

Agenda item	4.
Report no	RES/19/18

Committee: Corporate Resources Committee

Date: 24 May 2018

Report Title: Gaelic Development Report

Report By: Director of Care and Learning

1. Adhbhar/Geàrr-chunntas Gnìomhach Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 The report informs Members on a number of significant Gaelic/ cultural developments which the Gaelic Team are currently taking forward.

- Draft Gaelic Language Plan 3 (GLP3)
- Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF)
- 40th Celtic Media Festival (CMF)

1.2 The position in relation to the 3rd iteration draft GLP3

The draft GLP3 in its current form was approved by the Corporate Resources Committee on August 30th 2017. The Highland Council submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnaG) its draft GLP3 on September 18th 2017. The Highland Council received an Assessment of the Draft Gaelic Language Plan which was discussed at the Gaelic Strategy Implementation Group. Council Officers met with BnaG Officers to discuss the comments and recommendations, these will be submitted to BnaG later this month.

2 Molaidhean Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

1. Give their approval for Officers to continue to liaise with BnaG in relation the actions required in order to ensure that draft GLP3 fulfils the requirements of BnaG.
2. Support the GLAIF submissions.
3. Give their approval for the Chair of the Gaelic Implementation Group with support from Officers to lead and support the CMF when it is based in Aviemore in the late Spring/ early Summer 2019.

3. Dreachd Phlana Gàidhlig 3/ Draft Gaelic Language Plan 3

3.1 Following the assessment process undertaken by BnaG, the Highland Council Gaelic Plan was awarded:

- 14 'highly recommended' Enabling Actions, throughout the draft plan
- 18 'satisfied', 2 recommendations, 2 required and 2 omitted points within the High Level Aims of the draft plan.
- 57 'satisfied', 5 required, and 1 Recommendation point in the Summary Review of plan content.

Where the review noted *recommendations/required/omitted*, through discussion with representatives from BnaG all of these were actioned.

4. Maoin Gnìomhachaidh Achd na Gàidhlig 2018/19/ Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund 2018/19 (GLAIF)

4.1 The Gaelic Team submitted 12 applications to BnaG's GLAIF funding stream. All the applications are aligned to the BnaG's aims in the National Gaelic Language Plan. The applications also focus on the 6 themes and the specific enabling actions in draft GLP3.

The following is summary of each of the 12 applications:

1. *Gàidhlig airson Inbhich – Gaelic for Adults*

- The Highland Council is to broaden access for adults to attend Gaelic learning classes for adults across the area. This focus is on particular areas within the Highland Council area where there is existing Gaelic Medium provision in schools.
- We aim to extend provision to new areas by increasing the profile of Gaelic and leading to demand from the public for Gaelic learning classes.
- This demand requires the supply of new tutors and the continued professional development required for existing tutors to access quality training as part of their own continued professional development.

2. *Com-pàirteachas Ro-innleachdail Breith gu Trì/ Birth to Three Strategic Partnership*

- Following discussion with BnaG in relation to the importance of developing grass-roots Early Years provision, this project is a continuation of the Birth to Three strategic partnership between the Highland Council and BnaG. It seeks to continue the partnership with the Care and Learning Alliance in providing support and direct input into Gaelic 0 to 3 groups in Inverness, Nairn, Newtonmore, Glenurquhart, Mallaig, Acharacle, Tain, Bonar Bridge, Dingwall, Ullapool, Gairloch, Kinlochbervie, Thurso and Bettyhill.
- The project this year will seek to re-establish the *Cluich* group in Inverness and increase the input to Bettyhill in the move towards the establishment of GM Education in that area in August 2019.
- The project will continue to contribute to the growth of Gaelic Medium Education by linking with parents at an early stage and facilitating the transition into sgoil-araich.
- In addition, the project continues to identify and respond to training needs of those working in the sector and to contribute to the development of the skills pathways being created by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and BnaG.

3. Club Spòrs ann am Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar (BSGLA)

- Through a successful partnership between the Gaelic Team, the Head Teacher and High life Highland, a programme of popular sporting activities has taken place through the medium of Gaelic.
- The importance of this club is paramount as the Highland Council has widened 'the catchment area' for BSGLA to encourage children from the South Lochaber area.
- This Club will continue to contribute to the overall Gaelic medium ethos, the use of Gaelic language out-with the school setting which broadens the language register and contributes to fluency and attainment.
- Presently the club attracts over 50% of the total school pupils at BSGLA with a view to increasing this over the next academic year.

4. Program Taic Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh (BSGP)

- Program Taic BSGP is a 12 month project which will in conjunction with BSGP and other Gaelic partners and agencies will deliver a Gaelic Medium programme of curricular and extra-curricular initiatives to support pupils and parents with their Gaelic language acquisition skills.
- The project will also develop a programme of Sports, Arts, Cultural and Heritage workshops including Gaelic traditional music and drama.

5. Dealbh Sgìre a' Phluic (Plockton Reflections)

- Dealbh Sgìre a' Phluic is a Traditional Community Arts project which will include Sgoil Araich, GME Primary, GME Secondary, GME parents and the wider community surrounding the Plockton ASG.
- The main focus of the project will be for all participants to be involved in creating a Gaelic Visual Arts Wall Mural featuring the local traditional crofting and Boat Building themes.
- In achieving this, the project we would be offering a series of appropriate art workshops to all 3-18 GME pupils, parents and the wider community.
- The project will include a series of Traditional Gaelic song and Gaelic creative writing workshops which will enable the GME pupils in both primary and secondary education in the area to compose a Gaelic song and soundtrack to accompany the final Art Work which will be displayed in the primary school.

6. Co-labhairt Òigridh (Youth Conference)

- To hold a Youth Conference for senior fluent Gaelic pupils across the Highland Council area.
- The Conference will be a celebration of the Year of Young People and will enable young Gaelic speakers to engage with the aims of the Year in terms of Participation, Education, Health and Well-being, Enterprise and Regeneration, Culture and Equality and Discrimination.
- It aims to give young people a platform to air their views on Gaelic, also encouraging them in their journey towards becoming confident and engaged young adults.
- There will be an additional strand to the project, in bringing young people together from across all GM secondary pupils in Highland area.

7. Gàidhlig Airson Teaghlaich (Family Learning)

- The Gaelic Family Learning Weekends project will offer 2 Family Learning weekends, The weekends are aimed specifically at Gaelic medium learning activities for families; this will give parents and children an opportunity to use Gaelic in a range of informal settings.

- The weekends are aimed specifically at Gaelic medium learning activities for families; this will give parents and children an opportunity to use Gaelic in a range of informal settings.
- One event is to be held for families in the North Area i.e. Dingwall, Tain, Ullapool, Thurso and Bettyhill. The 2nd weekend, based in Inverness, will be open to families from Inverness, Drumnadrochit, Nairn and Dingwall.
- The parents will attend Gaelic adult learning classes during the day, while the children are engaged in various fun activities through Gaelic e.g. arts & crafts, orienteering and bush craft.
- The evenings will include activities for the whole family such as a cèilidh and nature walk. This project is based on a shorter, more informal version of the Family Learning Weeks which have proven to be highly successful and have been running at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig for several years.
- This project is intended to give families in the North area equal opportunity to participate in Gaelic learning activities in their own area without having to travel vast distances.
- This project holds the family at the centre of learning; it's involving parents in their children's learning journey.
- This second year of the project will be a continuation of the first pilot stage, encouraging progression in Gaelic learning.

8. *Am Blàran Odhar (Bettyhill)*

- This project is designed to intensively promote Gaelic medium education within the local community in Farr, Sutherland prior to the opening of the new Gaelic sgoil-àraich in Farr School.
- We aim to work with the local Gaelic 0-3 officer and Head teacher to actively promote and raise awareness to parents of the benefits of bilingualism through Gaelic Medium Education.
- This will be accomplished by organising a number of events promoting the benefits of Gaelic Medium Education throughout the coming academic year.
- In addition to this there will be new Gaelic adult learning classes held in the local area; these formal, structured classes will be balanced by a series of informal family learning fun events such as a Gaelic treasure hunt.
- We aim to work in close partnership with the local schools in the ASG area aims create positive working relationships with parents in the community.
- We will with the school staff and others, and will also hold open days ensuring parents have information on GME, helping to support families prior to sgoil-àraich enrolment.

9. *Iomadach Àite-Iomadach Sgeulachd (Many Stories, Many Places)*

- This Iomadach Àite, Iomadach Sgeulachd is a Gaelic writing project which will be offered to all schools in Highland where Gaelic is taught, in both primary and secondary schools.
- It aims to concentrate on the role that setting plays within story, poetry, creative writing, showing how the place in which a narrative occurs has a powerful effect on the way it is told.
- The stimulus for the pupils will take the form of a series of photographs, including one or more taken within their own community.
- The exercise will be undertaken after consultation with school staff as this will ensure that the writing piece is suitable for the requirements of both pupils and staff.
- The photos will also be of a wide range of places to ensure that there is a variety of approaches to the story, poem, and creative writing that is told.

10. ***Briathran Bhàideanach (Badenoch Film Project)***

- The project Briathran Bhàideanach is a film initiative which will focus on the Gaelic place-names, wealth of traditional Gaelic stories, and the environment of the Badenoch area.
- Briathran Bhàideanach will be undertaken prior to the Celtic Media Festival taking place (in the late Spring 2019) in the area.
- Briathran Badenoch will work with young people in Newtonmore Primary, Kingussie High, Gaelic Toddler Group, the independent Gaelic community group 'Sinne' and the informal network group 'Gaelic anns a' Phairc', Celtic Media Festival, Cairngorm National Park and FILMG.
- The groups will create 3 short films relating to the history and the environment of the area which will also celebrate the Year of Young People.
- Briathran Bhàideanach will engage the young people and groups in the area to participate in recording and collecting stories which will be brought to 'life'.
- This will be educational, inclusive, inter-generational, and also using new media and the creative industries to enhance and inform the wider community of the richness and cultural value of Gaelic in the Badenoch area.

11. ***Cùm Ort! – Joint Application by Gaelic Team and Stòrlann***

- Highland Council has a strong Gaelic Medium Additional Support Needs Working Group which consists of a combination of Gaelic Early Years Practitioners, Primary Teachers, Secondary Teachers, Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists, Senior Translations Officer and is supported by input through the Local Authority Directorate.
- The group propose working in partnership with Stòrlann, who have agreed to a joint venture to develop additional support reading intervention packs for GME schools/departments, based on an existing and highly regarded Highland resource named Hop On. It is proposed that the Gaelic version would be called Cùm Ort!

12. ***Faoin- sgeul is Fìrinn (Gaelic Myth busting)***

- Gaelic Myth-Busting (Faoin- sgeul is Fìrinn) is a ***national*** project commissioned by GMòr, which aims to give guidance and assistance to local authorities and public agencies who are developing Gaelic Language Plans (GLP's) especially focussing on the reasons why they are supporting Gaelic and its associated culture and also developing GLP's.
- The initial project will take the form of 10 short films focusing on common myths about Gaelic, building on previous research by BnaG and others, and the experience of Gaelic Officers working in the language planning sector.
- The target audience are non-Gaelic speakers and therefore the material will be produced in English initially. A Gaelic version would be possible as a development.

It aims to:

- mitigate the impact of negative statements, factually incorrect information and myths that surround certain aspects of Gaelic
- make material accessible to all organisations with GLPs along with supporting materials, (e.g. PDF leaflets) on an online portal which will be available on all social media platforms
- place Gaelic and its associated culture within an international context
- portray the real value of the language in economic, educational and linguistic terms

The Highland Council will be informed of the outcomes of the funding submissions at the beginning of July 2018.

The Gaelic Team will commence work on the successful applications after the Summer semester.

5. Fèis nam Meadhanan Ceilteach – Deireadh Earrach 2019/ Celtic Media Festival Late Spring 2019 (CMF)

- 5.1 The Gaelic Team submitted a bid to the CMF. The CMF bidding process invited the Council to focus on the following headings:
Location, Access and Travel, Conference/Theatre spaces, Lodging/ Accommodation, Funding, Culture/Celtic Language/ Creative industries/ Higher Education, Achievements/ Legacy, and Closing Statement.
- 5.2 The Highland Council was informed that the Highland Council bid was successful and that the CMF will for the first time take place in the Badenoch area - Aviemore, the other two places who also bid for The CFM were Oban and Paisley.
- 5.3 The CMF is an annual 3 day event that promotes the languages and cultures of the Celtic Nations and Regions in media. It combines a major conference of seminars and master classes with presentations, prizes in an international competition across all the main content genres in television, radio, film and digital media.
- 5.4 The CMF is held in the Spring in of one of the Celtic countries.
The event has taken place in the Highlands in the past, 2015 Inverness, 2007 Skye, 1999 Skye, 1995 Fort William, 1991 Inverness, and 1987 Inverness.
- 5.5 For almost 40 years, The CMF has brought together those who value the languages and cultures of the Celtic countries as portrayed on screen and broadcast.
It is a unique festival and has grown, on a scale that attracts conference speakers and showcases emerging talent, also small enough for delegates to meet the decision-makers. The CMF is supported by broadcast, film, cultural and economic development organisations throughout the Celtic countries and regions.
- 5.6 The CMF offers an opportunity to showcase the area where it being hosted, and will generate income especially in the visitor and tourism market, i.e. the hotel, B&B, and restaurant trade.
- 5.7 During previous festivals and economic impact studies regarding the benefits of having the festival in the area;
 - The festival attracts in excess of 500 producers, directors, radio professionals, filmmakers, broadcasters and funders from the UK, Ireland, Mainland Europe and beyond.
 - The cultural and linguistic impact is of great significance.
- 5.8 The Chair of Corporate Resources Committee/ Chair of the Gaelic Strategy Implementation Group attended the CMF in Llanelli on May 3rd. He formally welcomed the 40th CMF to Aviemore and the Badenoch area at the final Gala event on May 4th.

6. Buaidhean/ Implications

- 6.1 Resource – Is important to identify resources, and attract additional funding in relation to implementing the enabling actions as set out in the draft plan and for the CMF.
- 6.2 Legal – To meet the Gaelic Language Act (Scotland) 2005
- 6.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural), The draft Plan takes account of these aspects.
- 6.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever – maximising the use of technology in distribution of the draft and final plan.
- 6.5 Risk – If resources are not available there is a risk that the enabling actions of GLP3 will not be delivered within the timeframe.
- 6.6 Gaelic – draft GLP3, CMF and GLAIF are all very positive milestones for Gaelic and cultural development. The Highland Council is one of the leading local authorities in Scotland in relation to general Gaelic and cultural development.

Designation:

Date: 15 May 2018

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Background Papers: