

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	8
Report No	G/5/25

Committee: Gaelic Committee

Date: 26 February 2025

Report Title: Community Learning and Development – Gaelic Language Plan Strategic Priorities

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive – People

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This Report informs members of

- a) the current strategic priorities for Community Learning and Development (CLD) within the Gaelic language Plan theme one – Communities and Home:
 - 1.1: Increase support for all Gaelic users and learners, in their communities, and in the networks in which they operate.
 - 1.2: Provide initiatives to encourage Gaelic language learning for young people and families in the home.
- b) the key areas of current and future development to support the delivery of Communities and Home theme within the Gaelic Language Plan (GLP)

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to discuss and Note the Report.

3. Implications

3.1 Resource

Resource requirements can be met within the current main budget which include Gaelic Specific Grant, and Gaelic Plans Fund (Bòrd na Gàidhlig)

3.2 Legal

The Highland Council has a requirement to implement its Gaelic Language Plan under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act of 2005.

3.3 Risk

There are no risk implications arising as a consequence of this report.

3.4 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)

There are no Health and Safety implications arising as a consequence of this report.

- 3.5 Gaelic
The report enhances Gaelic for Community Learning and Development within The Highland Council area and supports the implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan.

4. Impacts

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.
- 4.3 This is a monitoring and update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

5. Priority Area 1.1 Increase support for all Gaelic users and learners, in their communities, and in the networks in which they operate

Desired outcome

- The Highland Council will develop Gaelic community learning and development plans around the standalone Gaelic schools and schools with a Gaelic Medium department to support Gaelic Medium Education (GME) pupils and Gaelic Learner Education (GLE) pupils.

Priority Area 1.2 Provide initiatives to encourage Gaelic language learning for young people and families in the home.

Desired outcome

- Create opportunities to support parents and families in using Gaelic in the home

- 5.1 To implement the outcome for strategic priority 1.1:
- The Gaelic Team CLD officers will provide joint working on Gaelic language project development around GME primaries and secondaries. To formalise the partnership working with GME schools the CLD officers and Gaelic Development manager will update the current Gaelic Development Plan document to link in with the schools.
 - The Gaelic community development plan will support GM parents, pupils, and the wider Gaelic school community support school improvement priorities. CLD officers will initially develop plans for the existing three standalone Gaelic schools in Highland.

- 5.2 To implement the outcome for strategic priority 1:2: To be delivered 2025/26
- To support GME parents and GME schools The Gaelic Team have received external funding through Bòrd na Gàidhlig to develop the project Parental Digital Resources.
 - The project will update the current Parent Information Handbook, including parental support resources and the updating of current Gaelic organisations that support GME families.
 - The handbook will be available for use at Gaelic promotional events, and as a resource to be made available to ELC and GME schools. The project will update and digitise the Highland Council Dachaigh Gaelic course for parents.

6. Key Developments for Community Learning and Development within Education

6.1 ELC & Childcare. CLD officers will deliver the following actions over the lifetime of the Plan:

- Deliver the three-year Gaelic Birth to Three plan.
- Supplement the Fàs Foghlaim resource, and bring it into alignment with the National Plan, by developing an information page on GME; and update The Highland Council parental GME information handbook.

6.2 Supporting Gaelic Medium Education in Primary. CLD officers will deliver the following actions over the lifetime of the Plan:

- In liaison with HLH and Gaelic organisations, increase sporting and outdoor learning opportunities for GME pupils in the Highland area.
- Continue to work with Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba to develop a Gaelic place-name course for GME primary pupils.
- Continue to develop Gaelic community learning and development plans in partnership with GME schools, organise awareness-raising events and continue to work and collaborate with local authorities through the national Gaelic group GLAD.
- In partnership with GME schools secure external funding to support the development of extracurricular activities and community initiatives, and deliver Gaelic cultural days in partnership with targeted GME schools.
- Provide programmes of Gaelic activities and events during school holidays to increase Gaelic usage out with formal education.
- Work with a range of Gaelic organisations to deliver sports activities and sports leadership opportunities for GME pupils in the Highland area.
- Support the national and Highland sporting events such as Cuach na Cloinne and Cupa Iomain na h-Òige for primary-aged GM pupils.

6.3 Supporting Gaelic Medium Education in Secondary. CLD officers will deliver the following actions over the Lifetime of the Plan:

- Increase the networking support to GME pupils in secondary schools associated with the standalone Gaelic schools.
- Deliver and organise the annual Seachdain na Deugairean project for GME and learner secondary pupils.
- Organise Gaelic youth residentials that promote Gaelic, and language and culture connections between Celtic countries.

- Work in partnership with Skills Development Scotland and key local and national organisations to provide an annual secondary Gaelic careers event.
- Increase extra-curricular activities which are delivered through Gaelic and in liaison with Gaelic organisations, increase opportunities for GME pupils to engage in Gaelic arts, music and culture.
- In liaison with HLH and Gaelic organisations, increase sporting and outdoor learning opportunities for GME pupils in the Highland area.
- Work in partnership with Gaelic agencies such as Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG), Iomain Cholm Cille (ICC) and FC Sonas, as well as High Life Highland (HLH) to deliver both Gaelic national and local sporting events.
- Continue to deliver Secondary Gaelic Sports Leadership coaching event in partnership with Highlife Highland.

7. Gaelic in the Home and Communities

7.1 Supporting Gaelic in the Home and Communities. CLD officers will deliver the following actions:

- Deliver opportunities to support adult learners within a community context, such as adult learning residentials and exchanges.
- Create an online Gaelic language resource for GME parents, to support Gaelic language in the home.
- Continue to support community organisations with their programme of Gaelic activities.
- On an annual basis organise a Gaelic tutor training event in the Highland area.
- Organise 'GME and the Benefits of Bilingualism' parental workshops, targeting early years parents.
- Organise family learning initiatives and promotional events to support GME parents and pupils.
- Organise and deliver The National Gaelic Family Learning Week in partnership with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.
- Continue to offer a suite of progressive Gaelic classes to support Gaelic language in the home.
- Deliver a range of Gaelic community events, including opportunities for inter-generational activities.
- Research and explore initiatives with partner organisations to identify where former GME pupils have studied in further education. The research results will be shared with stakeholders.

Designation:

Date: 27 January 2025

Author: Shona Paterson, Dolina Grant, Gaelic Community Learning and Development Officers