

Agenda Item	<b>7</b>
Report No	<b>GIG 3/16</b>

**Buidheann Buileachaidh na Gàidhlig – 18 Gearran 2016  
Gaelic Implementation Group – 18 February 2016**

**Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16 - Draft Annual Implementation Report 2015-16  
Report by the Director of Care and Learning**

**Summary**

This Report provides Members with a draft, for approval, of the 2015-16 Annual Implementation Report in relation to the Council's Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16.

The Report contributes to the delivery of:

- The Scottish Government's National Performance Framework;
- The National Gaelic Language Plan;
- The Highland Single Outcome Agreement;
- 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's Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16.

**1. Background**

1.2 The Council's Statutory Gaelic Language Plan was approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on 18 September 2012 under the Gaelic Language Scotland Act 2005.

**2. The Gaelic Language Plan Annual Implementation Report**

2.1 The Gaelic Team submits an annual implementation report which details the progress of implementation regarding the key enabling action points in the Gaelic Language Plan.

2.2 The detailed report is for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 January 2016 and is appended for Members' approval.

2.3 Following Members' approval, the report will be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig as an operational update of the work and activities in relation to the implementation of the Gaelic Plan by the Gaelic Team.

**2. Recommendations**

Members are invited to:

- comment on the Draft Annual Implementation Report covering the period 1 January 2015 to 31 January 2016; and
- agree the Annual Implementation Report.

**Designation: Director of Care and Learning**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

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Margaret Mulholland, Shona Paterson, Dolina Grant, Jo Macdonald,  
Margaret McConnell, and Morag Anna MacLeod Mitchell.**

## **THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

### **Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16 Annual Implementation Report 1 January 2014 – 31 January 2015**

#### **Introduction**

The Highland Council is proud to support and promote the Gaelic language, through our delivery in education and training; in community engagement, learning and development; in the arts, media and heritage sectors; in the fields of Gaelic academic and linguistic innovation; and in cultural, tourism and economic development.

We are proud of our achievements in strengthening the language across education and public services and through events and initiatives which contribute to the educational, cultural and economic wellbeing of the Highlands. The Council is determined to increase the number of Gaelic speakers and significantly enhance the profile of Gaelic. To achieve our aspirations we have a strong focus on actions for our young people and families particularly in Education; and in the Home and in Communities.

We work to increase the use and profile of Gaelic within Council Services and we continue to work to strengthen and build Gaelic with a range of partner organisations across the Arts, Media and Heritage and the Economic Development sectors. The Council also works to ensure that the interests of Gaelic are taken into consideration within its spheres of influence including the Community Planning Partnership locally and the wider levels of Government beyond. We will always try to improve on our performance and delivery and, in the challenging economic climate ahead, we will do all we can to provide Gaelic with a strong, prosperous and sustainable future.

We are committed to reviewing our progress on growing and strengthening Gaelic; including through the preparation of Annual Reports on the implementation of the Plan.

#### **Policy Context**

The Highland Council prepared Scotland's first statutory Gaelic Language Plan in 2007 under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. The Council's second generation Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16, which was given statutory approval by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on 18 September 2012, builds on the ambitions within, and successful implementation of, the original Plan.

The Plan was prepared with wide public and partner consultation; and ensures clear linkages with the Scottish Government's National Performance Outcomes; the targets and outcomes of the National Gaelic Language Plan, and the Programme of The Highland Council 2012-17. The Plan also dovetails with continuing developments around Community Planning Partnership and Single Outcome Agreement initiatives.

#### **Delivery of the Plan**

The Gaelic Development Manager is responsible to the Chief Executive and the Director of Care and Learning for leading and managing the Council's Gaelic Language Plan across all Services within the Council. The Gaelic Development Manager, supported by the Gaelic Team, works particularly closely with the Head of Education and the Head of Policy and Reform to implement the Plan in key areas across Services; and externally. The Gaelic Development Manager has responsibility for the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan, and any related plans and policies, through inter-service working within the Council, working in close association with the Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and in collaboration with other external organisations and

Gaelic agencies.

The Council's Gaelic Team comprises the Gaelic Development Manager, Gaelic Development Officer, two Full Time Equivalent Gaelic Community Learning and Development Officers, a Senior Translations Officer and a Gaelic Education Resources Assistant.

The Gaelic Team's operational priorities are guided by the Strategic Aims, the Key Performance Results and the Enabling Actions outlined within the Plan. The Council continues to invest its own resources in Gaelic education, language and culture and, where appropriate, seeks to realign existing priorities and resources. The Council also provides Gaelic Translation and Corpus support and Gaelic Education Resources support from within the Gaelic Team and an overview of this work is included in this Annual Implementation Report.

The Council continues to explore all external partnership funding opportunities where appropriate. National funding streams, and a pragmatic partnership approach to delivery, have been of crucial importance to establishing and sustaining growth in Gaelic. The Council is strongly committed to a consensual and strategic national approach to Gaelic funding. Given the fiscal environment in which it operates, the Council is keen to explore imaginative and flexible funding approaches to support, for example, the establishment costs to facilitate growth across Gaelic Education provision.

#### Monitoring and Reporting on Implementation

The Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan 2012-16 covers Five Themes:

- Theme 1 - What we will do for Gaelic in the Home and in Communities
- Theme 2 - What we will do for Gaelic in Education
- Theme 3 – What we will do for Gaelic in the Workplace
- Theme 4 – What we will do for Gaelic in the Arts, Media & Heritage
- Theme 5 – What we will do for Gaelic in Economic Development

Implementation of the Plan is overseen by the Council's Gaelic Implementation Group (GIG) whose Membership is:

Mr H Fraser (Chair)

Mr D Fallows

Mr G Farlow

Mr C Fraser

Mr J Gordon

Mr J McGillivray

Mr K MacLeod

Mr F Parr

Mrs M E Paterson

Dr A Sinclair

Ms K Stephen

Substitute Members:

Mrs I Campbell

Mrs L Macdonald

Mr B Murphy

Mr T Prag

The GIG receives ongoing implementation Reports at its meetings through the year. In addition, GLP 2012-16 is part of Highland Council's suite of corporate frameworks so, in tandem with the scrutiny by the Gaelic Implementation Group, it is monitored through our Performance and Risk Management System (PRMS).

The five Themes in the Plan are underpinned by a range of associated Strategic Aims, Key Performance Results and Enabling Actions. The following outlines the Council's implementation actions, and ongoing delivery, across the Plan's Themes, from 1 January 2015 to 31 January 2016.

## **1. IMPLEMENTING THEME 1: WHAT WE WILL DO FOR GAELIC IN THE HOME AND IN COMMUNITIES**

The **Home and Communities** Theme has three Strategic Commitments.

**Strategic Commitment 1 - We will institute a pan Highland partnership to create resources to encourage and support parents or guardians in using Gaelic in the home.**

**Strategic Commitment 2 - We will provide language acquisition support in the home and community for pupils in Gaelic Medium Education.**

**Strategic Commitment 3 - We will play a principal role in establishing Community Partnership Development Plans around Gaelic Education provision in conjunction with parents and Gaelic organisations and based on the priorities in the National Gaelic Language Plan.**

Outlined below is an overview of implementation work across these.

### **Pre-school**

A very successful Gaelic Fun and Information Day organised by the Highland Councils Gaelic Team in partnership with Bòrd na Gàidhlig took place in the Fingal Centre Portree High School. Approximately 50 pre-school children and parents attended the event

A popular Fun day for Gaelic medium pupils and pre-school children took place in August in Nairn and this was followed up in October with a School Open Day.

A variety of Gaelic promotional days for parents and toddlers took place in **Fort William, Portree, Plockton, Strathy, Dunvegan, Newtonmore, Drumnadrochit** and **Tain**.

A variety of Fun Days for parents and toddlers were organised in **Inverness**; and a Gaelic medium information and family fun day for parents and for pre-school and primary children, was organised.

In Fort William with the opening of the new Gaelic school, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, the opportunity has been created to greatly improve transitions by basing all the Gaelic pre-school groups within the school campus. Through joint working with Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Parent and toddler group and the Croileagan (2 to 3) have now both been successfully re-established in the new school with very good numbers attending.

A successful and well-attended Book-Bug/songs session took place in **Thurso Library** in September 2015. This was organised by Hi-Life Highland and supported by Highland Council.

Coffee mornings took place in **BSGI** with a focus on introducing families to the school.

The 0-5 GM Parent and child group in **Lochcarron** continued to be supported and we had 7 children registered at the end of the January 2016. In addition, the Gaelic Medium weekly taster session continues to run successfully in the with 8 pre-school children attending weekly.

## Primary and Secondary Schools

We organised a wide programme of activities which provided young people with opportunities to use Gaelic in non-classroom situations. We managed and supported **Homework Clubs** in **Fort William, Portree, Plockton, Dingwall, Nairn** and **Inverness** and **Gairloch**; these provided further linguistic support to GM children from non-Gaelic speaking homes.

We organised 3 story telling writing workshops in **Lochcarron primary** which were attended by both Gaelic and English medium pupils. The story telling workshops were run by an established local Gaelic author.

Events were also organised to support and encourage GM Primary to Secondary transition. In **Skye**, the annual Gaelic Medium Primary 7 event was organised in June 2015 and 28 GM P.7 pupils participated. This facilitated participation in outdoor activities through Gaelic, to enable the pupils to interact and engage with their Secondary school GM peers.

A residential trip to Skye was organised for P7 pupils from Inverness and Nairn which helped to establish links between pupils from both schools and also to enhance opportunities to use Gaelic in an informal environment.

With the help of GLAIF funding, a Gaelic medium Saturday sports club, Club Spòrs, started up at **Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar** at the end of October. Almost 40 children signed up to participate in a full range of sporting activities. Two of the sports leaders are former GM pupils themselves. This Club will continue until the end of June 2016.

In addition, with the assistance of Bòrd na Gàidhlig funding, regular Gaelic Drama inputs into both **Mallaig Primary** and **Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar** has taken place with older Gaelic speakers from the community being invited into the schools to share their life-stories. This inter-generational work culminated in performances in both schools at the end of term.

The Council, in partnership with **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig**, organised the annual week long youth residential event - **Seachdain nan Deugairean** - for Gaelic Secondary School pupils. In March 2015 27 fluent and 17 learner pupils had the opportunity to attend the event; which offered the pupils workshops in **Media skills, Drama and Outdoor Education** activities. Pupils attended from **Portree** and **Mallaig High Schools**.

Young people in **Inverness Gaelic Drama** group took part in the National Theatre Connections Festival, culminating in a performance held in **Eden Court**, Inverness in April 2015. The drama group has increased membership with 12 young people now taking part from **Culloden Academy, Dingwall Academy, Fortrose Academy and Inverness Royal Academy**. The drama group runs on a regular weekly basis.

As a follow up to the previous year's Gaelic residential trip to **Donegal and Belfast** for secondary pupils, a funding application was successfully made for a return trip. This will further develop links made with Gaelscoil na bhFál in Belfast and links with Donegal. This trip is scheduled to happen March'16.

Older Secondary pupils, S5 upwards and college students are encouraged to help at after-school activities and clubs. In conjunction with Highlife Highland the new Basketball Club which started at BSGI is now held weekly and the group takes part in the Basketball Tournament held regularly for local Primary schools. Other after school clubs such as Shinty and football continue to run weekly.

Following on from the successful “Siuthad” Gaelic Careers Days in 2013 and 2014, a partnership group involving **Highland Council, Skills Development Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and HIE** intend to run two events this year. One will take place in Skye at **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig** on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2016 and the other is planned for **Eden Court**, Inverness on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2016. This event will involve second and third year Gaelic learners as well as Gaelic Medium pupils.

The Council received funding support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, in order to continue to develop a post that builds community and parental **links around Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis as well as growing development in the North area**. This project also linked through to Inverness Royal Academy, in order to support pupils and parents at the crucial Primary to Secondary educational transition phase

## **Adult Learning and Community Engagement**

The Council engaged in a wide range of Gaelic development activity across Highland communities. This is delivered both directly by the Council Gaelic Team and also through the Gaelic Team engaging with local and national partners, organisations and agencies to develop and deliver local community Gaelic Plans with a focus on early years, adult learning, youth and community projects.

We continued to undertake advisory, support and familiarisation sessions for parents and potential parents of GM pupils. We worked in partnership with **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig** and the **CLAD Gaelic Management Review Group** to deliver the 2015 annual Gaelic Family Week in **Sleat**. 45 parents attended adult learning classes, 14 children under the age of 4 attended local Gaelic childcare facilities and 46 GM pupils attended a week long play scheme. In 2012 there were 111 participants. In 2013 there were 135 participants. In 2014 there were a total of 125 participants.

The Council organised Gaelic Adult Learning opportunities through the Ùlpan system and other Classes, for over **200 people**. These included the parents of children in GME and classes were organised across **Inverness, Newtonmore, Nairn, Drumnadrochit, Balnain, Fort William, Dingwall, Portree, Auchtertyre, Ullapool, and Thurso and Bettyhill**. This work is ongoing and, with support from the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF), is targeted for further expansion.

Drama has been introduced into some of the Gaelic classes in order to build confidence and fluency. One of the Drumnadrochit classes put on a short performance in Balnain Hall . In Fort William one of the adult learner classes benefited from 8 visits by Arthur Donald. Together they worked on a short film for Film G and the production of a radio play.

Demand for adult Gaelic classes means continual pressure to attract and train new tutors. The Highland Council Gaelic team organised a **Gaelic Tutor Training** Residential Event which took place in Inverness between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15th March 2015. This event involved training 10 Gaelic tutors from across Highland. It brought new young tutors together with more experienced tutors and enabled the sharing of knowledge and information as well as introducing new ideas and resources.

The Highland Council in Partnership with the Gaelic Agency Stòrlann are developing an online course for Gaelic medium parents based on The Highland Council Gaidhlig Dachaigh course. The first part of the course will cover language support for parents who have children in the Gaelic Early Years sector and the second phase will cover the primary age sector.

A public awareness raising event was held in Fort William on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May called “**Lochaber’s Gaelic Landscape –how well do you know it?**” which focussed on the Gaelic meanings behind Lochaber’s mountains, rivers and place names. A similar event took place in Drumnadrochit in

August. These events stimulated local interest and resulted in new learners joining the local adult education classes.

Partnership work with local community groups has also resulted in regular Cofaidh is Crac sessions and a Gaelic Learning weekend taking place in Badenoch and Strathspey.

### **South Area Adult Gaelic Classes – January to December 2015**

#### **Inverness-**

January to June 2015.  
8 classes. 59 students.

#### **Fort William**

January to June 2015  
3 classes. Beginners – 5. Intermediate – 6, Conversation -5

#### **Drumnadrochit**

January to June 2015  
Intermediate – 6 students.

**Balnain** – 3 students.

#### **Nairn**

April 2015. Beginners – 12.

Total - 96

#### **Inverness**

August to December 2015.  
60 students enrolled in 8 classes including a new Gaelic Grammar class.

#### **Drumnadrochit**

September 2015 –Beginners 6 students. Intermediate -8

**Balnain** -4 students .

#### **Fort William**

September 2015. Beginners -14. Intermediate – 8.Conversation – 10

Total -110

### **North Area Adult Gaelic Classes – to end of January 2016**

**Auchtertyre.** One Ùlpan class continued with 5 students completing the course in December 2015. A monthly Cearcall Còmhradh conversation group for Gaelic learners has been established in February 2015 and is held in Auchtertyre. A Cearcall Còmhradh conversation group for Gaelic learners in the Lochalsh area continues to meet monthly; numbers vary every month ranging from 4 to 6 learners attending.

**Portree:** August to December 2015

1 Beginners' Conversation Class with (9 Gaelic medium parents)

1 Lower Intermediate Conversation Class with 7 students (5 Gaelic medium parents)

1 Gaelic Book Club for advanced learners in the Portree area continues to meet monthly for post with 8 students attending.

#### **Assynt.**

Assynt Learning Centre, Lochinver: - Classes continue to be provided with financial support to enable the continuation of the existing two classes.

Beginners Gaelic Group – Local Gaelic Place Names Project- this new class began October '15 for those interested in finding out more about the local Gaelic place names around Assynt leading to an introduction to Beginners' Gaelic learning.

**Ullapool.** An intermediate Gaelic class started in October 2014 focussing on revision. A range of non-Úlpan community based classes was offered, where this was the preferred option; or where there was a specific request for parental classes. For example, the annual **Gaelic Family Learning Week on Skye** was open to all Gaelic Medium parents in Highland and was held week beginning the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2015.

**Dingwall.** In Dingwall, three community based classes are ongoing. An advanced conversational class; a beginner's conversational class with more than 50% of attendees Gaelic Medium parents; and an intermediate post-Standard Grade class has seven students enrolled.

**Caithness.** August to December 2015

A Parents' class continued in **Thurso** with 8 parents attending, and is specifically aimed for the parents of Gaelic Medium children in both pre-school and primary provision.

We continue to support the Gaelic community based courses which started in **Wick** and in **Thurso**. Both classes are successful and continuing into the 2015-16 session with 9 Gaelic learners attending in **Wick** and 15 attending in **Thurso**. A beginner's conversational class started in **Bettyhill** in August 2015 and has 5 students registered.

This year, Gaelic classes specifically aimed at supporting the parents of Gaelic Medium pupils were also organised in **Newtonmore, Drumnadrochit, Inverness, and Thurso**.

### **Adult Literacy Provision for Fluent Gaelic Speakers**

An Adult Literacy course for fluent speakers was developed in partnership with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to deliver a pilot course for Gaelic Adult fluent speakers in the Inverness and Skye areas. The Inverness course entitled Leugh is Sgriobh ran for 9 weeks between April and June 2015 with 12 students participating. Feedback from the students has been excellent. The second phase of the pilot will take place in the Skye area in February 2016.

### **Adult Achievement Awards**

The Adult Achievement Award is a national award scheme, developed by Newbattle Abbey College in partnership with Education Scotland and SCQF. It is based on the Youth Achievement Award model and is offered at SCQF levels 3, 4 and 6. The Highland Council Gaelic team was invited to participate in piloting the scheme and a tutor in Inverness and one in Skye, have undergone the relevant training. 9 adult Gaelic learners completed the Award at level 3 in December 2015 and will be presented for the award in March 2016.

### **Review of Gaelic Adult Learning Provision in Scotland**

Given the importance that the Council places on opportunities for Gaelic Adult Learning and the commitments in GLP 12-16, we are engaging with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and a range of other partners in a National Working Group which is reviewing the delivery of, and the demand for, Gaelic Adult Learning across Scotland.

This is linked to the recent survey carried out in Highland which was undertaken to ensure that we deliver Gaelic Adult Education opportunities that are appropriate for increasing learner numbers and which suit the needs of our communities and of current and prospective students.

This National Working Group on Gaelic Adult Learning is particularly important with regard to non-Gaelic speaking parents of GM pupils, and the work fulfils obligations in both the National and Highland Gaelic Language Plans.

### **3. IMPLEMENTING THEME 3: WHAT WE WILL DO FOR GAELIC IN THE ARTS, MEDIA AND HERITAGE**

Theme 3 has three Strategic Commitments.

#### **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.**

#### **Strategic Commitment 2.**

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

#### **Strategic Commitment 3.**

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

Outlined below is an overview of implementation work across these.

#### **National Gaelic Arts Strategy**

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is currently preparing for the next National Gaelic Plan. They will host a day seminar on 17 March in Edinburgh to meet with key stakeholders and interested individuals to discuss the next national plan this will include discussions on future developments for Gaelic arts and culture.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Creative Scotland remain in close contact regarding strategic developments in Gaelic arts and culture. Creative Scotland is currently developing their Arts Strategy which will take into account development and commitment to Gaelic arts and culture.

There are interesting developments happening in contemporary Gaelic Arts including the touring of the play Shrapnel by Theatre gu Leòr; the focus on cross genre musical collaborations with Griogair Labhruidh and Afro Celt Sound System; Gaelictronica event at CCA mid Feb.

#### **BBC/MG ALBA**

BBC ALBA is now into its 8th year. The channel can be viewed in Scotland on Freeview Channel 8 and all over the UK on satellite, cable and online on BBC iPlayer.

The channel reaches some 15% of Scotland's adult population weekly, and has around 100,000 programme views per week on the iPlayer.

Three out of four users of Gaelic in Scotland tune into BBC ALBA every week, watching for some 5 hours per week. For Gaelic speakers, the weekday News show 'An Là' is the most appreciated programme, reaching some 40% of Gaelic users each week and attaining very high approval levels. 'An Là' is anchored from Inverness.

Sport, music and documentaries continue to perform strongly for the channel, with events such as Belladrum providing welcome summer viewing at a time when all TV schedules face the greatest challenge with viewers.

A significant breakthrough was made in drama this year and last with some 18 half-hour episodes of Bannan being produced for the channel on location in Skye by Young Films, a Skye-based production company. The drama has achieved much viewer appreciation and has enabled a

significant amount of creative writing as well as high-end talent and skills development. It was part-funded by Creative Scotland (15%).

MG ALBA continue to work closely with HIE to foster economic growth and entrepreneurship in the creative sector in the area.

MG ALBA continue to work closely with the Gaelic Team and the Chair of the Gaelic Implementation Group Cllr Hamish Fraser submitted a response to the BBC Trust Consultation Document.

### **The LearnGaelic.net**

The LearnGaelic.net website has high levels of participation and usage. LearnGaelic.net is a one-stop shop for anyone interested in learning Gaelic. MG Alba, the BBC, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Board of Celtic Studies Scotland and SMO are key partners

The website has seen increasing levels of participation and usage, due to the application of dedicated resource to it. [www.LearnGaelic.net](http://www.LearnGaelic.net) is a one-stop shop for anyone interested in learning Gaelic. MG ALBA, the BBC, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Board of Celtic Studies Scotland and SMO are key partners.

### **Blas Festival 2015**

The Blas 2015 Blas Festival, a partnership between Fèisean nan Gàidheal and The Highland Council, was launched on June 11th with music, milestones and memories as the hallmark of the 11th annual event.

Blas 2015 marked special anniversaries and milestones enhanced by a 'blas' of Scottish produce, celebrating food and drink. Fèis Spè celebrated its 25th anniversary, as did the Kiltarn Fiddlers, established under the auspices of Fèis Rois. World-renowned band Shoogenlifty marked their own 25th anniversary at The Ironworks in Inverness with Hò-ro and Niteworks.

Runrig has had a major influence on Gaelic song and some of those songs, written by founder member brothers Calum and Rory MacDonald, featured in a specially commissioned event "Òran: A celebration of the songs of Runrig" in the Grand Finale of Blas 2015.

One of the anniversaries marked was in the "Shinty's Heroes: The Pipes Come Home" show in the centenary year of the infamous Battle of Festubert, where Highland soldiers lost their lives. A set of pipes belonging to a notable shinty player from Beaulieu, Donald Paterson, killed by a sniper in the battle, returned to Beaulieu to be played by Duncan MacGillivray of Calrossie as part of a unique commemoration.

Amongst the other top acts were Dick Gaughan, Macanta, J.P. Cormier from Canada, The Scottish Traditional Song Collective, Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, The Alan Kelly Gang with special guests Eddi Reader and John Douglas. Gaelic singers included Anne Lorne Gillies, Cathy Ann MacPhee, Julie Fowles, Kathleen MacInnes and Mairi MacInnes. Margaret Stewart with Ingrid Henderson & Angus Nicolson and Eilidh Mackenzie with Anna Massie & Mairead Green also appeared.

Session A9 made their only Highland appearances at the festival - in Wick and in Sleat. There was also a series of céilidh dances at various locations with top dance bands including the Fergie MacDonald band in Strathy, and the Robert Nairn Band in Broadford. House Céilidhs were held in a number of private homes, giving visitors a unique insight to Highland hospitality.

### **Schools and Communities Programme**

In partnership with High Life Highland, the Blas Festival delivered a schools and community programme featuring a series of writing, drama and music workshops as well as musical performances from Blas artists. 'A Meanbh Chuileag' play based on the History of Scotland also toured Gaelic medium school across the Highlands during the festival.

### Care Homes and Hospitals

The festival continued its partnership with Live Music Now to bring performances into care home and hospitals.

### Evaluation

In all, 13,077 attended Blas events recording a 91% satisfaction rating. Around 47% of the audience at main concerts were visitors to the Highlands, with approximately 7% having come to the area specifically for Blas events.

### Fèis Rois

Fèis Rois is unique within the wider Fèisean movement in that it is:

- Not run by volunteers and has a paid staff team managed by a Board of Directors
- Working in the formal education sector as well as in the community;
- Delivering a specialist programme of work for young people with additional support needs
- Working out-with the 8 – 18 age group and, in particular, has a successful Adult Learning programme that contributes to CLD;
- Working to a national remit wider than Ross & Cromarty;
- Leading on a number of national initiatives, including Time to Shine and the Highland Youth Arts Hub;
- Recognised internationally

2014/15 Fèis Rois. Fèis Rois is one of only 119 organisations to be awarded Regular Funded Organisation (RFO) status by Creative Scotland for the period 2015-2018. Fèis Rois has also created a new Business Plan which will strengthen, expand and challenge their existing core programme in the 2015 – 2020.

One of the key highlights for Fèis Rois this year has been taking on the role of lead applicant in a consortium of 12 partners to secure funding over 2 years (2014 – 2016) to develop a new Youth Arts Hub for Highland. A Project Manager was appointed for the Highland Youth Arts Hub. They are working with colleagues across youth work and the arts and creative industries to deliver the Scottish Government's National Youth Arts Strategy, *Time to Shine*, in the Highlands.

Through Highland Youth Arts Hub funding Fèis Rois worked in partnership with Moniack Mhor, Scotland's Creative Writing Centre, to give vulnerable young people the opportunity to work with a team of professional musicians, a writer and a sound engineer in September 2014. The young people were able to explore different aspects of their lives through song writing, spoken word and film making. This project was hugely successful with another residential project is being planned for 2015.

They work with international partnerships continue to develop each year with Fèis Rois successfully completing the second year of an exchange project with the National Celtic Festival in Australia. Two Fèis Rois Officials travelled to Australia with 4 young musicians from Fèis Rois and hosted a young musician from Australia on a 3-month placement in Dingwall. Fèis Rois has also formed a new partnership with the International Celtic Colours Festival in Canada which they are looking at taking forward in the near future.

The Voyage of the Hector, has been successful with performances at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Blas Festival, as well as in Canada and Australia. They received sponsorship from Ullapool Harbour Trust and this attracted match funding from Arts & Business.

Fèis Rois is providing opportunities for people of all ages to develop their music skills and confidence through performance and a wide variety of performance platforms, these have included; An Comunn Gàidhealach to deliver an extensive programme of 17 Fringe performances as part of The Royal National Mòd and Blas performances in Strathpeffer and Torridon.

Fèis Rois continues to offer a wide range of opportunities for young people and adults to learn to play a musical instrument and to connect with Scottish and Gaelic traditional music and culture. They have a weekly class programme with new classes in Muir of Ord, as well as the continuation of classes in Dingwall, Fortrose, Evanton, Lochcarron and Ullapool.

The education programme also continues to develop and Fèis Rois is pleased to be working in partnership with Fèisean nan Gàidheal, to deliver Youth Music Initiative programmes.

Through the Access to Music Making, YMI Creative Scotland project fund, Fèis Rois has had the opportunity to develop their work with young people with additional support needs in Highland Council, Aberdeenshire, Dumfries and Galloway and Stirling. In partnership with the Council have been working in partnership with the Highland Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Celtic Connections and Edinburgh Council in the creation of a new traditional and Gaelic music, song, story and dance app for Early Years, the app will be launched in the not too distant future.

### **Fèis Rois has developed a Strategic and Artistic Plan 2015/16**

Fèis Rois's Strategic and Artistic Plan for 2015/16 meets the Scottish Government's Strategic Objectives and National Outcomes:

- **Wealthier and Fairer:** Providing employment opportunities for 100+ freelance artists during the year; investing in youth employment; providing 6 FTE jobs in the Highlands; tackling inequalities by supporting young people living in areas of rural, social & economic deprivation;
- **Safer and Stronger:** Building community through our work across Ross-Shire;
- **Smarter:** Providing learning opportunities to support people of all ages to develop the four capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence;
- **Greener:** Developing the use of online resources; working with SNH to promote the environment;
- **Healthier:** Promoting health & well-being by encouraging people of all ages to participate in music-making and artistic activities.

The plan also addresses several of the development areas outlined in the National Gaelic Language Plan 2012-2017, including providing opportunities for people to develop skills and use the Gaelic language in:

- Education
- Communities
- The Workplace
- The Arts

Column 3 highlights the ways in which the Fèis Rois Strategic and Artistic Plan meets Creative Scotland's ambitions and connecting themes of:

- Excellence & Experimentation is valued and recognised (Excellence & Experimentation)
- Everyone can access and enjoy artistic and creative experiences (Access)
- Places and quality of life are transformed (Place)
- Ideas are brought to life by a diverse, skilled and connected leadership and workforce (Leadership & Workforce)
- Scotland is a distinctive creative nation connected to the world (International)
- Creative Learning

- Equalities & Diversity
- Digital
- Environment

### **Memorandum of Understanding SMO**

The Council has a Memorandum of Understanding with SMO and the Gaelic Team work closely with SMO on specific developments; we continue to meet quarterly to implement joint projects.

### **Hands Up for Trad' – Traditional Music Hall of Fame**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame event, which is run by 'Hands Up for Trad' in partnership with Blas, took place at Inverness Airport on September 11, the event is dedicated to giving acknowledgement and recognition to musicians and industry people who, by their dedication and work, have supported and influenced the development of Scottish traditional music during their lives. The 2015 event featured music from Rona Lightfoot and students from the UHI. Launched at the Scots Trad' Music Awards in December 2005, the membership of the Hall of Fame is added to annually.

### **The 2017 Lochaber Royal National Mod**

The Royal National Mod (RNM) is organised annually by An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG). Under the terms of a Service Delivery Contract, the RNM will be held in the Highland area in 2014, 2017 and 2020. The Gaelic Team are supporting the Local Organising Committee and work has commenced to support pupils in the Lochaber area who aim to participate in the competitions.

### **Ainmean Àite na h-Alba**

Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba (AÀA) - Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland - is the national advisory partnership for Gaelic place-names in Scotland. The purpose is to agree correct forms of Gaelic place-names for maps, signs and general use. They draw on the expertise of the partner organisations, local knowledge and historical sources to agree authoritative forms of Gaelic place-names. To ensure consistent spelling they use established principles such as the Gaelic Orthographic Conventions and the guidance they have produced on Gaelic place-names.

They work closely with the Gaelic Team, with Ordnance Survey and other public bodies.

The work completed names for the Council, The Scottish Parliament, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, SNH, Glen Nevis Holidays, CRP, Transport Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, AECOM, OS, Sleat Community Trust, BBC, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, Bear Scotland, Glaschu Beò and Argyll & Bute Council. This includes core-path lists from A&B Council and Names for Gaelic Language Plan Maps for BnaG.

AÀA also launched their latest booklet with SNH on the Place-name of Strath, Isle of Skye in September and received an award for our involvement in the booklet at the Gaelic Awards in November. The award was for Community, Heritage and Tourism.

AÀA received 141 enquiries, 749 names for 2015/16 (April-December 2015). The total number of enquires to date is 1,287 with 8,472 names.

### **Cuach na Cloinne 2015 – The Children's Football Cup**

Cuach na Cloinne is a football competition for P4-7 pupils currently attending Gaelic Medium Education, and in this year's competition 49 teams from 24 schools took part.

Regional competitions were held in Lewis, Uist, Skye, Inverness, Oban and Glasgow with the successful teams from these regional competitions all meeting at the national finals in Inverness.

The following teams from the Highland Council area took part in Cuach na Cloinne this year, Millbank, (1) Newtonmore (1) BSGI (4,) Craighill (2) Ullapool (1) Kilmuir and Staffin (2), Broadford (3), Portree (2), Sleat (2), Ath charrachail (2), Fort William (2).

This year's Cuach na Cloinne trophy was presented to the winners by Inverness City Deputy Provost Bet McAllister.

### **FilmG 2015**

FilmG is a national short film digital participation competition project run by Cànan Ltd., (based at SMO) for MG ALBA.

FilmG had its highest number of entries since it was first launched in 2008. The 79 submissions include 51 to the youth category. Pupils from Secondary Schools across the Highlands submitted entries which were shortlisted for the awards ceremony in Glasgow on 27 March 2015, with winners from the Highland area.

### **FilmG 2016**

MG ALBA's digital participation project FilmG has enjoyed its best year for entries, with significant levels of participation from schools in the Highlands. As well as providing an awards ceremony for those nominated, the project supports the Curriculum for Excellence through provision of 2-day workshops aimed at enabling teams of young people to create new short films.

This year 54 films which is the largest entry received in the Youth category. Pupils from Secondary Schools across the Highlands submitted entries which will be shortlisted for the awards ceremony in Glasgow on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016. The following schools in Highland submitted films for the FilmG Competition and some of the schools submitted 2 and 3 films:- Gairloch, Ullapool, Tain, Alness, IRA, Culloden, Milburn, Ardnamurchan, Lochaber, Mallaig, Plockton and Portree.

All the films can be viewed online the Council is liaising with FilmG in relation to press and promotion.

Two of the youngsters that have been shortlisted are from Skye. Ross McKenzie from Sleat wrote, shot and starred in his own mini gangster film, 'An t-Sireadh' (The Search). He has been shortlisted for both Best Young Filmmaker and Best Mobile Short.

Alice Dickson, from Braes, has been shortlisted for Best Young Filmmaker with her documentary 'A' Cumail Gàidhlig Beò' (Keeping Gaelic Alive). She interviewed local Gaelic speakers about the importance of the language today.

In the Open category, Kirsty Scott, a teacher at Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis submitted a film. Her film, which she made with her P7 class, has been shortlisted for the Best Community Film, the Best Drama and the lead actress, Kirsty O' Reilly, has also been shortlisted for her performance in the film. Further information is available on <http://filmg.co.uk/gd/>

### **Fèisean nan Gàidheal (FnG)**

Fèisean nan Gàidheal was established in 1991 as the independent umbrella association of the Fèis movement. It is a company limited by guarantee and is funded by The Highland Council, Creative Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Highlands & Islands Enterprise. It is one

of Creative Scotland's Regularly Funded Organisations having been awarded £1.4m for the years 2015-18.

The Council has a Service Delivery Contract with FnG to manage, support and deliver Fèisean activities across the Highlands. FnG runs, organises and manages a wide and varied range of activities and events. They also work in partnership with other organisations to deliver many Gaelic arts and language related projects. The following is a summary of activities in the Highland area.

Around 14,000 young people annually participate in activities supported by FnG, 5,500 of which take part in the Fèisean themselves. Around 4,600 take part in Youth Music Initiative classes organised by local Fèisean, through a contract with The Highland Council.

There are currently 21 Fèisean in the Highlands which are members of FnG: Fèis an Earraich (Isle of Skye), Fèis Lochabair (Lochaber), Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan (Ardnamurchan), Fèis Chataibh (Sutherland), Fèis a' Bhealaich (Applecross), Fèis Rois Oigridh (Ullapool), Fèis Rois nan Deugairean (Ullapool), Fèis Eige (Eigg), Fèis Ghallaibh (Caithness), Fèis Farr (Farr/Sutherland), Fèis na h-Òige (Inverness), Fèis air an Òir (North Coast), Fèis Ghleann Albainn (Fort Augustus/Great Glen), Fèis Thròndairnis (Staffin), Fèis a' Bhaile (Inverness), Fèis Òigridh na Mara (Mallaig), Fèis Inbhir Narann (Nairn), Fèis Spè (Speyside), Fèis a' Chaolais (Inverness), Fèis na Apainne (Appin) and Fèis an Iar Thuath (Scourie).

FnG continues to deliver services and activities to Fèisean such as funding, training, resources and support from a team of Development Officers. The organisation also involves young people in an archiving project, 'Fuaran', to engage them with the collection and performance of traditional Gaelic songs.

### **Fèisgoil**

FnG's Fèisgoil service is developing and combines formal education work and additional contract agreements with local authorities and public bodies to deliver Gaelic drama, a Gaelic pantomime, Gaelic tuition in primary schools, a Gaelic Drama Summer School and the Youth Music Initiative work in Highland, Renfrewshire and other local authority areas.

As highlighted earlier in the report FnG is responsible for the running of the Blas Festival in partnership with The Highland Council and also supports Fèisean that organise Cèilidh Trails which played to around 20,000 during 2014-15, including several high profile events such as the Commonwealth Games and Ceòl nam Fèis showcases at Blas, the Traditional Music Awards in Inverness and Celtic Connections.

The link below includes a comprehensive detailed Annual Report.

<http://www.feisean.org/wp-content/uploads/FnGAnnualReport15.pdf>

### **Care Homes and Hospitals**

In partnership with 'Live Music Now', 'Music in Hospitals, and An Comunn Gàidhealach they delivered music performances at a range of Care Homes and Hospitals and the Highland Hospice as well as entertainment which patients are not able to access elsewhere.

### **Drama Workshops with Eden Court Creative**

The Schools and Communities Programme also included drama work in schools with professionals from Eden Court delivering a series of workshops.

Key findings from audience feedback included:

- ✓ Their audience has continued to grow and they aim to carefully expand and develop the festival content year on year and the growth in audience numbers suggests that

they are on the right track. However the statistics for age groups attending suggest they need to find new ways of attracting the youth audience (14 to 25) although they are well catered for in the schools and communities programme, in partnership with High Life Highland.

- ✓ Their overall rating has remained steady at 4.6 out of a possible 5, equating to a 92% average satisfaction across the 3 key elements defined by Blas, being Enjoyment, Value for Money and the use of the Gaelic language in event delivery.
- ✓ A separate question asking whether the festival had made a person more appreciative of the Gaelic language returned a very positive 75% Yes, which is hugely significant.
- ✓ For 50% of respondents Blas was 'quite important' in their decision to visit Scotland.
- ✓ 15% of respondents stayed in paid accommodation during their visit to Blas.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTING THEME 4: WHAT WE WILL DO FOR GAELIC IN THE WORKPLACE**

Theme 4 has three **Strategic Commitments**.

**Strategic Commitment 1 - We will increase Gaelic usage and the profile of the Gaelic language and internal Gaelic services, across the Council.**

**Strategic Commitment 2 - We will identify and provide developmental opportunities for Members and officers to learn Gaelic or improve their Gaelic skills.**

**Strategic Commitment 3 - We will increase the use and profile of Gaelic in dealings with external partners, stakeholders and contacts**

Outlined below is an overview of implementation work across these.

**Strategic Commitment 1 - We will increase Gaelic usage and the profile of the Gaelic language and internal Gaelic services, across the Council.**

The Council's **Service Plan Guidance** now stresses the status of our Gaelic Language Plan and the importance of factoring Gaelic into each Service's policy initiative consideration. Gaelic is a Corporate Governance Priority; and all Services are required to include Gaelic as one of the overarching principles from the corporate commitments in their Service Plan.

The Customer Service Manager, Digital Services Manager and the Gaelic Team worked together to include a Gaelic Greeting followed by the Council's standard salutation in English. This required greetings in Gaelic being recorded in digital format which was digitally enhanced for use on the phone. Digital Services then applied the new sound files. The Gaelic Team are currently liaising with the Team Leaders to train Service Centre staff to learn and pronounce the Gaelic Greetings.

**Strategic Commitment 2 - We will identify and provide developmental opportunities for Members and officers to learn Gaelic or improve their Gaelic skills.**

An All-Staff Gaelic Skills Audit/Survey was planned, to take place in the Autumn of 2015, but due to various other mitigating factors it was decided to postpone the survey until a more appropriate time.

**Strategic Commitment 3 - We will increase the use and profile of Gaelic in dealings with external partners, stakeholders and contacts**

In December 2014, the Council commenced a Short Life Working Group with Bòrd na Gàidhlig, to establish how to most effectively embed Gaelic within the Single Outcome Agreement; across the

Community Planning Partnership (CPP). We have prepared a Report for the CPP Board in March 2015 that included a Statement of Ambition for Gaelic for the CPP.

We are in discussions with HIE and SDS to collaborate on a collegiate approach to delivering Gaelic Adult Learning/Training within public sector organisations in Inverness. This exercise is to explore the possibility of undertaking joint development work on Gaelic. If organisations are able to pool staff on Gaelic language courses or other training or awareness delivery, joining together to provide courses/training may make them more cost effective to organise and may provide larger, more sustainable Learner numbers.

The Gaelic Implementation Group has agreed 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. Further work on this is being undertaken with SDS, SFC and with the Service Improvement Team for Old People, within the Care & Learning Service in 2015.

We are also aware that the Blas Festival maintains strong community links with concerts in hospitals and care homes in association with the charity Music in Hospitals. Music in Hospitals Scotland is a charity whose mission is to improve the quality of life for adults and children with all kinds of illness and disability through the joy and therapeutic benefits of professionally performed live music in hospitals, hospices, day care centres, special schools, nursing and residential homes.

## **5. IMPLEMENTING THEME 5: WHAT WE WILL DO FOR GAELIC IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Theme 5 has two Strategic Commitments.

### **Strategic Commitment 1**

**We will create and support initiatives which strengthen the use and profile of Gaelic within general economic development and tourism in the Highlands.**

### **Strategic Commitment 2**

**We will work with partners to develop strategies for the Gaelic jobs markets, including careers advice, skills acquisition, further and higher education and work experience opportunities.**

Outlined below is an overview of implementation work across these.

### **Strategic Commitment 1**

**We will create and support initiatives which strengthen the use and profile of Gaelic within general economic development and tourism in the Highlands.**

We continued to take opportunities to increase the profile of Gaelic in commercial and retail developments and this was helped by the positive relations between colleagues in the Gaelic and the Development and Infrastructure Teams.

The Blas Festival had numerous events in the Highland area. The Traditional Music Hall of Fame event took place at the Airport in Inverness in September, and the Deputy Provost Cllr Jean Slater presented the awards and represented the Council. Highlights from the event were broadcast on BBC ALBA.

We continue to liaise with colleagues internally and with Ainmean Àite na h-Alba (Gaelic Place-Names of Scotland) to provide Gaelic names for housing and commercial developments.

We continued to **maximise the economic opportunities provided by Gaelic cultural, media and arts events; and we will continue to foster and nurture excellent relations with high profile premier Gaelic cultural events such as the Blas Festival.** Whilst the profile and growth of the language is paramount in these events; the economic benefits that they bring to the Highlands are significant.

We worked for continued success for the Blas Festival and we forged highly successful partnerships, locally and nationally. **A full economic impact assessment was presented to the Gaelic Implementation Group in February 2015. We are now working with An Comunn Gàidhealach and the Local Organising Committee to support and assist in delivering the Royal National Mod to Lochaber in 2017.**

The events provide a high profile and multi-media platform for Gaelic and they also bring significant economic benefits to the Council area.

We continue to work with partners to provide a higher profile for the economic benefits of Gaelic and bilingualism; alongside cultural and heritage profile and development. We are keenly aware that **our funding for partners, including Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the Blas Festival and Fèis Rois,** provides support for employment in these organisations; and we aim to underpin these as both economic and cultural priorities.

We will therefore work with partners to examine how we can increase the audience, participant and sponsorship engagement with Gaelic related events in the Highlands.

HIE, with support from the Highland Council, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Scottish Natural Heritage, Creative Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council, and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, has completed a major project to research the Economic and Social Value of Gaelic as an Asset – **Ar Stòras Gàidhlig.**

The Full Report was also the subject of a presentation to the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Committee on 18 February 2015. It can be accessed here: <http://www.hie.co.uk/community-support/support-for-gaelic-development/gaelic-research.html>

## **Strategic Commitment 2**

**We will work with partners to develop strategies for the Gaelic jobs markets, including careers advice, skills acquisition, further and higher education and work experience opportunities.**

We instituted a partnership between the Council, SDS, HIE and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, to work together to heighten the profile of Gaelic related careers and skills. **Following the success of the first Gaelic Careers event for Secondary pupils, a second event was delivered on 31 October 2014 in Eden Court Theatre in Inverness.** Around 200 S2/S3 pupils attended the event; which sought to encourage young Secondary pupils to continue with their Gaelic studies up to qualification level. The event, opened by BBC personality Kirsteen Macdonald, showcased a vast range of Gaelic organisations and employers along with practical examples of career opportunities.

Along with SDS and the Scottish Government, we are pushing ahead to re-establish the **Gaelic Employment and Skills Partnership (GESP).** This group is expected to have representation from the Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, HIE, Local Authorities, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and SDS, amongst others. This engagement aims to outline the educational, economic and cultural benefits of bilingualism; which in turn feed into a wide range of careers options and opportunities. We also aim to assess the potential for Modern Apprenticeships; seeking cross-sectoral development/pilots/case studies; engaging with national initiatives and with potential employers.

We are also undertaking **renewed activity with Scottish Government and SDS colleagues to establish links with the Scottish Government's data analysts on Labour Market Intelligence (LMI).**

We also pursue community engagement and economic development aims within our Memorandum of Understanding projects with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. In addition the Kilbeg Village development in Sleat on Skye is a significant progressive economic step for the area and receives support from the Council. The Council's Director of Development and Infrastructure is a member of the Funders Group for the project.

## **6. Translation and Corpus Development**

In the period 1 January 2015 to 31 January 2016, a total of 869 translation and proofreading requests were administered. 761 of these requests were for translations (of which 754 were from English to Gaelic and 7 from Gaelic to English), and 108 were for separate proofreading or linguistic advice. 718 were from Council Services; 6 from Members; 64 from High Life Highland; 17 from Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba, and 64 from third sector and other external organisations.

Translation work is largely undertaken in response to requests received, and monthly logs are maintained, recording details of requests as they are returned. While the log is useful in demonstrating demand for the service, it should be noted that it can only provide a somewhat superficial impression of the work involved. For instance, one request could represent a single phrase – or a document running to several thousand words. Similarly, texts with low word counts, such as place-name signage or document headings, can be time-consuming and involve significant research and consultation.

Requests from within the Council Services are broken down as follows:

- Chief Executive's Office – 139
- Corporate Development Service – 125
- Development & Infrastructure Service – 176
- Care & Learning Service – 175
- Community Services – 56
- Finance Service – 47

Educational resources were translated for both GME primary and secondary subjects, with 11 requests for materials delivered directly to schools, as well as wider support materials such as schools' reports, newsletters and dinner menus. Work has also been undertaken throughout this period on a substantial science resource for primary school, to be delivered in spring 2016. 53 requests were administered within the Council regarding Gaelic educational resources and documents such as support materials for teachers and information for parents. 45 requests were returned to the Community Learning and Development staff relating to Gaelic classes and various events ranging from the Early Years through to Adult Learning.

165 road, street and core path signs requests were administered, as well as 85 requests for internal and external signs and commemorative plaques for Highland Council properties, including schools and offices. In addition, a significant number of texts for interpretive panels were progressed in collaboration with other Services. It is felt that these signs further increase the visibility of Gaelic, both in the community and in work and learning environments.

A significant number of corporate documents were administered, including 146 requests for full translations or headings and sub-headings for committee agendas and minutes, as well as 148 requests for miscellaneous reports, brochures, and information leaflets. 43 requests were administered for job adverts and job and person specifications. As in previous years, a number of requests were received for PowerPoint headings, door plates, job titles, email signatures and addresses.

In collaboration with the Corporate Communications Office, 15 bilingual press releases were uploaded to the HC's website. In line with the HC's Gaelic Language Plan 2012-2016, which guarantees a Gaelic reply to all correspondence written in Gaelic, 16 such requests relating to letters, emails, Facebook posts and tweets were administered.

64 requests were administered for High Life Highland. These included signage, banner, exhibition and marketing texts for libraries, museums, archives, visitor centres and sport centres. Support was ongoing for Am Baile, particularly in preparation for the launch of their new website and for projects relating to WWI commemoration. Support also continued for the Blas Festival in relation to festival programmes and publicity, and to the Celtic Media Festival which was hosted in Inverness in the spring.

We continue to liaise regularly with Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba, and contribute to consultation on place-names and more complex linguistic or corpus issues. It should be noted that mutually beneficial informal queries and discussions which take place on an almost daily basis are not recorded. However, more significant pieces of work such as consultation on specific lists of names are logged and these amounted to 17 requests.

64 requests were administered in response to enquiries from third sector and other external organisations. These largely related to signage for Anscò Signs; Norsign; Sustrans; Transport Scotland; Robertson Homes; Rowan Tree Consulting; Highlands and Islands Enterprise; UNESCO; Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd; Bòrd na Gàidhlig; SNH; Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig; Blas Festival; Celtic Media Festival; The Purple Saltire; Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust; Crown Vets; MacLeod Funeral Directors; pronunciation assistance for voiceovers; a house-name request from Canada; two house-name requests from within the Highlands; two gravestone inscriptions, and a request for wedding ring engraving from an American couple getting married in the Highlands.

## **7. Gaelic Education Resources Support**

The Council receives an allocation of Gaelic resources developed and produced by Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, funded by The Scottish Government for use throughout Gaelic Medium Education across Scotland.

These resources are distributed, free, to pre-school Gaelic Medium nurseries (16), commissioned partner centres (4), Gaelic Medium Primary Schools/Primary Schools with Gaelic Medium Classes (22) and Secondary Schools with Gaelic classes (16), allocating these to the appropriate stage of education depending on the suitability of the resource.

Prior to the formation of Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig, the Councils which founded Gaelic Medium Education were responsible for developing resources for use in schools. As The Highland Council was one of the larger Authorities with GME; a number of resources were developed and produced by ourselves and we hold a small amount of stock which is accessed from time to time as requests for these are received.

In addition, new Gaelic publications from publishers such as Acair, Leabhraichean Beaga, Spòrs, Taigh nan Teud, Sandstone Press, Dalen Alba, Luath Press etc. are sourced, purchased and distributed to schools. These complement the national resources and broaden the range of Gaelic materials available to all ages.

The aim is that any book suitable for use in school, published in Gaelic, will be purchased by the Council and distributed accordingly. Individual teacher requests for additional resources are considered and purchases made where appropriate.