



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

COMATAIDH NA GÀIDHLIG: ÀRAINN STEÒRNABHAIGH – THE FUTURE OF GAELIC IN STORNOWAY

23 SEPTEMBER 2025

Report By Chief Executive

PURPOSE

- 1.1 This Report provides information concerning a public meeting about the future of Gaelic in Stornoway, held in An Lanntair on 2 September 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The aim of the discussion was to ascertain whether there was a desire on the part of local organisations and businesses to work together to maximise potential socio, cultural and economic opportunities related to Gaelic, and if there was, to identify next steps towards the creation of an “Àrainn Steòrnabhaigh” strategy.

- 2.2 56 delegates from 34 organisations attended the session. A number of those organisations and delegates were engaging with the Gaelic agenda for the first time.

- 2.3 The main findings of this meeting are detailed in Appendix A to this Report.

- 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: A. Àrainn Steòrnabhaigh
Meeting Findings

Background
Papers:

COMATAIDH NA GÀIDHLIG: ÀRAINN STEÒRNABHAIGH – GÀIDHLIG ANN AN STEÒRNABHAGH SAN ÀM RI TEACHD

23 SULTAIN 2025

Aithisg leis an Àrd-oifigear

ADHBHAR

- 1.1 Tha an Aithisg seo a’ toirt seachad fiosrachadh mu choinneamh phoblach mu Ghàidhlig ann an Steòrnabhagh san àm ri teachd, air a cumail san Lanntair air 2 Sultain 2025.

GEÀRR-CHUNNTAS

- 2.1 B’ e amas an deasbaid, faighinn a-mach an robh buidhnean agus gnìomhachasan ionadail airson obrachadh còmhla gus na cothroman sòisealta, cultarail agus eaconamach a tha co-cheangailte ris a’ Ghàidhlig a mheudachadh, agus ma bha, na h-ath cheumannan a chomharrachadh gus ro-innleachd “Àrainn Steòrnabhaigh” a chur air chois.

- 2.2 Bha 56 duine an làthair aig a’ choinneamh, a’ riochdachadh 34 buidhnean. Bha grunn bhuidhnean agus riochdairean aig a’ choinneamh a’ beachdachadh air cùisean Gàidhlig airson a’ chiad uair.

- 2.3 Tha na toraidhean as cudromaiche a thàinig a-mach às a’ choinneamh seo air am mìneachadh ann am Fa-sgrìobhadh A dhen Aithisg seo.

- 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
Fa-sgrìobhadh: A. Toraidhean Coinneamh
Àrainn Steòrnabhaigh

Pàipearan
Fiosrachaidh

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	Corporate Strategy Priority 1.5: Gaelic Language & Culture	
	Environmental Impact	None	
	Consultation	None	

BUAIDH

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

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

BACKGROUND

- 5.1

The Àrainn Steòrnabhaigh initiative arose from initial discussions held amongst An Lanntair, An Taigh Cèilidh, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar’s Library Service and Sgioba na Gàidhlig.

5.1
- 5.2

As a result of these discussions, it was agreed that much more could be done to maximise the potential socio, cultural and economic opportunities related to Gaelic usage in Stornoway. It was felt to be particularly important to make the most of these opportunities within in the context of the impending designation of communities as “Areas of Linguistic Significance” under the new Scottish Languages Act 2025. Such communities will receive targeted Governmental support for the growth of Gaelic in these areas.

5.2

FIOSRACHADH

- 5.1

Chaidh iomairt Àrainn Steòrnabhaigh a chur air bhonn às dèidh chòmhradhean a chaidh a chumail eadar An Lanntair, An Taigh Cèilidh, Seirbheis Leabharlainn na Comhairle agus Sgioba na Gàidhlig.

5.1
- 5.2

Mar thoradh air na còmhradhean seo, chaidh aontachadh gum b’ urrainnear tòrr a bharrachd a dhèanamh gus na buannachdan sòisealta, cultarail agus eaconamach as motha fhaighinn bho chleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an Steòrnabhagh. Bhathas a’ faireachdainn gun robh e gu sònraichte cudromach gum faighear a' bhuannachd às fheàrr às na cothroman seo aig àm nuair a thèid coimhearsnachdan ainmeachadh a dh’aithghearr mar “Sgìrean Cànain Sònraichte”, a thaobh Achd nan Cànain Albannach 2025. Gheibh na coimhearsnachdan seo taic sònraichte bhon Riaghaltas gus Gàidhlig a leasachadh sna sgìrean seo.

5.2

5.3 It was therefore agreed to hold a public meeting to discuss the potential to develop Gaelic in Stornoway. The use of the word “Àrainn” was intended to convey the concept of a locality or area that was inclusive, with no set boundaries, rather than a ghetto.

5.3 Chaidh aontachadh coinneamh phoblach a chumail gus beachdachadh air nas urrainnear a dhèanamh gus Gàidhlig a leasachadh ann an Steòrnabhagh. Chaidh am facal “Àrainn” a chleachdadh gus toirt air daoine smaoineachadh mun sgìre mar àite in-ghabhalach, gun chrìochan, an àite ghetto.

MAIN OUTCOMES

6.1 The following answers were agreed by delegates in answer to the question, ‘How could benefits from Gaelic be increased and expanded?’:

- Produce an up-to-date analysis of Gaelic economic impact.
- Present findings to the general public in accessible and digestible formats.
- Incentivise the use of Gaelic.
- Increase collaboration, reduce duplication and focus on outcomes and best value.
- Increase public awareness of the damaging effects of over-correction and the need to actively encourage learners or lapsed speakers.
- Normalise the use of Gaelic in as diverse a range of situations as possible.
- Identify examples of best practice from other minority language settings to share locally.
- Focus on bridging the gap between school and community/world of work usage.
- Create more learning opportunities, particularly in light of the expected increase in workforce migration to the islands.
- Ensure a strategic approach to maximising potential benefits accruing from Royal National Mòd and Fèisean.
- Ensure a wider range of organisations are aware of potential funding opportunities and minimise bureaucracy when it comes to applying for funding.

PRÌOMH THORAIÐHEAN

6.1 Chaidh na freagairtean a leanas aontachadh leis an fheadhainn a bha an làthair ann a bhith a’ freagairt na ceist, ‘Ciamar as urrainnear na buannachdan a tha an lùib na Gàidhlig a mheudachadh is a leasachadh?’:

- Dèan sgrùdadh nua-aimsireil air buaidh eaconamach na Gàidhlig.
- Taisbean toraidhean dhan phoball ann an cruth ruigsinneach agus furasta a leantainn.
- Dèan cinnteach gu bheil buannachdan an lùib cleachdadh na Gàidhlig.
- Meudaich obair com-pàirteachaidh, lùghdaich dùblachadh obrach agus cuir cuideam air toraidhean agus an luach as fheàrr.
- Meudaich mothachadh a’ phobaill air na buaidhean cronail an lùib cus-cheartachaidh agus mar a dh’fheumar luchd-ionnsachaidh no luchd-labhairt lapach a bhrosnachadh gu gnìomhach.
- Dèan cleachdadh na Gàidhlig àbhaisteach ann an raon cho eadar-mheasgte de shuidheachaidhean 's as urrainn.
- Ainmich eisimpleirean de chleachdadh as fheàrr ann an suidheachaidhean mion-chànain eile agus am fiosrachadh a cho-roinneadh gu h-ionadail.
- Cuir cuideam air dùnadh na beàrn eadar cleachdadh na Gàidhlig san sgoil agus a bhith ga cleachdadh san àite-obrach.
- Cruthaich barrachd chothroman ionnsachaidh, gu h-àraid air sgàth 's gu bheilear an dùil ri barrachd luchd-obrach a thighinn dha na h-Eileanan.
- Dèan cinnteach gu bheilear ag obair gu ro-innleachdail gus na buannachdan a dh’fhaodadh a bhith ann an lùib a’ Mhòid agus nam fèisean a làn-mheudachadh.

- Dèan cinnteach gu bheil sreath nas fharsainghe de bhuidhean mothachail air na cothroman maoineachaidh a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ann agus oifigealachd a lùghdachadh nuair a thèid iarrtasan taic-airgid a chur a-steach.

6.2 The following answers were agreed by delegates in answer to the question, 'What longer-term strategic approaches should be adopted?':

- Produce a rationale for Àrainn Steòrnabhaigh and reach a wider audience by celebrating success/impact using engaging social media.
- Ensure more Gaelic is spoken and is more visible – Gaelic signage, etc. Lead by example in your workplace.
- Work closely with Gaelic development officers and organisations from other areas to share best practice.
- Focus on the delivery of effective language outcomes rather than, e.g. lengthy, bureaucratic reports of limited reach.
- Conduct awareness-raising sessions about the importance of intergenerational Gaelic transmission with parents, grandparents and the wider community.
- Ensure that there a range of flexible Gaelic learning pathways related to employment that are built into recruitment and selection procedures.
- Ensure that communities and agencies adopt a collaborative, strategic approach to Gaelic language promotion
- Foster private sector buy-in.

6.2 Chaidh na freagairtean a leanas aontachadh leis an fheadhainn a bha an làthair ann a bhith a' freagairt na ceist, 'Dè na dòighean-obrach ro-innleachdail fad-ùine a bu chòir a chur air chois?':

- Dèan argamaid làidir airson cho cudromach 's a tha Àrainn Steòrnabhaigh, agus cleachd na meadhanan sòisealta gus innse dhan phoball mu dheidhinn rudan a tha soirbheachail / buannachdail.
- Dèan cinnteach gu bheil barrachd Gàidhlig ri chleachdadh agus gu bheil i nas faicsinniche – soidhnichean Gàidhlig, amsaa. Seall eisimpleir de dheagh chleachdadh nur àite-obrach.
- Obraich gu dlùth ri oifigearan leasachaidh na Gàidhlig agus buidhnean ann an sgìrean eile gus an cleachdadh as fheàrr a cho-roinneadh.
- Cuir cuideam air libhrigeadh thoraidhean cànan ìifeachdach an àite m.e. aithisgean fada, biurocratach nach leugh tòrr dhaoine.
- Cùm seiseanan mothachaidh mu cho cudromach 's a tha ionnsachadh Gàidhlig eadar-ghinealach le pàranatan, sean-phàrantan agus a' choimhearsnachd nas fharsainghe.
- Dèan cinnteach gu bheil sreath de shlighean-ionnsachaidh na Gàidhlig sùbailte rim faighinn a tha ceangailte ri saoghal na h-obrach agus gu bheil seo mar phàirt de dhòighean-obrach fastaidh.
- Dèan cinnteach gum bi coimhearsnachdan agus buidhnean a' co-obrachadh ann an dòigh ro-innleachdail a thaobh a bhith brosnachadh na Gàidhlig.
- Brosnaich an roinn phrìobhaiteach gu bhith gabhail pàirt san iomairt.

