

Agenda Item	8
Report No	G/10/21

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Gaelic Committee

Date: 18 May 2021

Report Title: Bòrd na Gàidhlig Gaelic Language Act Implementation Funding (GLAIF) - Draft Programme of Projects

Report By: Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a summarised update for Members on the eight Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF) applications which have been submitted by the Gaelic Team to Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnaG).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to discuss, note and acknowledge the GLAIF applications that the Highland Council Gaelic Team are managing, leading, and participating in. The applications were submitted to BnaG by the closing date of 22 April 2021.

3 Implications

3.1 Resource

The Gaelic Team have submitted funding applications totalling £175,363.09 to the BnaG GLAIF Funding stream. The funding, if approved, enhances the on-going work of the Gaelic Team and assists BnaG and the Highland Council to work in partnership, where appropriate, in delivering the aims and outcomes of BnaG National Gaelic Plan.

3.2 Legal

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 has given Gaelic a legal status. Highland Council must take cognisance of the Gaelic Language Act.

3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)

The funding applications are targeted to enhance the use of the Gaelic language in communities across Highland.

3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever

All meetings relating to the GLAIF application process were conducted using ICT facilities and the actual developments should they receive the financial support requested will utilise the appropriate ICT platforms.

3.5 Risk

If The Highland Council does not receive adequate financial support from the GLAIF funding stream this will lead to a reduction in the amount of Gaelic activities and support that the Gaelic Team is able to provide.

3.6 Gaelic

The funding which is awarded by BnaG through the GLAIF Funding stream is vitally important for the Gaelic Team as it assists in implementing the key performance indicators of the Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan. The funding enables the Gaelic Team to a) sustain b) develop new and innovative projects which generate positive partnership working with community groups, Gaelic and cultural organisations and with Highland Council stakeholders all of which lead to focusing on the priorities of both the National Plan and the Highland Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

4. **Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnaG) Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF)**

4.1 BnaG established the GLAIF funding stream to assist public authorities in the delivery of commitments in their Gaelic Language Plan and support the aims and outcomes of the National Gaelic Language Plan.

4.2 GLAIF has also been used to assist other public authorities in the delivery of projects ahead of their formal notice to produce a Gaelic Language Plan. This fund supports projects which will commence and aim to be completed between early August 2021 and 31st August 2022, this is dependent on national COVID-19 recovery regulations.

5. **Gaelic Team GLAIF- Submissions**

5.1 The Gaelic Team submitted GLAIF funding applications to BnaG on 22nd April 2021. The following is a summary of each of the GLAIF projects which were submitted.

6. **Birth to Three Strategic Partnership**

6.1 The Birth to Three Strategic Partnership between Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Highland Council has been a successful project which has had a substantial impact on the Gaelic 0 to 3 sector in the Highland Council area. In conjunction with the Care and Learning Alliance it has enabled the 0 to 3 sector to be supported by experienced and fluent Gaelic playworkers working in conjunction with voluntary committees across the area to support Pàrant is Pàiste groups and encourage the transition into GME.

- 6.2 The areas covered by the project are Thurso, Bonar Bridge, Tain, Dingwall, Inverness, Nairn, Glenurquhart, Newtonmore, Ullapool, Gairloch, Acharacle, Mallaig, and Ballachulish. The planned future developments include offering new play sessions in both Dornoch and Grantown in the coming year.
- 6.3 This year due to COVID-19 the project will have a substantial challenge in re-establishing groups and Gaelic provision as groups have been unable to meet in person whilst open days and parental involvement have also declined, or in some cases ceased altogether. Also, parents' committees have in many instances moved on as their children move on to Sgoil-Araich.
- 6.4 An action plan has been developed focussing on the challenges for each group and the actions necessary to move forward. In most cases the involvement of new parents will be a priority, and there will be a focus on awareness raising and promotional work within communities in conjunction with Gaelic Team Community Learning and Development Officers.
- 6.5 Until such time as groups can meet indoors, staff will be prioritising outdoor meets involving maximising play in natural outdoor settings within the guidelines in operation at the time. Such meets will be advertised and marketed in each local community and through social media. The work involved in re-building the groups will be substantial and intensive in terms of both time and resources.

7 Gàidhlig airson Inbhich (Gaelic for Adult Learning)

- 7.1 The Highland Council seeks to continually increase Gaelic learning opportunities for adults across the Highland area. The project will focus on areas within the Highland Council where there is existing Gaelic Medium provision in schools and extending provision to new areas by increasing the profile of Gaelic.
- 7.2 The Highland Council currently operates a structured, progressive learning approach in areas where Gaelic Learning classes have greater numbers of students, thus enabling access to a clear pathway from beginner through to university level Gaelic courses if desired.
- 7.3 The ongoing demand for Gaelic classes requires a supply of new tutors which the Highland Council actively engages in achieving through tutor training events. The training is additionally useful for existing tutors as Continued Professional development. A very popular Gaelic for Parents class will continue online as it enables a wider group of parents from across Highland to participate. The project is an essential mechanism for increasing the numbers of adult learners in Highland and will increase Gaelic usage within Highland communities.
- 7.4 The Gàidhlig airson Inbhich project provides language learning support to parents of children in Gaelic Medium Education which was a particular asset for parents during the Covid-19 pandemic while children were physically unable to attend school. New methods of delivering Gaelic Adult Learning classes have been trialled over the previous year as a reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic and the expectation is that some form of blended learning, incorporating online classes as well as face to face, will continue. Online classes are beneficial in being able to reach prospective students in more rural areas who may not be able to access traditional Gaelic Adult Learning classes. It is hoped that many new classes will be offering the new Speak Gaelic course.

8. Gaelic Youth Champion

- 8.1 This project is to provide funding to employ a dynamic Gaelic Youth Champion to link with young people in Secondary Schools in Highland where Gaelic / Gaelic Medium is available.
- 8.2 The successful candidate will use the 'Cleachd i' message to encourage young people to use their linguistic skills, to choose Gaelic as a subject as part of their subject choices and/or raise awareness of other pathways available to them.
- 8.3 Teachers will also benefit from the Gaelic Youth Champion as this will provide an opportunity to understand the pupil voice; gather evidence on current experiences of Gaelic for our young people in our schools; and influence and encourage greater involvement in Gaelic language, culture and activities.
- 8.4 The Youth Champion would engage with education officers to inform our vision and strategy for Gaelic in Highland Council as part of our preparation for our next generation Gaelic Language Plan. We hope to achieve an increase in the number of young people choosing Gaelic as well as working with and supporting the young people out with school time to participate in Gaelic extra-curricular activities and engage in youth activities in the Highlands.
- 8.4 The post will provide valuable support to young people when promoting the benefits of bilingualism, engaging and promoting Gaelic community projects as well as providing a platform for the promotion of Gaelic pathways after school.
- 8.5 A Gaelic Youth Conference and established forum will provide opportunities for mentoring, networking and empowerment within a key demographic for the future voice of Gaelic within Highland.

9. Fàgail is Fàilte (Leaving and Welcome)

- 9.1 The project called 'Fàgail agus Fàilte' will be an event which celebrates the 2021 Inverness Royal National Mod and welcomes the Royal National Mod to the City of Perth. This will be a creative celebratory Gaelic cultural event which will hand over the cultural 'baton' to the City of Perth and the surrounding area.
- 9.2 The young people in secondary schools in both areas where Gaelic and traditional music is taught will benefit, and it will focus on young people as they will be participating in the Traditional Music and dance of the Highlands including Highland Perthshire.
- 9.4 In the months leading up to the event, tutors of Gaelic song and traditional music will be teaching and tutoring young people in schools in both the Inverness and Perthshire areas. There will be 3 weekend rehearsals in the lead up to the Mod taking place e.g., a weekend of workshops taking place simultaneously in Perth and Inverness one weekend each in July, August, and September. This will culminate in a hybrid event which will take place in Eden Court; broadcast live on social media and will be recorded for future viewing.

10. Gàidhlig agus Cultur – Coimhearsnachd Geàrrloch (Gaelic and Culture- Gairloch Community)

- 10.1 The Gàidhlig agus Cultur ann a' Geàrrloch project will be a two-day Gaelic and cultural community event which will be delivered in collaboration with local Gaelic cultural groups, Gaelic organisations, and Gairloch Gaelic Medium Education staff.
- 10.2 The project will focus on raising the profile of Gaelic Medium Education and the benefits of bilingualism and revitalising and strengthening Gaelic language and culture in the Gairloch area as part of the Gaelic language recovery programme.
- 10.3 The project will benefit new and existing GME families and Gaelic Medium Education departments, in both primary and secondary and local cultural and community groups and organisations.
- 10.4 The project aims to increase and strengthen the presence of Gaelic in the Gairloch community and inform parents and families of the opportunities available to them in relation to Gaelic medium education.
- 10.5 The activities will take place in, and around, Gairloch Primary and Gairloch High Schools which will provide Gaelic hubs for the event.

11. Gàidhlig anns a' Choimhearsnachd (Gaelic in the Community)

- 11.1 The Gàidhlig anns a' Choimhearsnachd project will consist of a programme of Gaelic medium activity days/sessions for children and young people as well as incorporating family learning into the sessions. The programme will be delivered over the year including school holiday periods.
- 11.2 The activities will be varied comprising of outdoor activities, music, drama, crafts and filming. There will be some Gaelic Medium Education awareness sessions for parents incorporating messy play, book-bug and crafts activities for 0-3 years group. The project is intended mainly for families of children in primary school and young people attending Gaelic Medium secondary education in the Inverness and North area.
- 11.3 The aims include raising awareness of the Gaelic language, particularly in areas where Gaelic is not commonly spoken; highlighting Gaelic Medium as a positive education choice and the benefits of bilingualism; and encouraging young people to choose Gaelic while transitioning to secondary education and later in their school career while making subject choices.
- 11.4 The project looks at supporting and developing the language acquisition skills of pupils through wider exposure to immersion experiences and Gaelic awareness experiences thus promoting the increased use of Gaelic language by young people.
- 11.5 For wider inclusion and greater participation, the project will deliver some activities for Gaelic learners as well as for children in Gaelic Medium Education. A summer activity programme will be incorporated into the project to enable participants to engage with Gaelic during the holidays.
- 11.6 The project will develop a varied programme of extra-curricular activities as detailed above and will also provide opportunities for meeting with fellow learners and peers in different rural areas within the Highland Council North area. The project will work closely

with schools, partner organisations and local community groups such as local Fèis groups.

- 11.7 The programme will be delivered over the year and will crossover into school holidays. This project will include 2 workshops/events for Gaelic Learner pupils in secondary school. There is also a proposal to liaise with a local museum to explore Gaelic place names and history in the area.
- 11.8 The exploration of Gaelic culture through song, music, place-names and history will appeal to a wider cross-community audience and raise a positive profile of Gaelic.

12. Program Taic BSGP (Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Port-rìgh)

- 12.1 The Program Taic BSGP project will run throughout the academic year 21/22. Due to the circumstances of the last year, children in Gaelic Medium Education have been hugely and disproportionately impacted due to COVID-19 from the schools being in lockdown.
- 12.2 Pupils at BSGP had very limited opportunities to interact with their peers and use their Gaelic out with the formal education environment and the project intends to address this. The project will be delivered in collaboration with the Head Teacher and GM staff, Gaelic organisations and community groups. The project will ensure greater use of Gaelic and will enable young people to further develop their Gaelic fluency and ability to communicate in the Gaelic language through participating in the organised activities and events.
- 12.3 The project will focus on supporting pupils with their Gaelic language recovery and developing initiatives that supports fluency; delivering a Gaelic Medium support programme for BSGP pupils and organising promotional events for GME and the benefits of bilingualism; developing the language acquisition skills of pupils; promoting and increasing the use of Gaelic by young people through working in partnership with local Gaelic organisations to further develop a programme of extra-curricular activities to take place out with the school day; and supporting parents in learning Gaelic and delivering family learning opportunities.
- 12.4 The project will benefit Gaelic Medium primary and Sgoil Àraich pupils; new and existing GM parents; Gaelic Education staff at BSGP; young Gaelic speaking coaches/tutors; and the wider Gaelic community.
- 12.5 The project aims to achieve the following: Informing parents and families of the opportunities available to them in relation to Gaelic medium education to increase the school roll; accessibility and inclusion for all pupils attending BSGP; increasing pupil exposure to Gaelic both after-school and during curriculum time; raising the profile of Gaelic to young people in a positive image; provide work opportunities for young people who have gone through GME; and increase partnership working to prevent duplication in resources within Gaelic Development.

13. Ball-coise Gàidhlig (Football GME)

- 13.1 The Ball-coise Gàidhlig project will consist of a series of single day Gaelic football coaching workshops for children and young people, which will be held in various locations throughout the North Highland Council area. This will culminate in a 5-day structured football coaching event which will be held in Inverness during the summer

holiday period July/August 2022. The football sessions will be held in Dingwall, Tain, Thurso, Farr area, Ullapool and Inverness.

- 13.2 The programme will be delivered over the next academic year and will crossover into the school summer holiday of 2022. The sessions will consist of a structured coaching programme planned and delivered by 2 professional SFA accredited coaches.
- 13.3 The project is aimed both at children attending Gaelic Medium primary school and 1st, 2nd and 3rd year pupils in Gaelic Medium secondary education within the Inverness and North area.
- 13.4 The intention is to encourage young people to use Gaelic in a fun, informal social environment and to consider choosing Gaelic Medium Education while transitioning to secondary education and again, later in their school career when making subject choices.
- 13.5 The project will focus on enhancing and developing the language acquisition skills of pupils thus promoting the increased usage of Gaelic by young people, outside the school environment.
- 13.6 The project will develop a sustainable, high quality programme of extra-curricular activities through the medium of Gaelic. The intention is to continue to work closely with schools, community football coaches, local football teams and the Scottish Football Association in delivering this project.
- 13.7 The project will bring greater awareness of the Gaelic language to those in the football fraternity and, as the project will also be delivered in local communities, this will extend to the wider public.
- 13.8 The original project as detailed above had to be adapted due to the restrictions imposed by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and activities were adapted to an online delivery model. Live sessions were delivered weekly to schools via Google Classroom with a focus on fun fitness sessions involving ball skills through the medium of Gaelic.
- 13.9 The new phase will consolidate the work carried out during the initial phase of the project and if necessary, will again adapt to working online if face to face interaction is restricted.

14. Finance of the GLAIF Projects

- 14.1 The total sum requested from BnaG for the GLAIF projects is: **£175,363.09**
The total sum for the Highland Council administration, organisation, venues and in-kind contribution is: **£95,401.08**

Designation: Kate Lackie, Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance

Date: 27 April 2021

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Background Papers: