

Agenda Item	7
Report No	G/07/24

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Gaelic Committee

Date: 29 May 2024

Report Title: GLP and Strategic Funding

Report By: Interim Executive Chief Officer, Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 A verbal update will be provided on the progress of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's assessment and approval process for The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 2024–29.
- 1.2 This report also informs Members of a restructure to the Gaelic Plans Fund (previously GLAIF) into two streams:
 - The Strategic Stream
 - The Projects Stream

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource - Funding for the implementation of the GLP will be sought through the Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Highland Council and other funding streams, where appropriate.
- 3.2 Legal - The Highland Council is required to publish and implement a GLP in accordance with the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 ('the 2005 Act').
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) - The Report complies with The Highland Council policies on Equality.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever - The Gaelic Team currently attend meetings online and virtually, thus reducing the requirement for business travel.
- 3.5 Risk – Outcomes listed within the GLP 2024–29 are not achieved.

3.6 Gaelic - The GLP is a statutory framework by which The Highland Council area supports the Gaelic language and culture. Therefore, the implications of this report are positive for Gaelic.

4. Update on The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 2024–29

4.1 A verbal update will be provided on the progress of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's assessment and approval process for the draft Gaelic Language Plan 2024–29.

5 Gaelic Plans Fund – Strategic Stream

5.1 The Gaelic Plans Fund (GPF) is administered by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and is designed to assist public authorities with the delivery of commitments in their Gaelic Language Plans.

This year the scheme will run in two streams as more fully described [here](#):

- The Strategic Stream – for 6 local authorities deemed significant
- The Projects Stream – for all other public bodies with Gaelic language plans

5.2 The 6 local authorities who are eligible to apply through the Strategic Stream are:

- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
- The Highland Council
- Argyll and Bute Council
- Glasgow City Council
- City of Edinburgh Council
- North Lanarkshire Council

These local authorities were deemed significant due to their overall number of Gaelic speakers according to the most recent census figures available, the number of pupils they have in Gaelic-medium education and previous support provided to them via the Gaelic Plans Fund/GLAIF.

5.3 The Projects Stream funding will be available for other public authorities that are not being invited to apply via the Strategic Stream. Consequently, Bòrd na Gàidhlig will not accept applications from The Highland Council or related arms-length organisations, such as High Life Highland, through the Projects Stream.

5.4 Bòrd na Gàidhlig have therefore invited The Highland Council to submit an application under the new Strategic Stream of funding by the 30 May 2024. The Highland Council has been asked to submit one application that details a three-year programme of work which will contribute to delivering the National Gaelic Plan 2023–28 and The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 2024–29.

5.5 Bòrd na Gàidhlig have requested that the application is structured around work areas. These are discrete streams of development work that The Highland Council undertakes for Gaelic for which funding is sought from Bòrd na Gàidhlig. For each work area, we have been asked to provide a description of the work and what it will achieve, what actions from The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 2024–29 or the National Gaelic Language Plan this will support, the people involved in delivering this work, an overview of the costs and a funding request from Bòrd na Gàidhlig for the work and how the impact of the work will be assessed.

- 5.6 Bòrd na Gàidhlig have asked that the application is developed on the basis of an award of around £60,000 per annum (a total of £180,000 over the three-year period). This amount is based on the previous grant support received via the GPF/GLAIF and the number of Gaelic speakers in the Highland Council area.
- 5.7 Additionally, a sum of £50,000 per annum (a total of £150,000 over the three-year period) will be available to support the 0-3 sector in the Highland area.

6. Outcome of the Funding Application

- 6.1 Bòrd na Gàidhlig have requested that The Highland Council submit their GPF Strategic Stream funding application by the 30 May 2024.
An update on the application will be provided at a future meeting of the Gaelic Committee.

Designation:

Date: 29 April 2024

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Background Papers:

Appendices: