, staff and members of the community.
- 6.10 The Musician contributes to the development of Gaelic/traditional music through e.g. major commissions such as the most recent musician Mary Ann Kennedy's 'Aiseag' project for the Commonwealth Games, which will be premiered at SMO in the Summer.
- 6.11 The Visual Artist in association with the Royal Scottish Academy (RSA) in Edinburgh contributes through their visual research to a growing national awareness of Gaelic language and culture in contemporary Scottish visual art. A recent exhibition at the RSA included 4 previous SMO visual artists, which formed a major part of a show that included all the residencies in Scotland.
- 6.12 The Gaelic Drama residency is in association with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS), and has a different focus from the other 3 residencies as it has a more of a developmental role. Drama developments include working with schools across the Highlands and beyond. The remit has both a strategic and operational role, which includes input to the National Gaelic Arts, and the development and running of a Gaelic Drama Fèis, a Gaelic Drama Radio Unit and Gaelic Radio Workshops in schools. A new Master's degree in teaching Gaelic drama is currently being devised by SMO and RCS.

7. Celtic Media Festival (CMF)

- 7.1 The CMF aims to promote the languages and cultures of the Celtic countries on screen and in broadcasting. Its primary activity is organising the annual Celtic Media Festival.
- 7.2 The Celtic Media Festival is supported by broadcast, film, cultural and economic development organisations throughout the Celtic countries and regions. The Festival is an annual three-day celebration of broadcasting, film talent and excellence from Scotland, Isle of Man, Ireland, Cornwall, Wales and Brittany.
- 7.3 The CMF hopes to take place in the Highlands in 2015.

8. The 2014 Inverness Royal National Mod

- 8.1 The Royal National Mod (RNM) started in 1892 and is organised annually by An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG). Under the terms of a Service Delivery Contract, the RNM will be held within the Highland Council area in 2014, 2017 and 2020. The RNM takes place In Inverness this years between 10 and 18 October.
- 8.2 The Gaelic Implementation Group has instituted an Internal Mod Liaison Group to implement the targets regarding the RNM which are contained in the Council's Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16. The Group currently comprises:
- Cllr Hamish Fraser
 - Kenny Murray, Gaelic Development Manager
 - Morag Anna Macleod, Gaelic Development Officer
 - David Haas, Inverness City Manager
 - Gerry Reynolds, City Events Officer
 - Colin Simpson, Tourism Co-ordinator
- 8.3 The Provost of Inverness, Cllr Alex Graham will also attend meetings of the Group. Links will also be maintained with the City of Inverness Area Committee and the Inverness Events And Festivals Working Group

PROGRESS SO FAR

- 8.4 To ensure that we maximise the impact of the Mod, the Gaelic Team has been in discussion with the Highland Archive Centre, Inverness Library, the Art Gallery and the Museum about potential participation and the hosting of different events during Mod week.
- 8.5 The Gaelic Team has also met with the Inverness City Ward Management Team and the Council's Tourism Co-ordinator to ensure that local businesses and tourism operators are aware of the opportunities that the Mod will provide. The Gaelic Team has also contacted the Council's PR Team to ensure close cooperation regarding media impact for Members and the Council during this high profile week.
- 8.6 In conjunction with the City Events Team and the Civic Officer, the Main Hall, Chamber and Committee Room in the Town House have been booked for Mod week. This will provide a base for the Council and An Comunn Gàidhealach events in the centre of the City, if required.
- 8.7 In addition, the HQ Chamber and two Committee rooms have been booked for the daily media briefings and for media accommodation. This is due to its proximity to Eden Court, the principal Mod venue.

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- 8.8 The Local Organising Committee (LOC) meet on January 21st. Council Officials are attending the LOC meetings in order to provide support to the Committee. The LOC are now meeting on a monthly basis until the end of August and then weekly from the beginning of September until the event commences on October 10th.

8.9 The Council's Mod Liaison Group provides information and practical support to the Chair of the LOC and the Chief Executive of An Comunn Gàidhealach.

8.10 The LOC are on schedule regarding the general preparations required to run the Mod, and Council Officials are in regular contact with An Comunn Gàidhealach, and the Elected Members to ensure that strategic, operational support and advice is provided to the LOC, the President and Officials of An Comunn Gàidhealach.

8.11 The LOC are working with a web design company to develop Mod Inbhir Nis 2014 (Inverness Mod 2014) website, with a view to have the site completed by 18 February.

8.12 **CURRENT PRIORITY AREAS**

- Opening Events in the Town House and Eden Court on 10 October.
- Possible Torchlight Procession on 10 October.
- Prize Giving and Media profile for Council and for Local Members during the week.
- The Mod Fringe for the week.
- Renewal of the Council's Memorandum of Understanding with the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia and possible cultural event to coincide.
- Closing Event(s) on Saturday 18 October.
- Shinty/Hurling Medals on Saturday 18 October.
- Opportunities for the wider inner Moray Firth area to benefit from the Mod 2014.

8.13 The Gaelic Team will meet the LOC to discuss the foregoing; clarify Council commitments and requirements for Mod week; and what actions are necessary, by whom and when. LOC Officers will be invited to a meeting with the Council to ensure that all involved have a shared understanding and appreciation of overall requirements.

9. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Council and the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia

9.1 A group of 6 young people who are studying Gaelic at Dalbrae Academy in Mabou, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia and their teacher Mrs Joanne MacIntyre are planning an educational trip to the Highlands.

9.2 They will be arriving in Glasgow on 7 March and returning to Glasgow on 15 March. The aim of the trip is to provide the young people with the opportunity to visit communities and educational institutions where Gaelic is used as an every-day working language.

9.3 This will also provide and give them the chance to practice and develop their language skills as well as reinforce and broaden the cultural and historical background that the Gaelic curriculum is intended to address through

sightseeing, educational tours, and visits to culturally relevant sites and events.

9.4 The trip will aid their efforts and desires to connect with the history of the Nova Scotian Gaelic speakers, reinforcing their collective and individual Gaelic identities.

9.5 Council Officials are liaising with Scottish Government Officials and staff at Dalbrae Academy to organise an itinerary for the group which will include a visit to the Scottish Parliament, to the Council here in Inverness, to a Gaelic Medium School, to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and a High School visit. Meeting educational and cultural representatives, will be included in the programme.

9.6 The visit will be arranged under the auspices of the MoU between the Council and the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia.

10. Implications

10.1 There are no additional Implications associated with this Report.

11. Recommendations

Members are invited to:

- comment on progress in implementing the Arts, Media and Heritage Theme in GLP 12-16;
- agree to continue support for high profile activity and engagement for the Inverness Royal National Mod in 2014;
- agree our continuing collaboration with Fèis Rois;
- agree continuing engagement with the National Gaelic Arts Strategy
- agree that the Council continues to work with partners to host high profile Gaelic-related arts, media and cultural events in Highland to provide economic benefits within the Council area.
- agree to maximise the use of the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Residency programme in association with our joint MoU; and
- agree to provide support for the visit in March of school pupils from Dalbrae Academy in Mabou, Cape Breton under our Memorandum of Understanding with the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia.
- agree to work towards a renewal of the MoU with Nova Scotia around the Royal National Mod in October 2014.

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Date: 8 February 2014

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Appendix 1

Theme 3 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage

Strategic Commitment 1

We will engage with partners and contribute to national strategic initiatives and policy formulation for Gaelic in the arts, media and heritage sectors.

Partners

Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Creative Scotland, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, BBC ALBA

Key Performance Results

- A contemporary and visionary Gaelic Arts strategy influenced by The Highland Council.
- The Sabhal Mòr Ostaig national residency programme will interface, and develop links with other arts events organised by the Council.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Participate in the work of the National Gaelic Arts Strategy Forum.
- (ii) Work with the Year of Homecoming 2014 Team to include Gaelic and culture as a core element in their planned activities and events.
- (iii) Work with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to support and maximise the impact and the outcomes of the Residency Programme.
- (iv) Engage with BBC ALBA and identify areas where collaborative initiatives would be appropriate; including the potential for expanding Gaelic content on local radio stations within the Highlands.

Theme 3 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage

Strategic Commitment 2

We will increase the profile and build the use of Gaelic within Council funded organisations and events within the Highlands.

Partners

High Life Highland, An Comunn Gàidhealach, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Fèis Rois, Comunn na Gàidhlig

Key Performance Results

- A successful Royal National Mod in Inverness in 2014.
- Increased number of participants and visitors attending the Royal National Mod and its associated activities, when the events take place in the Highlands.
- Increase the number of Provincial Mod competitors participating in the Royal National Mod when based in the Highlands.
- Increased use of Gaelic in Fèisean activities.
- Increased visibility of Gaelic in High Life Highland activities and outputs.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Work with An Comunn Gàidhealach to deliver a Royal National Mod in Inverness in 2014 befitting the world's premier Gaelic cultural event; particularly given the other international events Scotland is hosting in 2014.
- (ii) Work with An Comunn Gàidhealach and other stakeholders to increase the number of participants, and visitors to Royal National Mods when they are based in the Highlands.
- (iii) Work with An Comunn Gàidhealach to undertake a review of Provincial Mods and identify action that would maximise competitor attendance at the 2014 Royal National Mod in Inverness.
- (iv) Work with the Blas Festival organisers to promote Gaelic arts productions produced by young people, for example viewings of their short films, drama events, and readings of creative writing.
- (v) Work with Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Fèis Rois through our Service Delivery Contracts, to support Fèisean based in the Highlands in promoting and increasing Gaelic in their outputs.
- (vi) Work with High Life Highland and others to raise the profile of and increase the use and visibility of Gaelic within High Life Highland and Council supported visitor attractions, leisure facilities, museums, archive centres and events.
- (vii) Work with Comunn na Gàidhlig to develop and support relevant sporting activities, e.g. football and shinty through the medium of Gaelic.

Theme 3 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage

Strategic Commitment 3

We will develop opportunities for people to engage with Gaelic through the media, arts and creative industries.

Partners

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, MG ALBA, Comhairle nan Leabhraichean (Gaelic Books Council)

Key Performance Results

- Further progress with Gaelic education, arts and economic development within the projects delivered under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.
- Gaelic Short Films created and produced by young people in Gaelic Education.
- Gaelic Film Clubs and media production programme for young people.
- Create Gaelic authors/writers in schools programme.
- Two new Competitions – one for young people and one for adults for music or literature.
- Negotiate the hosting of the Traditional Music Awards in the Highlands during the lifespan of the Plan.
- Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia.
- Youth groups visits to Ireland, Wales or other Countries with lesser used languages.

Enabling Actions

- (i) Work with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to implement the projects agreed between both organisations under the Memorandum of Understanding.
- (ii) Work with media specialists to develop short films and set up film clubs specifically around Associated School Groups where Gaelic Education is provided.
- (iii) Work with media and film making professionals to support the annual Gaelic FilmG Awards.
- (iv) Work with other agencies to develop a series of visiting Gaelic writers/authors in schools programme.
- (v) Provide support and advice to local groups to attract funding for specific Gaelic projects based in the community.
- (vi) Develop links with the broader linguistic and cultural diaspora for example Nova Scotia, and other Countries with lesser used languages such as Ireland and Wales.
- (vii) Engage with MG ALBA and the organisers of the Traditional Music Awards to discuss hosting this event in the Highlands.
- (viii) Revise the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia to develop mutually beneficial educational, cultural, and economic links.

