



**DILEAB 2024 – THE LEVERHULME PROJECTS**

Report by Chief Officer, Education and Children's Services

**PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to provide the Comhairle with an update on the work which took place in schools in 2024 looking at the life and legacy of Lord Leverhulme.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Comhairle appointed a Cultural Coordinator in October 2022, on a fixed term basis to June 2024, with the remit of coordination of the delivery of the Dileab project to schools in the Western Isles. The development and delivery of the project was managed by the Gaelic Education Manager.
- 2.2 In January 2024, historians visited participating schools to deliver the historical background and context leading up to the setting up of the Stornoway Trust and in Harris the impact Lord Leverhulme left when he left Lewis and turned his attention to Harris. Storytellers were then engaged to deliver locally sourced information. Many of these storytellers participate in local Comunn Eachdraidh organisations which have a precious archive of this time in our history. Building on the expertise from Dileab 2023 was crucial in delivering to schools in 2024.
- 2.3 The theme of land raiding and the legacy left by Leverhulme was explored and four showcase concerts took place:
  - Stornoway Primary School, An Lanntair, 14 March 2024
  - Sir E Scott/Leverhulme Memorial, SES School, 27 March 2024
  - Sgoil an Rubha, An Lanntair, 8 May 2024,
  - The Nicolson Institute, An Lanntair, 15 May 2024.

All performances were sold out and feedback from these events can be seen in Appendix 1.

- 2.4 In addition to the concerts, these eight schools entered plays into the Local Mod in June 2024. Local writers wrote scripts on the Leverhulme theme and the Cultural Coordinator provided direction to these schools. The competition saw a record number of entries and clearly demonstrates the enthusiasm and appetite for drama in schools, not only at primary level but also in secondary.
- 2.5 Meetings will take place in the coming weeks to ascertain what the Dileab theme will be for 2025. Funding, from external sources, will need to be identified if plans are to progress. It is envisaged that drama inputs will form part of the offering from Dileab as schools have communicated a wish for more of this.
- 2.6 Feisean nan Gaidheal are a key partner in the delivery of this project and the Department are delighted for their contribution in bringing Dileab 2024 to fruition. The Scottish Government provided funding of £40k for the 2024 project.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 3.1 It is recommended that the Comhairle note the Report.

Contact Officer: Evelyn Coull Macleod, Gaelic Education Manager.  
Appendix: Dileab Feedback Survey 2024  
Background Papers: None

## IMPLICATIONS

### 4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

<b>Resource Implications</b>	<b>Implications/None</b>
Financial	None
Legal	None
Staffing	None
Assets and Property	None
<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Implications/None</b>
Risk	None
Equalities	None
Corporate Strategy	Support and Promote the Gàidhlig language, natural and cultural heritage of the islands.
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None