

Agenda Item	3
Report No	G/12/21

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Gaelic Committee

**Date:** 16 September 2021

**Report Title:** Royal National Mòd 2021

**Report By:** Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report informs Elected Members about the current arrangements that are being put in place to hold the Royal National Mòd 2021 (RNM) in Inverness and the surrounding area in October this year.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Note the current programme;
  - ii. Note that contingency arrangements that are in place to adjust between virtual and in-person events;
  - iii. Note that any underspend in the planned budget arising from a reduction in the in-person content of the event will be set against the budget feed of £80,000 approved by Corporate Resources Committee, resulting in a reduced cost to the Council; and
  - iv. Note the arrangements to ensure proper governance and scrutiny of the Council's financial contribution to the event.

### 3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource - Due to COVID-19, additional resources have been approved through the Corporate Resources Committee to enable the Mòd to be hosted in the Inverness area for the second consecutive year. The total amount will only be drawn down if the full event programme is delivered.
- 3.2 Climate Change / Carbon Clever  
The Mòd will be a hybrid event which will include both 'face to face' and online events and activities. The online events will reduce the carbon emissions and also the support

provided by the Council through online Micro-Soft Teams meetings enhances and adds to the climate change agenda.

- 3.3 Risk – The final event programme and the mix of in-person versus virtual events will be affected by the level of Covid-19 and the impact of associated Scottish Government restrictions and guidance.
- 3.5 Legal, Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) - there are no adverse implications.
- 3.6 Gaelic - The Mòd is both a national and international event regarding the development and promotion of Gaelic and culture. It is also a key performance indicator in the Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

#### **4. The Event Programme**

- 4.1 Following the Scottish Government's announcement on August 9<sup>th</sup> regarding the lifting of social distancing restrictions, combined with the on-going uncertainty over the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG) is planning for a hybrid event model. This will be achieved by building on the successes and learning of the 2020 virtual Mòd.
- 4.2 The virtual aspect will reach a wider audience and allows for overseas participation in some of the events and competitions. It is also important to highlight that the blended approach creates an opportunity to showcase the City and the wider Highland area on a local, national, and international platform. However, it is also well understood that the in-person elements are of huge importance in realising the social/wellbeing benefits of the RNM and are also critical to delivering the wider economic benefits of the events.
- 4.3 Key planned events include the Official Opening, language and music and youth groups; sports events including male and female shinty tournaments; a Church service; online competitions; Years of Coasts and Water events; the Gold Medal competition and Drama Finals. Later in the week the adult competitions commence with 14 choirs taking part and also the Traditional Medal will take place. The week will culminate with the massed choirs on Saturday at Inverness Castle.

Full details of the Mòd programmes can be viewed in this link:

<https://www.ancomunn.co.uk/nationalmod/mod2021>

More information on the draft Fringe event programme is contained in Appendix1.

- 4.4 As highlighted in the Risks section above, there is still a degree of uncertainty around all of the proposed in-person events due to the ongoing challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and so the programme should be viewed in this context.

#### **5. Official Mòd Launch**

- 5.1 On September 2<sup>nd</sup> the formal launch of the Mòd took place by the River Ness. The Gaelic Team helped to co-ordinate the launch with ACG appointed Media Company and the Council's Corporate Communications Team. The Chair of the Gaelic Committee and the Deputy Provost represented the Highland Council along with four young pupils from BSGI who were also present.

#### **6. Mòd Liaison Group (MLG)**

- 6.1 As in previous years, a Mòd Liaison Group (MLG) has been set up to support ACG and the Local Organising Committee. The function of the MLG is to provide a forum to discuss key issues and deliverable outcomes to ensure that ACG deliver a highly successful RNM in the Highland Capital.
- 6.2 Chaired by the City Manager, the MLG includes officers from across a range of Council Services including Licencing, Environmental Health and Education. Officers from other key partners including VisitScotland, Inverness BID Team, Highlife Highland, and Eden Court are represented on the MLG to ensure that a focussed and co-ordinated approach is undertaken.

## **7. Governance and Oversight**

- 7.1 Senior Members and Executive Officers have met with the Chief Executive and President of An Comunn Gàidhealach to discuss the appropriate governance arrangements regarding the funding and event planning for the RNM. The Chief Executive of ACG has submitted to the Highland Council a RNM Overview, costings and a detailed RNM Strategic Plan for the 2021 Mòd which includes contingency arrangements if any aspects of the planned events are impacted by a change in the regulations and guidelines relating to Covid-19. There will be further meetings in the coming weeks and following the RNM to ensure oversight of the use of Council funds for the delivery of the event. Members of the Committee have likewise indicated a strong desire to discharge their scrutiny role in relation to the use of Council funds, and so opportunities will be provided in the coming weeks for this to be facilitated.

Designation: Gaelic Development Officer

Date: 8 September 2021

Author: Morag Anna Mitchell Macleod

Background Papers:

# Appendix

Clar-Ama Iomall a' Mhoid Naiseanta Rioghail 2021 / Royal National Mod 2021 Fringe Programme

Tìotal / Title

Gearr-Thuairisgeul / Blurb

<b>Dihaoine 08/10</b>	Cuirm Fosglaidh a' Mhoid / Opening Mod Concert	An evening of foot-stomping music to celebrate the launch of Mod 2021. Featuring performances from Staran, Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band with special guest, Margaret Stewart.
<b>Disathairne 09/10</b>	Cupa Camanachd a' Mhoid / Mod Shinty Cup	11-12 Gaelic Medium Shinty Coaching Session Primary and U14 run by Gaelic speaking coaches from IOmain Cholmcille
	Ball-Coise / The Mod Cup Football	This year's Mod Football match will see Loch Ness FC and Glasgow Island go head to head to see who will lift the Mod Cup.
	Ruith nan Gàidheal @ Mòd Inbhir Nis	This is a fun opportunity to meet other people with Gaelic on the first Saturday Morning of the Mòd. The runners will meet at Canal Parks beside the Rugby Club before running down the east bank of the Canal towards Dochgarroch and back along the same side - there will be 3k 5k and 10 k routes.
	Disathairne a' Mhoid (Program 1)	A compilation of some of the best performances from day one at the Inverness Royal National Mod.
	Ar Canan 'S Ar Ceol / Our Language Our Music	A celebration of the vibrant & thriving musical heritage of the Highlands... An all star line up of guest musicians such as Duncan
<b>Didomhnaich 10/10</b>	Seirbheis Eaglais a' Mhoid / Mod Church Service	Mod church service from Old High Church, Inverness
<b>Diluain 11/10</b>	Farpaisean na Cloinne	A selection of children's competitions, live at Eden Court
	Ceilidh mun Chagailt	Online Gaelic singing workshop
	Ball-Coise/Football with FC Sonas*	Delivered by CnaG
	Bookbug Session*	Bookbug session for ages 0-5* Delivered by CnaG
	Mini Feis*	Music, art and sports for Primary 1-7* Delivered by CnaG
	Lugh is Cluich le Linda	Lugh is Seinn le Linda at the Mod! Sing, read and play games with Linda. Suitable for 0-5 year-olds.
	Ann an Sealladh Uisge: Ainmean-àite Cladaich is Fìor-Uisge timcheall Inbhir Nis / A Watery View: Place Names of Shore and Freshwater around Inverness	In this lecture, Ruairidh (Roddy) Maclean looks at place names in and around the Highland capital which connect us to water – shoreline, river, loch, spring and bog. Ruairidh draws upon places that appear in his recently published book 'Place Names of Inverness and Surrounding Area'.
	Program Moid Diluain / Monday's Mod Programme	A compilation of some of the best performances across the junior categories.
<b>Dimairt 12/10</b>	Farpaisean na Cloinne	A selection of children's competitions, live at Eden Court
	Ball-Coise/Football with FC Sonas*	Delivered by CnaG
	Bookbug Session*	Bookbug session for ages 0-5* Delivered by CnaG
	Mini Feis*	Music, art and sports for Primary 1-7* Delivered by CnaG
	Family Ceilidh*	Music, dancing and games*
	Lugh is Cluich le Linda	Lugh is Seinn le Linda at the Mod! Sing, read and play games with Linda. Suitable for 0-5 year-olds.
	Program Moid Dimairt / Tuesday's Mod Programme	A compilation of some of the best performances across the junior categories.
	East	A newly commissioned work inspired by coastal happenings and stories from around the Moray Firth,
	Farpaisean Ullachaidh Bonn Or a' Chomuinn Chaidhealaich / The An Comunn Gaidhealach Gold Medal Qualifiers	The qualifying rounds for the An Comunn Gaidhealach Gold Medal
	Ball-Coise/Football with FC Sonas*	Delivered by CnaG
	Bookbug Session*	Bookbug session for ages 0-5* Delivered by CnaG
	Mini Feis*	Music, art and sports for Primary 1-7* Delivered by CnaG

Diciadain 13/10	Farpaisean Ullachaidh An Aigeallan Airgid / The Silver Pendant Qualifiers	The qualifying rounds for the Silver Pendant
	Bonn Oir Tim An Obain / Oban Times Gold Medal	The return of the coveted Oban Times Gold Medal competition
	Tachartas Gàirdeachais agus Cur-air-Bhog Leabhar Ùr Bàrdachd agus Òran / A	Sandy NicDhòmhnaill Jones, Bàrd a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich 2019-2021, will read poems and perform songs from her new collection 'The Seventh Wave'.
	Duaisean Litreachais / Literature Awards	Online event
	Maim-slà agus a' Mhòd: Òran is còmhraidh le Alasdair MacIleBhàin / Maim-slà at the Mòd	Alasdair C. Whyte from Muile/Mull (Gaelic Ambassador of the Year 2019) shares drama, song, poetry and prose from his new book, Maim-slà (2021). *
	Farpaisean Crìochnachaidh an Aigeallan Airgid / The Silver Pendant Final	The live final of the Silver Pendant competition
	Program Moid Diciadain / Wednesday's Mod Programme	A compilation of some of the best performances across the clarsach, dancing and senior categories.
	Drama a' Mhoid / Mod Drama	An evening of new Gaelic drama, with performances from community groups Buidheann Dràma Cille Mhòire, Cluicheadairean Uibhist, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.
	Farpaisean Crìochnachaidh Bonn Or a' Chomuinn Ghaidhealaich / The An Comunn Gaidhealach Gold Medal Final	The live final of the An Comunn Gaidhealach Gold Medal competition
The Clàrsach at the Mòd	Experience our online celebration of 90 years of friendship between The Clàrsach Society and the Royal National Mòd. Accompanied by some of Scotland's finest performers, the BBC's Joy Dunlop takes us from the 1930s to the present day, showcasing players from	
Diardaoin 14/10	Farpaisean Ullachaidh an t-Seann Nois / The Traditional Gold Medal Qualifiers	The qualifying rounds for the Traditional Gold Medal
	Cuirm nan Coisir / Choir Event	Gaelic choirs throughout the country are packed with musical talent and with no choir competitions this year there is an opportunity to hear choirs' favourite choice of songs. Among those taking part are Lochs, Inverness, Nairn, Lairg, Mull, Cowal and the Badenoch Ladies Luadh Group. Eden Court Theatre, 2pm.
	Bookbug Session*	Bookbug session for ages 0-5* Delivered by CnaG
	Kids' Shinty*	Delivered by CnaG
	Cùlturlann session – Eden Court Under Canvas*	Music with local artistes*
	Program Moid Diardaoin / Thursday's Mod Programme	A compilation of some of the best performances across the senior categories.
	Farpaisean Crìochnachaidh an t-Seann Nois / The Traditional Gold Medal Final	The live final of the Traditional Gold Medal competition
Dihaoine 15/10	Farpaisean Inbhich / Adult Competitions	A selection of adults' competitions, live at Eden Court
	Cuirm nan Coisir / Choir Event	A great line up of choirs in today's showcase of choral musical talent. Among the line up are, Oban, Dingwall, Aberdeen, Lothian, Govan, Taynuilt Glasgow Islay, and Lairg Ladies. Eden Court Theatre 2pm.
	Bookbug Session*	Bookbug session for ages 0-5* Delivered by CnaG
	Kids' Shinty*	Delivered by CnaG
	Family Picnic*	Delivered by CnaG

	<p>Ann an Sealladh Uisge: Ainmean-àite Cladaich is Fìor- Uisge timcheall Inbhir Nis / A Watery View: Place Names of Shore and Freshwater</p>	<p>In this lecture, Ruairidh (Roddy) Maclean looks at place names in and around the Highland capital which connect us to water – shoreline, river, loch, spring and bog. Ruairidh draws upon places that appear in his recently published book 'Place Names of Inverness and</p>
	<p>Cuirm Crìochnachaidh a' Mhòid / Mòd Grand Finale</p>	<p>A special night with two of Gaeldom's favourite bands, Sian and New Tradition. Sian have been making their harmonious mark on the Scottish traditional music scene since 2016. Their individual voices blend seamlessly, intertwining atmospheric harmonies to</p>
<p><b>Disathairne 16/10</b></p>	<p>Massed Choirs</p>	<p>A massed choir performance at The Northern Meeting Park, Inverness. The Mòd banner will officially be handed over to Perth Mòd 2022 as they take over the reins for next year's event.</p>
	<p>Ceilidh mun Chagailt</p>	<p>Online Gaelic singing workshop</p>