

Agenda Item	<b>6</b>
Report No	<b>G/6/26</b>

# The Highland Council

**Committee: Gaelic**

**Date: 3 June 2026**

**Report Title: Siuthad! – Annual Gaelic Careers Event**

**Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - People**

## **1. Purpose/Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on the annual event, “Siuthad!” (meaning Go On!).

The event is aimed at both Gaelic Learner and Gaelic Medium pupils in S2 from schools across the Highlands.

“Siuthad!” showcases a range of Gaelic-related jobs and careers and encourages young people to continue with Gaelic studies towards qualifications in the senior stages of High School. This can provide young people with extra skills and qualifications that provide for positive career and training opportunities when leaving school.

- 1.2 “Siuthad!” established in 2013, is a partnership between The Highland Council (THC), Skills Development Scotland (SDS), Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnaG) and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and is organised by The Highland Council’s Gaelic Team and Skills Development Scotland.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Note the contents of this Siuthad update report.
  - ii. Agree to continue to support the participation of secondary pupils in Siuthad.
  - iii. Agree to continue to work with Skills Development Scotland to organise Siuthad.

## **3. Implications**

- 3.1 Resource  
The delivery of Siuthad is funded by Highland Council, Skills Development Scotland, Highlands and Island’s Enterprise and Bòrd na Gàidhlig funding streams.

- 3.2 Legal  
The Highland Council has a statutory duty to implement its Gaelic Language Plan in terms of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act of 2005. Section 15 Education (Scotland) Act 2016 imposes a statutory duty on The Highland Council as Education Authority to promote and support Gaelic Education
- 3.3 Risk  
There are no specific risk implications arising as a result of this report
- 3.4 Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)  
None
- 3.5 Gaelic  
There are ongoing positive implications for the preservation, promotion and development of Gaelic across education, communities, culture, the economy and corporate services

#### **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 update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

#### **5. Siuthad**

- 5.1 110 pupils from six schools – Ardnamurchan, Lochaber, Inverness Royal Academy, Ullapool, Tain and Dingwall – attended the event which took place on 29 January.

The event was opened by Robert Robertson, lead singer from Tide Lines, who spoke about the many opportunities that Gaelic and Gaelic culture had offered him since his musical journey began at school in Fort William.

The event incorporated a marketplace/exhibitor area made up of numerous organisations including Highland Council, NHS Highland, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the University of Edinburgh, Alba FA, Cultarlann Inbhir Nis, Stòrlann, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the University of the Highlands and Islands. The support of these organisations is crucial to making Siuthad take place.

Pupils participated in interactive workshops and met representatives from various sectors including creative industries, education, broadcasting and the public sector about the work they do and the pathways they followed in their respective careers. Workshops were hosted by the BBC, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Historic Environment Scotland and Astar Media.

Those leading the workshops all spoke to pupils about their work and how Gaelic language skills have enhanced their Gaelic career path.

As well as being informative and relatively informal, the event aimed to be fun for those attending as they got the chance to participate in a range of interactive activities including music and drama workshops.

- 5.2 Derek MacKenzie, Skills Development Scotland (SDS), will present to Members at 3 June Gaelic Committee with a more detailed overview and associated outcomes of this year's event, which will allow members the opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the event.

SDS work to highlight career pathways for young Gaelic speakers to employers. The event allows industries that value bilingualism to connect with pupils to raise awareness of the benefits of Gaelic in the workplace.

- 5.3 Promotion of the event was supported on the day by the Council's Corporate Communications team.

#### [News release](#)

The on-site presence, recording short interviews with pupils and with Robert Robertson for use across social media channels is a strengthening of the Council's visibility for Gaelic.

These were produced as reels and shared promptly to support Gaelic corporate aims by promoting Gaelic in a visible, contemporary and engaging format.

This live, in-person content capture represents a new and strengthening approach to raising the visibility of Gaelic, demonstrating active commitment rather than post-event coverage alone. The immediate publication of reels also provided a positive experience for pupils, allowing them to see themselves represented online straight after the event, reinforcing pride, participation and the relevance of Gaelic in modern digital spaces.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - People

Date: 29.4.26

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Background Papers: