

**Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd
The Highland Council**

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 13 Samhain 2014
Gaelic Implementation Group – 13 November 2014**

Agenda Item	8
Report No	GIG 21/14

Forward Planner for 2015 Gaelic Implementation Group Agendas and Partner Presentations

Report by the Head of Policy and Reform

Summary

This Report provides Members with information on a selection of partners with whom the Council has regular contact and with whom we deliver elements of our Gaelic Language Plan. Appendix 1 proposes the Primary GLP Theme(s) to be reported on at each of the 2015 GIG Meetings; plus a schedule of partner organisation presentations to complement debate and discussion on the implementation of the Plan.

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- The Government's National Performance Outcomes
- National Gaelic Language Plan Outcomes
- 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.

1. Background

1.1 In implementing its objectives for Gaelic, the Council works in close collaboration with the Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and a range of organisations.

1.2 Some of the organisations with which the Council has recently worked with are:

- Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG)
- An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG)
- Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO)
- FilmG
- CLÌ Gàidhlig
- Skills Development Scotland (SDS)
- Fèisean nan Gàidheal (FnG)
- Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG)

2. Overview of Organisations

2.1 **Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG)**

Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG) was set up in February 2006, following the passing of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act), by the Scottish Parliament. BnG is directly responsible to the Scottish Ministers. BnG oversees the delivery of Scotland's National Gaelic Language Plan 2012-2017. The Plan includes strategies for increasing the number of Gaelic speakers, encouraging its use and facilitating access to Gaelic language and culture.

It includes priorities that other bodies and authorities should have regard to in respect of Gaelic matters and the preparation of Gaelic Language Plans. Council Members and Officials work in partnership with BnG whilst delivering the Councils Gaelic Plan 2012-17.

The Council maintains a positive relationship with BnG; with collaboration on many issues including projects part funded by the Bord's Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund.

2.2 **An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG)**

An Comunn is the oldest Gaelic Language organisation, founded in Oban in 1891. It has long been involved with the teaching, learning and use of the Gaelic language and the study and cultivation of Gaelic literature, history, music and art. Through the organisation and running of the Royal National Mòd and grass roots community development work, ACG continues to further its aim of supporting and developing all aspects of the Gaelic language, culture, history and heritage at local, national and international levels.

The Council has a Service Delivery Contract with ACG which primarily focusses on organising the Royal National Mod in the Highland Council area in 2014, 2017 and 2020. The 2014 Royal National Mod took place in Inverness between 10 and 18 October; and the 2017 event will be held in Lochaber. A Local Organising Committee was established in Inverness and we liaised closely with the LOC.

A Council-led Mod Liaison Group was also established which included Council Officials, Senior Staff from An Comunn Gàidhealach and representatives of the voluntary Local Organising Committee. The Mod Liaison Group proved to be an effective forum and was beneficial in relation to specific tasks, outcomes and general communication between the organisations and Committees.

The Highland Provincial Mods are based in Sutherland and Caithness, Lochaber, Ardnamurchan, Inverness, Isle of Skye, Wester Ross and South West Ross. They take place between 1 June and 28 September with the Mods in Inverness and Lochaber taking place over 2 days.

2.3 **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO)**

Founded in 1973, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig celebrated its 40th Anniversary last

year. SMO is Scotland's Gaelic College; and has modern, innovative facilities; and excellent learning resources on-campus including an exceptional library collection. It has state of the art broadcast and recording facilities, residential student accommodation plus Gaelic-medium childcare facilities.

In August 2011 the Council and SMO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and both organisations are working closely together on a suite of projects related to the MoU and related to adult education, teacher training and development and the arts media and culture.

The College plays a leading national and international role in the promotion of the Gaelic arts and culture and SMO hosts a programme of residencies for artists in music, literature and the visual arts. The College has also generated employment and a healthy demographic for the area. The Council and SMO work closely together in developing the village of Kilbeg to further re-vitalise the community in Sleat.

2.4 **FilmG**

FilmG is Scotland's national Gaelic film competition and is now established as one of the country's best platforms for getting Gaelic language films and talent showcased. The competition runs annually between August and January with two different categories; one for young people aged between 12 and 17 and one for Adults. Entry requirements stipulate that each film must be in Scottish Gaelic and between 3 - 5 minutes including credits and titles.

FilmG 2014 was launched at an event for teenagers in Staffin on the Isle of Skye. New to the 2014 competition is a Music Video competition in the Youth 12-17 category and the Gaelic Band MANRAN has agreed to let youngsters make films using their song Latha Math.

The Scottish Government and the Council presently provide support which enables FilmG to get out to communities and schools providing a variety of training that will enable people to make films. Since its launch six years ago, the project has gone from strength to strength with up to 75 short film entries each year.

2.5 **Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG)**

Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) was established in 1984 as a co-ordinating Gaelic Development Agency. CnaG has a Board of Directors which includes Original Members from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highland Council, HIE and An Comunn Gàidhealach.

CnaG has three operational areas - Western Isles, Scotland North and Scotland South and has offices in Inverness, Stornoway, and Glasgow. Council Officials are represented on Iomairt (Gaelic Community Development Partnerships) in Skye, Lochaber, and Inverness.

The Council works closely with CnaG on certain initiatives, such as community development, Cuach na Cloinne (the national Gaelic Primary School Football Competition) and Sgeama Greis Gniomhachais (the short term Work Placement Scheme).

2.6 **Clì Gàidhlig**

Clì Gàidhlig was established in 1984 to support the needs of adult Gaelic learners. Clì also facilitates courses, publishes a quarterly magazine; provides training and development opportunities, advice and assistance; and delivers events and projects.

The Council's Gaelic Team and Employee Development Unit are presently working with Clì Gàidhlig to scope out the possibility of organising a fresh round of Gaelic Courses and Gaelic in Business/Workplace courses for Members and Staff; and to assess the possibility of providing Gaelic classes across public sector organisations in Inverness.

Clì is also currently working with the Council on a Review of Gaelic Adult Learning opportunities across Highland

2.7 **Skills Development Scotland (SDS)**

The Council's Gaelic Team and the Development and Infrastructure Team are engaging with SDS in relation to partnership on the Economic Development Theme in GLP 2012-16. It is envisaged that data on the Gaelic Labour Market will be refreshed in order to develop a Gaelic Skills and Employment Partnership across several key economic and cultural sectors. Collaboration will also address careers advice, the "Pathways to Work" initiative; training and development information, language acquisition and national workforce planning.

Discussion has taken on potential future projects including training/apprenticeships in the early years sector and also about the potential for Gaelic in care homes. The Council has liaised with SDS about registration as an Independent Learning Account (ILA) Provider; in order for members of the public to use ILAs for Gaelic classes. The Council and SDS along with HIE and Bòrd na Gàidhlig also organised a Gaelic Careers event for Secondary School pupils on 31 October 2014.

2.8 **Fèisean nan Gàidheal (FnG)**

FnG was established in 1991 as the independent umbrella association of the Fèis movement. It offers a range of services to its members including grant-aid, training, insurance, and instrument loans. FnG is funded by the Highland Council, Creative Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

FnG is responsible for the running the Blas Festival, in partnership with the Council and the Touring Network, and it also supports individual Fèisean

across the Highlands and Islands as well as organising Cèilidh Trails. In 2014, the Council and FnG organised pilots of the Fèisgoil initiative; providing Gaelic learning in several Primary Schools in the Ft William and Thurso areas.

The Council has a Service Delivery Contract with FnG which is reviewed annually. Three Council Members sit on the Blas Festival Board and a Council Official attends Board Meetings.

3. Programme of Presentations from the above Partner Organisations

3.1 It is proposed that the above organisations or, if necessary, others also involved in the relevant sectors, are invited to give presentations to the Gaelic Implementation Group Meetings in 2015. These will also dovetail in with GLP Theme discussions.

3.2 The following is a proposed schedule of partner presentations and GLP discussions in 2014.

- February 2015 – Bòrd na Gàidhlig and An Comunn Gàidhealach.
- May 2015 – FilmG and Fèisean nan Gàidheal and.
- August 2015 – CLÌ Gàidhlig and Comunn na Gàidhlig.
- November 2015 – Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and Skills Development Scotland.

4. Implications

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

5. Recommendations

Members are invited to agree the 2015 Gaelic Implementation Group programme of business agendas and presentations in 3.2 above and in Appendix 1 below.

Designation: Head of Policy and Reform

Date: 30 October 2014

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APPENDIX 1

Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig - Gaelic Implementation Group

**Prògram Choinneamhan 2015 Programme of Meetings
Cuspairean is Taisbeanaidhean - Themes and Presentations**

Coinneamh - Meeting	Cuspair - Theme	Taisbeanadh Presentation
19 Gearran 19 February	Foghlam Education	Bòrd na Gàidhlig An Comunn Gàidhealach
28 Cèitean 28 May	Na h-Ealain, na Meadhanan agus Dualchas Arts, Media and Heritage	FilmG Fèisean nan Gàidheal
13 Lùnastal 13 August	Dachaigh agus Coimhearsnachd Home and Community	CLÌ Gàidhlig Comunn na Gàidhlig
12 Samhain 12 November	Àite-obrach & Leasachadh Eaconamach Workplace & Economic Development	Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Skills Development Scotland