



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

COMATAIDH NA GÀIDHLIG: DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR GAELIC IN THE COMMUNITY

17 JUNE 2025

Report By Chief Executive

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to provide information regarding a meeting that was held on 22 April 2025, where Gaelic development officers from a range of public organisations were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This meeting was organised by Sgioba na Gàidhlig to discuss possible strategies, and partnership working amongst organisations in attendance at the meeting, to develop the use of Gaelic in the communities of the Isles.
- 2.2 At the conclusion of this meeting, three actions to take forward were agreed by all the organisations in attendance, namely:

- Organisations should be encouraged to give more time to employees to develop their spoken Gaelic skills.
- Adults with Gaelic skills should be encouraged to increase their use of Gaelic in talking to children.
- Evidence about the value of Gaelic to the economy of the Isles should be communicated to the public.

3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Comhairle note this Report.

Contact Officer: Donald Weir, Gaelic Support Officer, Sgioba na Gàidhlig

COMATAIDH NA GÀIDHLIG: A' LEASACHADH RO-INNLEACHD AIRSON GÀIDHLIG SA CHOIMHEARSNACHD

17 ÒGMHIOS 2025

Aithisg leis an Àrd-oifigear

ADHBHAR

- 1.1 'S e adhbhar na h-Aithisg seo fiosrachadh a thoirt seachad mu choinneamh a chaidh a cumail air 22 Giblean 2025, far an robh oifigearan leasachadh na Gàidhlig bho shreath de bhuidhnean poblach an làthair.

GEÀRR-CHUNNTAS

- 2.1 Chaidh a' choinneamh seo a chur air dòigh le Sgioba na Gàidhlig gus deasbad a dhèanamh air ro-innleachdan, agus co-obrachadh a b' urrainnear a chur air chois am measg nam buidhnean, gus leasachadh na Gàidhlig a thoirt air adhart ann an coimhearsnachdan nan Eilean.
- 2.2 Aig deireadh na coinneimh seo, chaidh aontachadh gun cuimsich na buidhnean gu lèir air trì gnìomhan, mar a leanas:

- Bu chòir buidhnean a bhith air am brosnachadh gus ùine a thoirt don luchd-obrach gus sgilean còmhraidh Ghàidhlig a leasachadh.
- Bu chòir inbhich a bhith air am brosnachadh gus barrachd Gàidhlig a chleachdadh ann an conaltradh le clann.
- Bu chòir dearbhadh air luach na Gàidhlig don eaconamaidh a bhith air a thaisbeanadh dhan phoball.

3.1 MOLAIIDHEAN

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

IMPLICATIONS

The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

4.1

Resource Implications	Implications/None	4.1
Financial	% to be met from Comhairle budgets	
Legal	None	
Staffing	None	
Assets and Property	None	
Strategic Implications	Implications/None	
Risk	None	
Equalities	None	
Corporate Strategy	Priority 1.5: Gaelic Language & Culture	
Environmental Impact	None	
Consultation	None	

BUAIDH

Tha na a-leanas mar bhuidhean.

Buidhean Stòras	Buidh/Neo-ni
Ionmhas	% ris an tèid coinneachadh bho bhuidhean na Comhairle
Laghail	Neo-ni
Sgiobachd	
So-mhaoin is Tog	
Buidhean Ro-innleachdail	Buidh/Neo-ni
Cunnart	Neo-ni
Co-ionannachd	Neo-ni
Ro-innleachd Chorporra	Prìomhachas 1.5: Gàidhlig agus Cultar
Buidh air an Àrainneachd	Neo-ni
Co-chomhairleachadh	Neo-ni

BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Sgioba na Gàidhlig were aware that it had been some time since Gaelic organisations had met to discuss ways in which they could co-operate in terms of developing Gaelic in the Isles. The meeting was arranged as a matter of some urgency, in light of the Scottish Government's plans to designate some Gaelic communities as Areas of Linguistic Significance in terms of the new Scottish Languages Bill.
- 5.2 A wide range of organisations were represented at the meeting, including: from the Comhairle, officers from Education and Children's Services, Sgioba na Gàidhlig, the Multimedia Unit, and the Library Service; MG Alba; Acair; e-Sgoil; Fèisean nan Gàidheal; An Lanntair; An Taigh Ceilidh; Cothrom; Comunn Eachdraidh Nis; Comunn Eachdraidh Cheann a Loch. In addition, the

FIOSRACHADH

- 5.1 Bha Sgioba na Gàidhlig mothachail gun robh ùine air a bhith ann bhon a choinnich buidhnean Gàidhlig a thaobh co-obrachadh mu leasachadh na Gàidhlig sna h-Eileanan. Chaidh a' choinneamh a chur air dòigh mar chùis an ìre mhath èiginneach, air sgàth mar a bhios Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag ainmeachadh cuid de choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig mar Sgìrean Sònraichte Gàidhlig a thaobh Bile nan Cànanan Albannach ùr.
- 5.2 Bha sreath farsaing de bhuidhnean air an riochdachadh aig a' choinneamh, a' gabhail a-steach: oifigearan na Comhairle bho Fhoghlam is Sheirbheisean Chloinne, Sgioba na Gàidhlig, bhon Aonad Ioma-mheadhan, agus bho Sheirbheis an Leabharlainn; MG Alba; Acair; e-Sgoil; Fèisean nan Gàidheal; An Lanntair; An Taigh Ceilidh; Cothrom; Comunn Eachdraidh

North-west Lewis Gaelic Development Officer was also in attendance.

Nis; Comunn Eachdraidh Cheann a Loch. A bharrachd air sin, bha Oifigear Leasachaidh Iar-thuath Leòdhais cuideachd an làthair.

MAIN POINTS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

NA PRÌOMH PHUINGEAN A THÀINIG A-MACH ÀS A' CHOINNEAMH

6.1 The meeting began with each representative detailing the main areas of work each organisation was involved in, in terms of Gaelic development. Following this, there was discussion about the main areas of success and of difficulty each organisation encountered in delivering services in Gaelic, with opinions offered about potential solutions to difficulties and actions that could be implemented.

6.1 Thòisich a' choinneamh le gach riochdaire ag innse mu na prìomh rudan anns an robh gach buidhean an sàs a thaobh leasachadh na Gàidhlig. An uairsin, chaidh deasbad a dhèanamh air na prìomh rudan a bha soirbheachail is na prìomh chnapan-starra a bha ann airson gach buidheann a thaobh a bhith a' libhrigeadh sheirbheisean sa Ghàidhlig, le beachdachadh air na fuasglaidhean agus gnìomhan a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ann.

6.2 It was felt that the following was working very well in terms of developing and promoting the language:

6.2 Bhathas a' faireachdainn gun robh na leanas ag obair glè mhath a thaobh a bhith a' leasachadh is ag àrdachadh a' chàinain:

- Raising the profile of Gaelic in social media and through digital developments.
- Organising events for older people and young children.
- Supporting and encouraging the parents of children in Gaelic Medium Education.
- Increasing interest and pride in the language through music.
- Getting high level political support.
- Bringing in funding to the Isles.

- A' togail ìomhaigh na Gàidhlig tro na meadhanan sòisealta agus tro leasachaidhean didseatach.
- A' cur thachartasan air chois do sheann daoine agus dhan fheadhainn às òige.
- A' bhith a' brosnachadh agus a' cur taic ri pàrantan chloinne ann am Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig.
- A' togail ùidh agus ùaill anns a' chànan tro cheòl.
- A' faighinn taic phoilitigeach aig ìre àrd.
- A' tarraing a-steach maoineachaidh do na h-Eileanan.

6.3 It was felt that the following were particularly challenging in terms of developing and promoting the language:

6.3 Bhathas a' faireachdainn gun robh na leanas gu math dùbhlach a thaobh a bhith a' leasachadh is ag àrdachadh a' chàinain:

- A lack of time for, and encouragement of, employees to improve their Gaelic language skills in the workplace.
- A lack of confidence amongst young people who have left school in terms of using Gaelic.
- A need to expand career pathways in which Gaelic is considered an essential skill.
- Competition amongst organisations for available funding.
- A lack of Gaelic usage by parents, and people in communities generally, when

- Dìth ùine agus brosnachaidh do dhaoine piseach a thoirt air sgilean càinain Ghàidhlig san àite-obrach.
- Dìth misneachaidh do dhaoine òga a th' air an sgoil fhàgail a thaobh cleachdadh na Gàidhlig.
- Feum ann airson leudachadh ann an slighean-obrach anns a bheil Gàidhlig air a meas mar sgil riatanach.
- Co-fharpais a thaobh maoineachadh am measg bhuidhnean.
- Dìth cleachdaidh na Gàidhlig le pàrantan no muinntir na

	communicating with children who are in Gaelic medium education. • A lack of co-operation amongst organisations. • A lack of training and of shared aims amongst Gaelic development officers. • A lack of Gaelic courses and events that are appealing to S1 to S6 pupils. • A lack of data and narrative that emphasises to the public, in an effective way, the value of Gaelic to the economy of the Isles. • A lack of means of communication that attracts the attention of the general public towards the language.		coimhearsnachd ri clann a tha ann am foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig. • Dìth co-obrachaidh am measg bhuidhnean. • Cion trèanaidh agus dìth amasan coitcheann do dh'oifigearan leasachaidh na Gàidhlig. • Dìth chùrsaichean agus thachartasan Gàidhlig a tha a' glachdadh aire agus ùidh sgoilearan bho AS1 gu AS6. • Cion dàta agus sgeulachdan a tha ag innse don mhòr-shluagh mu luach na Gàidhlig do eaconamaidh nan Eilean ann an dòigh èifeachdach. • Dìth mheadhanan conaltraidh airson aire dhaoine a thoirt chun a' chànain.
6.4	It was agreed that it was extremely important that organisations worked together to ensure that they were making best use of any funding that they were in receipt of, that duplication of work was not happening across the organisations, or that gaps in Gaelic provision were left unfilled. There ought to be clear evidence of the effectiveness of any work in which organisations were involved.	6.4	Chaidh aontachadh gun robh e air leth deatamach gun obraicheadh buidhnean còmhla gus dèanamh cinnteach gun robhar a' dèanamh barrachd feum den mhaoineachadh a bhathas a' faighinn, nach robh dùblachadh a' dol air adhart am measg nam buidhnean, no beàrran gun lionadh. Bu chòir gum biodh dearbhadh follaiseach ann air èifeachdas na h-obrach anns an robhar an sàs.
6.5	It was agreed that organisations present at the meeting should initially focus on the three following aims in terms of developing the use of Gaelic: • Organisations should be encouraged to give more time to employees to develop their spoken Gaelic skills. • Adults with Gaelic skills should be encouraged to increase their use of Gaelic in talking to children. A Comhairle press release was issued on 28 April in order to raise public awareness of the need to increase the use of Gaelic in communications between adults and children: https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/gd/news/2025/bruidhninn-gaidhlig-nuair-urrain-dhut • Evidence about the value of Gaelic to the economy of the Isles should be communicated to the public.	6.5	Chaidh aontachadh gum bu chòir dha na buidhnean sa chiad dol-a-mach cuideam a chur air na trì amasan a leanas a thaobh a bhith a' leasachadh na Gàidhlig: • Bu chòir buidhnean a bhith air am brosnachadh gus ùine a thoirt don luchd-obrach gus sgilean còmhraidh Ghàidhlig a leasachadh. • Bu chòir inbhich a bhith air am brosnachadh gus barrachd Gàidhlig a chleachdadh ann an conaltradh ri clann. Thàinig fios-naidheachd na Comhairle a-mach mu seo air 28 Giblean, gus iomairt a brosnachadh am measg a' phobaill gus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a mheudachadh eadar inbhich is clann: https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/gd/news/2025/bruidhninn-gaidhlig-nuair-urrain-dhut • Bu chòir dearbhadh air luach na Gàidhlig don eaconamaidh a bhith air a thaisbeanadh dhan phoball.

6.6 It was agreed that this group of organisations would continue to meet quarterly and would invite other organisations involved in the development of Gaelic to attend in future. The outcomes of these meetings will continue to be reported to this Committee.

6.6 Chaidh aontachadh gun coinneachadh na buidhnean seo gach cairteal agus gun dèigheadh cuiridhean a-mach san àm ri teachd gu buidhnean eile a bha an sàs ann an leasachadh na Gàidhlig. Thèid aithisgean a dheasachadh dhan Chomataidh mu thoraidhean nan coinneamhan seo.

