



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

COMATAIDH NA GÀIDHLIG: SGIOPA NA GÀIDHLIG GAELIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY – QUARTER 2 AND 3 SUMMARY

26 NOVEMBER 2024

Report By Chief Executive

PURPOSE

- 1.1 This Report provides information concerning Gaelic development activities undertaken by Sgioba na Gàidhlig in Quarter 2, and to this point in Quarter 3, 2024/25.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Between July and November 2024, Sgioba na Gàidhlig (SnG) was involved in a range of Gaelic development activities, both within the Comhairle, and in the community. A summary of some of the main Gaelic development activities is provided in 6.1.
- 2.2 In leading by example, discussions have been held with Gaelic organisations and others in order to build on partnership working in the promotion, use and learning of Gaelic in the Isles.

- 3.1 **RECOMMENDATIONS**
It is recommended that the Comhairle note the content of this Report.

Contact Officer: Donald Weir, Gaelic Support Officer, Sgioba na Gàidhlig
Appendix: Background Papers:

IMPLICATIONS

The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

COMATAIDH NA GÀIDHLIG: GNÌOMHAN LEASACHAIDH GÀIDHLIG SGIOPA NA GÀIDHLIG – GEÀRR-CHUNNTAS RÀITH 2 AGUS 3

26 SAMHAIN 2024

Aithisg leis an Àrd-oifigear

ADHBHAR

- 1.1 Tha an Aithisg seo a' toirt seachad fiosrachadh mu ghnìomhan leasachadh na Gàidhlig anns an robh Sgioba na Gàidhlig an sàs ann an Ràith 2, agus gu ruige seo ann an Ràith 3, 2024/25.

GEÀRR-CHUNNTAS

Eadar Iuchar agus Samhain 2024, bha Sgioba na Gàidhlig (SnG) an sàs ann an sreath de dh'obair leasachaidh Gàidhlig, an dà chuid taobh a-staigh na Comhairle agus sa choimhearsnachd. Tha geàrr-chunntas de na prìomh ghnìomhan leasachaidh Gàidhlig aig 6.1.

Ann a bhith a' sealltainn eisimpleir de dheagh chleachdadh, chaidh còmhraidhean a chumail le buidhnean Gàidhlig is eile gus togail air obair chom-pàirteachaidh ann a bhith ag àrdachadh, a' cleachdadh agus ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig sna h-Eileanan.

- 3.1 **MOLADHEAN**
Thathar a' moladh gun toireadh a' Chomhairle fa-near na tha am broinn na h-Aithisge seo.

Cuir fios gu: Dòmhnall Weir, Oifigear Taic Gàidhlig, Sgioba na Gàidhlig
Fa-sgrìobhadh: Pàipearan Fiosrachaidh

BUAIDH

Tha na leanas mar bhuidhean a thaobh na h-Aithisge.

4.1

Resource Implications	Implications/None	4.1	Buaidhean Stòras	Buaidh/Neo-ni
Financial	% to be met from Comhairle budgets		Ionmhas	% ris an tèid coinneachadh bho bhuidseatan na Comhairle
Legal	None		Laghail	Neo-ni
Staffing	None		Sgiobachd	Neo-ni
Assets and Property	None		So-mhaoin is Tog	Neo-ni
Strategic Implications	Implications/None		Buaidhean Ro-innleachdail	Buaidh/Neo-ni
Risk	None		Cunnart	Neo-ni
Equalities	None		Co-ionannachd	Neo-ni
Corporate Strategy	Corporate Strategy Priority 1.5: Gaelic Language & Culture		Ro-innleachd Chorporra	Ro-innleachd Chorporra Prìomhachas 1.5: Gàidhlig agus Cultar
Environmental Impact	None		Buaidh air an Àrainneachd	Neo-ni
Consultation	None		Co-chomhairleachadh	Neo-ni

BACKGROUND

5.1

In September 2022, Mr Angus MacLennan was appointed as Gaelic Policy Officer on a part-time basis, to provide Gaelic policy development support for Sgioba na Gàidhlig.

5.1

San t-Sultain 2022, chaidh Mgr Aonghas Mac'IlFhinnein a chur an dreuchd phàirt-ùine mar Oifigear Poileasaidh Gàidhlig gus taic a chur ri obair leasachadh poileasaidh Sgioba na Gàidhlig.

FIOSRACHADH

Gaelic Development Activities

6.1

- 1) SnG attended the inter-authority Gaelic Language and Development (GLAD) meeting, where the recent report of the Independent Review of Community Learning and Development (CLD), commissioned by the Scottish Government, was discussed. It was agreed to draft a response on behalf of the group to the review because of the complete absence in it of any reference to Gaelic. It was also agreed that the group should therefore aim to build greater awareness and recognition of Gaelic CLD nationally, and that Seachdain na Gàidhlig in February 2025 would be an ideal opportunity to do this.

6.1

Gnìomhan Leasachadh na Gàidhlig

- 1) Bha SnG an làthair aig coinneamh eadar-ùghdarras Cànan is Leasachadh Gàidhlig (GLAD), far an deach bruidhinn mun Ath-sgrùdadh Neo-eisimeileach air Ionnsachadh agus Leasachadh Coimhearsnachd (CLD) a chaidh a choimiseanadh le Riaghaltas na h-Alba o chionn ghoirid. Chaidh aontachadh gun dèigheadh freagairt a chur ri chèile às leth na buidhne air sgàth 's nach robh càil ann mu dheidhinn Gàidhlig. Chaidh aontachadh cuideachd gum bu chòir dhan bhuidheann a bhith a' cur ri barrachd mothachaidh mu CLD Gàidhlig aig ìre nàiseanta, agus gum b' e Seachdain na Gàidhlig sa Ghearran 2025 cothrom math seo a dhèanamh.

- 2) SnG carried out qualitative and quantitative research on the success of the Dìleab: Leverhulme project, based on the return of 268 feedback forms. The results showed that the event was highly successful, and the feedback will be used as part of future funding bids for similar community events.
 - 3) SnG met with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), where the importance of creating a wider awareness, through research, of the value of Gaelic to the Western Isles economy was discussed. SnG will offer support if necessary in the creation of Gaelic starter packs for new HIE employees.
 - 4) SnG attended a meeting of the Apprenticeships and Placements Working Group, where it was agreed that Gaelic career pathways should be more integrated into the curriculum. It was felt that updated data about the economic value of Gaelic to communities in the Isles would be a useful means of creating an interest in potential Gaelic career pathways.
 - 5) SnG met with An Lanntair to assist in the preparation of a bid to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for funding of the Gaelic 'Luach' festival, and to discuss funding of a joint Gaelic Arts Officer post between the Comhairle and An Lanntair.
 - 6) SnG delivered a presentation to representatives of the ARFOR / Llwyddo'n Lleol 2050 ("Succeed Locally 2050") programme in Wales. This programme operates in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Anglesey, (the four counties with the highest numbers of Welsh speakers), and funds projects and initiatives which create economic opportunities for young Welsh speakers that allow them to continue to live and work in their communities. ARFOR officers were keen to learn more about the
- 2) Rinn SnG rannsachadh càileachdail agus uimhireil air soirbheachadh pròiseact Dìleab: Leverhulme, stèidhichte air fios air ais bho 268 duine. Fhuair a-mach gun robh e air leth soirbheachail, agus thèid na beachdan a chleachdadh mar phàirt de dh'iarrtasan san àm ri teachd airson tachartasan coimhearsnachd eile.
 - 3) Choinnich SnG le Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean (HIE), far an deach bruidhinn air cho cudromach 's a tha e mothachadh nas fharsainge a chruthachadh, tro rannsachadh, air luach na Gàidhlig do eaconamaidh nan Eilean. Cuidichidh SnG, ma dh'fheumar, le deasachadh pasgain-obrach Gàidhlig dha luchd-obrach ùr HIE.
 - 4) Bha SnG an làthair aig coinneamh Buidheann-obrach Phreantasan agus Ghreisean Gnìomhachais, far an deach aontachadh gum bu chòir dha slighean-obrach do dhreuchdan Gàidhlig a bhith mar phàirt den churraicealam. Bhathas a' faireachdainn gum biodh dàta as ùr mu luach eaconomach na Gàidhlig do choimhearsnachdan na dhòigh fheumail gus ùidh ann an dreuchdan Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh.
 - 5) Choinnich SnG leis An Lanntair gus cuideachadh le deasachadh iarrais gu Bòrd na Gàidhlig airson fèis Gàidhlig 'Luach', agus gus bruidhinn mu mhaoineachadh airson Oifigear Ealain Gàidhlig a bhiodh ag obair airson na Comhairle agus an Lanntair.
 - 6) Libhrig SnG taisbeanadh do riochdairean bhon phrògram ARFOR / Llwyddo'n Lleol 2050 ("Soirbheachadh Ionadail 2050") sa Chuimrigh. Thathas a' libhrigeadh a' phrògram seo ann an Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd agus Anglesey, (na ceithir siorrachdan far a bheil an àireamh as àirde de luchd-labhairt na Cuimris), far a bheilear a' toirt taic-airgid do phròiseactan is iomairtean a bhios a' cruthachadh chothroman eaconomach airson luchd-labhairt òg na Cuimris gus an urrainn dhaibh fuireach sna coimhearsnachdan aca fhèin. Bha ùidh

Comhairle's Gaelic Student Placement Scheme.

- 7) Following a joint initiative with ARFOR, SnG have been organising fully-funded exchange visits which will take place in November and December 2024 in Gwynedd and Stornoway involving a student who was on the Gaelic Student Placement Scheme and a Welsh student who was on a similar scheme in Wales. ARFOR officers will meet SnG to discuss economic strategies rooted in minority language use, and examples of best practice will be shared.
 - 8) SnG met with the Multimedia Unit and Gaelic Education Manager to discuss the creation of regular videos by parents, officers and pupils which highlight the benefits of Gaelic medium education.
 - 9) Turas and Tog 'train-the-trainer' classes, organised by SnG in conjunction with Education Scotland, were delivered over four weeks in August/September. These free classes targeted Gaelic speakers who wished to develop their Gaelic teaching skills, in order to allow them to work as community Gaelic tutors. The classes taught participants about effective teaching methodologies and the ways in which confidence, fluency and language skills could be developed in Gaelic language learners. Currently, there is a shortage of Gaelic community tutors, and it is hoped that running these classes regularly will help to address this shortage.
 - 10) SnG secured four years of funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig in terms of their Strategic Stream Fund of a 0.4 fte Gaelic Communities Officer post, totalling £120,000, to work with partner and community organisations in the promotion of Gaelic in the economy and in the communities of the Isles. £37,500
- 7) Mhòr aig oifigearan ARFOR ann an Sgeama Greis Gnìomhachais Gàidhlig nan Oileanach.
 - 7) Air sgàth co-iomairt le ARFOR, tha SnG air a bhith a' cur thursan-iomlaid mhaoinichte air dòigh airson Samhain agus Dùbhlachd 2024 ann an Gwynedd agus Steòrnabhagh dha oileanach a bha air Sgeama Greis Gnìomhachais nan Oileanach agus oileanach a tha air a bhith air sgeama coltach ri seo sa Chuimrigh. Coinnichidh oifigearan ARFOR le SnG gus bruidhinn air ro-innleachdan eaconomach stèidhichte air cleachdadh mhion-chànanan agus eisimpleirean de dheagh chleachdadh.
 - 8) Choinnich SnG le Aonad Ioma Mheadhain agus Manaidsear Foghlaim Ghàidhlig gus bruidhinn air a bhith a' cur bhideoan ri chèile gu cunbhalach de phàranatan, oifigearan agus sgoilearan mu bhuannachdan foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.
 - 9) Chaidh clasaichean 'trèanadh son oidean' Turas agus Tog a chur air dòigh le SnG agus Foghlam Alba, agus chaidh an libhrigeadh thairis air ceithir seachdainean ann an Lùnastal/Sultain. Bha na clasaichean saor seo ag amas air sgilean teagaisg luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a leasachadh, gus an urrainn dhaibh a bhith nan oidean coimhearsnachd Gàidhlig. Dh'ionnsaich an fheadhainn a bh' air a' chùrsa mu mhodhan-obrach teagaisg èifeachdach agus na dòighean anns am b' urrainnear misneachd, fileantachd agus sgilean cànan luchd-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig a leasachadh. Mar a tha cùisean an-dràsta, tha gainnead de dh'oidean coimhearsnachd Gàidhlig ann, agus thathas an dòchas le bhith a' ruith nan clasaichean seo gu cunbhalach gun tèid dèiligeadh ris a' ghainnead seo.
 - 10) Fhuair SnG maoinachadh Bòrd na Gàidhlig de £120,000 gu lèir airson ceithir bliadhna fon Mhaoin Sruth Ro-innleachdail aca airson dreuchd 0.4 mar Oifigear Coimhearsnachd Gàidhlig, a dh'obraicheas le buidhnean com-pàirteachais is coimhearsnachd gus Gàidhlig a dh'adhartachadh ann an eaconomaidh agus coimhearsnachdan

was also secured for the Gaelic Student Placement Scheme over four years.

- 11) SnG met with the new Oifigear Leasachaidh Iar Thuath Leòdhais (North-West Lewis Gaelic Development Officer). She will develop a Gaelic Language Plan for the area, working between Ness and Lochganvich, in consultation with partner organisations and based on research she will carry out. Issues discussed included the lack of Gaelic classes to support parents with children in GME, and the need to broaden the Gaelic curriculum in schools.
- 12) At a meeting of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Gaelic Officers Network in Lewis, it was decided that Gaelic development officers based in Lewis and Harris should establish a more formal grouping. This would include SnG Officers. This group would share best practice and develop practical, cross-organisation strategies in terms of dealing with the difficulties organisations faced in the delivery of Gaelic language plans. It was also agreed that for the purposes of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's "Areas of Linguistic Significance" designation it would be important for Lewis and Harris *as a whole* to be designated as such an area.
- 13) SnG met with the Scottish Government's Media Manager and communications officers from other public bodies to discuss communications opportunities for Gaelic, including upcoming news releases, information about ministerial visits and social media content relevant to Gaelic, and how inter-agency co-operation could amplify positive stories about Gaelic.

nan Eilean. Fhuair £37,500 cuideachd airson Sgeama Greis Gnìomhachais nan Oileanach thairis air ceithir bliadhna.

- 11) Choinnich SnG leis an Oifigear Leasachaidh Iar Thuath Leòdhais. Bidh i an urra ri bhith leasachadh Plana Cànain Gàidhlig airson na sgìre seo, eadar Nis agus Loch a' Ghainmhich, ann an co-chonaltradh le buidhnean com-pàirteachais, agus stèidhichte air rannsachadh a nì i. Chaidh bruidhinn mu chuspairean a leithid mar a tha gainnead de chlasaichean Gàidhlig ann gus taic a chur ri pàrantan de chlann an am FtG, agus mar a dh'fheumar curraicealam na Gàidhlig ann an sgoiltean a leudachadh.
- 12) Aig coinneamh de Lìonra Oifigearan Gàidhlig Bòrd na Gàidhlig ann an Leòdhas, chaidh aontachadh gun dèanadh e ciall buidheann foirmeil de dh'oifigearan leasachaidh na Gàidhlig ann an Leòdhas is Na Hearadh a chur air bhonn. Bhiodh seo a' gabhail a-steach Oifigearan SnG. Bhiodh am buidheann seo a' beachdachadh air eisimpleirean de chleachdadh as fheàrr agus leasachadh ro-innleachdan practaigeach a chleachdas na buidhnean gus dèiligeadh ri duilgheadasan ann a bhith a' libhrigeadh phlanaichean cànain. Chaidh aontachadh cuideachd a thaobh a' chomharrachaidh "Sgìrean Gàidhlig Sònraichte" aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig gum biodh e cudromach nam biodh Leòdhas is Na Hearadh air ainmeachadh mar aon sgìre *gu lèir*.
- 13) Choinnich SnG le Manaidsear Mheadhanan Riaghaltas na h-Alba agus oifigearan mheadhanan bho bhuidhnean poblach eile gus beachdachadh air na cothroman a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ann dha Gàidhlig sna meadhanan, a' gabhail a-steach fiosan-naidheachd, fiosrachadh mu thadhalan ministreil agus susbaint Gàidhlig air na meadhanan sòisealta, agus ciamar a b' urrainn dha buidhnean a bhith ag obair còmhla gus naidheachdan math mu Ghàidhlig a chuirteachadh san dòigh as fheàrr.

- 14) SnG are now translating every Comhairle job advertisement into Gaelic, as per the commitment in the Comhairle's Gaelic Plan, to: *"Advertise Gaelic-essential posts in Gaelic only and Gaelic desirable posts in bilingual format"*.
- 15) SnG met with Deputy First Minister, Kate Forbes, where a range of Gaelic development issues was discussed. The Deputy First Minister also made it very clear that she was more than willing to work very closely with the Comhairle going forward, in developing the use and learning of the language in the Isles.
- 14) Tha SnG a-nis ag eadar-theangachadh gach sanas obrach na Comhairle, mar a tha mìnichte ann am Plana Cànan na Comhairle: *"Cuir a-mach sanasan airson dreuchdan far a bheil Gàidhlig riatanach ann an Gàidhlig a-mhàin, agus dreuchdan far a bheil Gàidhlig na bhuannachd ann an cruth dà-chànanach."*
- 15) Choinnich SnG le Leas-phrìomh Mhinistear, Ceit Fhoirbeis, nuair a chaidh bruidhinn air sreath de chuspairean leasachadh na Gàidhlig. Rinn an Leas-phrìomh Mhinistear e glè shoilleir gun robh i gu math deònach obrachadh gu dlùth còmhla ris a' Chomhairle gus cleachdadh agus ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig a leasachadh sna h-Eileanan.