

Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council

Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 22 Lùnastal 2013
Gaelic Implementation Group – 22 August 2013

Agenda Item	7
Report No	GIG 14-13

Council Funded Partnership Projects with Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG)

Report by the Director of Education, Culture & Sport

Summary

This Report updates Members on partnership working with CnaG on initiatives supported and part-funded by Highland Council; and introduces a presentation by Mr Calum Iain Macleod, Development Director of CnaG.

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- National Performance Indicator Outcomes 2, 4, 5 and 13.
- National Gaelic Language Plan Outcomes – **Education: Post-school Education** and Communities.
- 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 Theme 1 **“What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities”**; Theme 3 **“What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media and Heritage”** and Theme 5 **“What we will do for Gaelic in Economic Development.”**

1. Background

1.1 Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) and Council Officials are working in partnership in relation to three projects.

2 ‘Cuach na Cloinne’

2.1 Cuach na Cloinne is a national football competition for the Gaelic Primary Schools in Scotland. This year, 37 teams from 20 schools across the country took part in 5 regional competitions with the top 10 teams qualifying for the Finals, which were held at Bught Park, Inverness.

2.2 6 teams from various schools throughout the Highland Council area qualified for this year’s finals, with Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis, lifting the trophy for the second year running. The trophy was presented to the winning team by the Provost of Inverness Cllr Alex Graham. This year’s competition was funded by The Highland Council, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and MG ALBA.

3 Sgeama Greis Gnìomhachais - Students' Summer Placement Scheme

- 3.1 The scheme, which has been operating successfully for a number of years, gives Gaelic-speaking students the opportunity to work for 10 weeks with organisations engaged in Gaelic and community development activity.
- 3.2 As well as providing the students with employment, the scheme also gives them invaluable hands-on experience in the workplace, an opportunity to improve their Gaelic fluency, an insight into the roles of the different organisations, and all this, based in their own communities.
- 3.3 The Scheme also gives the students a working knowledge of the employment opportunities available across the Highlands, to young people with excellent Gaelic skills.
- 3.4 The scheme can also be of great benefit to employers who are able to take advantage of the students' skills over the summer months to the benefit of their organisation.
- 3.5 The scheme also enables employers to assess students with a view to future recruitment.
- 3.6 Students are paid a minimum of £200 a week with CnaG reimbursing the participating organisations to the level of 50% for students who are taking part in the scheme for the first time and 25% for students who have previously participated in the scheme.
- 3.7 This year's scheme was funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, The Highland Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

4. Community Initiatives in the Lochaber Area

- 4.1 CnaG and the Council are working in partnership to develop Gaelic activity in Lochaber under 4 key headings. This is implemented through a full-time Gaelic development officer, 0.5 FTE of which is funded by the Council under a contract arrangement with the other 0.5FTE being funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. This activity fits very closely with the general aims of the community and the local Gaelic initiative Iomairt Ghàidhlig Loch Abair which aims to grow the numbers of Gaelic speakers in the area and provide opportunities for young people to use Gaelic.
- 4.2 Council Officials focus on the following 4 areas:

0-3 Early Years provision in West Lochaber

- The officer has been delivering play sessions in both Mallaig and Acharacle for over one year now. This support is through the delivery of play sessions, supporting existing staff and sourcing potential new staff where they exist.

- 0-3 sessions were delivered in Acharacle twice a month and have been successful. A summer trip to Lochaber Rural centre with Acharacle group (about 20 children attended) was a great success.
- Gaelic sessions are delivered monthly to an English 0-3 group in Mallaig which has been very successful bringing in numbers of about 10-15 children. There is a significant challenge in identifying play leaders in the Mallaig area.

Support for Ùlpan Classes

- The officer delivers Gaelic learning through the Ùlpan method in Fort William and Ballachulish. In addition to identifying potential new tutors, the officer teaches the Gaelic classes. There are 4 weekday classes running in Lochaber (3 Fort William and 1 Ballachulish). A weekend class runs every second weekend for 2 classes at higher units. A certificate presentation event took place on the 26th of June. The Wednesday classes have been amalgamated into 1 class which has run every second Saturday with a tutor coming down from Inverness.

Support for Sgoil Ghàidhlig a' Ghearasdain

- The officer attends the stakeholders group for the new school and assists with general action points. A travel usage survey was completed and passed to Council officers and new funding was sourced for the local Comann nam Pàrant group to enable them to progress their planned community facilities which it is hoped will be adjacent to the school.

4.3 Funding for the Lochaber Community post was for Financial Years 12-13 and 13-14 only and the Council will be reviewing its engagement in the area, given the opening of Ft William Gaelic Primary School in 2015.

5. Current Status and Presentation

5.1 Mr Calum Iain Macleod, Development Director – CnaG, will give a presentation on each of the initiatives, this will give Members an overview of the developments and their impact on Gaelic development, especially relating to the Gaelic Language Plan, theme 1, 'What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and Communities'.

6. Next Steps

6.1 CnaG Officials and Council Officials will continue to work together to manage, organise and promote these initiatives as they bring many positive benefits to all the participants especially in enhancing their linguistic and employability skills.

7. Implications

7.1 There are no implications associated with this report at this time.

8.	Recommendations
8.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the presentation and agree to the continuation of the partnership to deliver within the three relevant Themes in the Gaelic Language Plan.• Agree that the Council officers explore how the Council might use a placement from The Students' Summer Placement Scheme.

Designation: **Director of Education, Culture and Sport**

Date: 31 July 2013

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