



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

COMATAIDH NA GÀIDHLIG: DEVELOPING GAELIC USAGE IN SPORT

23 SEPTEMBER 2025

Report By Chief Executive

PURPOSE

- 1.1 This Report provides information concerning a meeting held between Sgioba na Gàidhlig and Active Schools and Community Sports staff.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 A meeting was held on 11 September 2025 between Sgioba na Gàidhlig and Active Schools and Community Sports staff, where it was agreed that more should be done to promote Gaelic in sport and leisure services and in the delivery of sporting activities for Western Isles children.

- 2.2 It was felt that there were very compelling reasons at this time to consider the development of Gaelic in sports services. These were as follows:

- 58% of pupils enrolling in P1 in the Western Isles are in Gaelic Medium Education (GME), with 49% of *all* primary pupils now in GME.
- A feasibility study for a GME secondary school will soon begin, and sport must be at the heart of the curriculum.
- The Comhairle now has a Gaelic First Policy and is obliged to ensure that all service providers develop capacity to deliver bilingually.

3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Comhairle note the content of this Report.

COMATAIDH NA GÀIDHLIG: A' LEASACHADH CLEACHDADH NA GÀIDHLIG ANN AN SPÒRS

23 SULTAIN 2025

Aithisg leis an Àrd-oifigear

ADHBHAR

Tha an Aithisg seo a' toirt seachad fiosrachadh mu choinneamh a chaidh a chumail eadar Sgioba na Gàidhlig agus luchd-obrach Sgoiltean Gnìomhach agus Spòrs Coimhearsnachd.

GEÀRR-CHUNNTAS

Chaidh coinneamh a chumail air 11 Sultain 2025 eadar Sgioba na Gàidhlig is luchd-obrach Sgoiltean Gnìomhach is Spòrs Coimhearsnachd, far an deach aontachadh gum bu chòir barrachd a dhèanamh gus Gàidhlig adhartachadh ann an seirbheisean spòrs agus a thaobh lìbhrigeadh spòrs do chloinn sna h-Eileanan.

Bhathas a' faireachdainn gun robh adhbharan cudromach ann aig an àm seo airson beachdachadh air leasachadh na Gàidhlig ann an seirbheisean spòrs. B' iad mar a leanas:

- Tha 58% de sgoilearan P1 sna h-Eileanan a-nis ann am Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtG), le 49% de sgoilearan bun-sgoil *gu lèir* ann am FtG.
- Bidh sgrùdadh iomchaidheachd airson àrd-sgoil FtG a' tòiseachadh a dh'aithghearr, agus feumaidh spòrs a bhith aig cridhe a' churraicealaim.
- Tha Poileasaidh Gàidhlig mar Chiad Chànan aig a' Chomhairle agus feumar dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil comas lìbhrigidh dhà-chànanaich aig solaraichean seirbheis.

3.1 MOLAIIDHEAN

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

Contact Officer:
Appendix:

Background Papers:

Donald Weir, Gaelic Support Officer,
Sgioba na Gàidhlig

Cuir fios gu:
Fa-sgrìobhadh:

Pàipearan
Fiosrachaidh

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

BUAIDH

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

4.1

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

CONTEXT

5.1

Political support for Gaelic has aligned at a national level, with the Scottish Languages Bill receiving unanimous cross-party support, and becoming an Act on 31 July 2025. Under the Act, draft criteria for the designation of Areas of Linguistic Significance, which will attract Governmental support for the further growth of Gaelic in those areas, are being drawn up. There is an opportunity to influence this process by developing the use of Gaelic in all services that the Comhairle delivers and demonstrating a greater commitment to Gaelic.

5.1

Tha taic phoileataigeach aontaichte aig ìre nàiseanta airson na Gàidhlig, le taic aon-ghuthach thar-phartaidh airson Bile nan Cànan Albannach, a thàinig gu bhith na Achd air 31 Iuchar 2025. Fon Achd, thathas a’ deasachadh shlatan-tomhais airson sgìrean a thèid ainmeachadh mar Sgìrean Cànanin Sònraichte, a gheibh taic a bharrachd bhon Riaghlatais airson leasachadh na Gàidhlig sna sgìrean sin air sgàth an ainmeachaidh. Tha cothrom ann buaidh a thoirt air a’ phròiseas seo le bhith a’ leasachadh cleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an gach seirbheis a bhios a’ Chomhairle a’ toirt seachad agus a’ sealltainn dealas nas làidire don Ghàidhlig.

CO-THEACSA

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| 5.2 | The socio-cultural, educational and health benefits of bilingualism are now widely accepted, but the potential of Gaelic in sport and the economy is yet to be fully developed. The strong interest amongst young people in Gaelic medium activities related to fèisean, the Mòd, Deasbad nan Àrd-sgoiltean, Sgeama Greis Gnìomhachais, etc., indicates that there is significant potential for the development of Gaelic in sports, where sports staff could become ideal role models for intergenerational transmission of Gaelic. | 5.2 | Thathas a’ tuigse bhuannachdan sòisio-chultarach, foghlaim agus slàinte dà-chànanais gu farsaing a-nis, ach cha deach cleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an spòrs agus an eaconamaidh a leasachadh mar a b’ urrainnear fhathast. Tha ùidh mhòr am measg dhaoine òga ann an tachartasan Gàidhlig co-cheangailte ri fèisean, am Mòd, Deasbad nan Àrd-sgoiltean, Sgeama Greis Gnìomhachais, amsaa, agus tha seo a’ sealltainn gu bheil e coltach gum b’ urrainnear Gàidhlig a leasachadh ann an spòrs, agus gum faodadh luchd-obrach spòrs a bhith na deagh eisimpleirean a thaobh tar-chur eadar-ghinealach na Gàidhlig. |
| 5.3 | Gaelic medium sports activities are delivered already via a number of agencies and competitions, such as the Island Games, Alba FA, Cuach na Cloinne and Spòrs Gàidhlig, etc., and would provide the ideal platforms for a growth in participation by youngsters in Gaelic medium sports. | 5.3 | Thathas a’ libhrigeadh thachartasan spòrs Gàidhlig mar-thà tro ghrunn bhuidhnean agus fharpaisen, mar Gheamannan nan Eilean, Alba FA, Cuach na Cloinne agus Spòrs Gàidhlig, amsaa, agus b’ urrainnear an cleachdadh gus com-pàirteachadh ann an spòrs tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig am measg dhaoine òga a leasachadh. |

MAIN OUTCOMES

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| 6.1 | It was agreed that use of Gaelic would be adding to the value of sport and leisure services, particularly with regard to the increasing numbers of children in GME. In order to decide how the use of Gaelic could be better incorporated into the roles of sports staff, and how they could support each other’s Gaelic learning, it was decided that a Gaelic skills audit should first take place to assess the current levels of Gaelic skills amongst staff. | 6.1 | Chaidh aontachadh gum biodh cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a’ cur ri seirbheisean spòrs agus cur-seachad, gu h-àraid a thaobh na h-àireimh nas motha de chloinn a tha a-nis a’ dol tro FtG. Gus co-dhùnadh a dhèanamh air ciamar a b’ urrainnear Gàidhlig a chleachdadh na b’ fheàrr ann an dreuchdan luchd-obrach spòrs, agus mar a b’ urrainn dhaibh taic a chur ri chèile ann a bhith ag ionnsachadh Gàidhlig, chaidh aontachadh gun deigheadh modh-sgrùdadh a dhèanamh sa chiad dol-a-mach gus faighinn a-mach dè an ìre aig an robh na sgilean Gàidhlig am measg luchd-obrach. |
| 6.2 | It was agreed that the use of the strapline, <i>Tha mi feuchainn!</i> (<i>I’m trying!</i>), on badges and in other visual media would indicate that staff were willing to use whatever Gaelic skills they had, and this would communicate to service users, including during the delivery of sports activities for schools, that the use of Gaelic was not only welcomed in sporting activities, but was also to be encouraged. | 6.2 | Chaidh aontachadh gum biodh cleachdadh a’ gheàrr-abairt, <i>Tha mi feuchainn!</i> , air suaicheantasan agus ann am meadhanan faicsinneach eile a’ daingneachadh gun robh luchd-obrach deònach na sgilean Gàidhlig a bha aca a chleachdadh, agus bhiodh seo a’ sealltainn dha luchd-cleachdaidh na seirbheis, a’ gabhail a-steach rè libhrigeadh thachartasan spòrs ann an sgoiltean, gun robhar an dà chuid a’ cur fàilte air cleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an tachartasan spòrs, is gun robhar a’ brosnachadh seo cuideachd. |

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| 6.3 | It was suggested that some “quick wins” could be easily achieved by staff without Gaelic skills, or those lacking in confidence, by learning simple Gaelic words and phrases. All were, however, in agreement that the development of Gaelic in sports services had to be done in a way that did not cause staff unnecessary stress, and was fun and inclusive. | 6.3 | Chaidh a thogail gum b’ urrainnear leasachaidhean furasta a choileanadh le luchd-obrach gun sgilean Gàidhlig, no leis an fheadhainn aig nach robh misneachd sna sgilean aca, tro bhith ag ionnsachadh fhaclan is abairtean Gàidhlig simplidh. Chaidh aontachadh, ge-tà, gum feumadh leasachadh na Gàidhlig ann an seirbheisean spòrs a bhith air a dhèanamh ann an dòigh nach robh a’ cur cus ullaich air luchd-obrach, agus gum biodh e spòrsail agus in-ghabhalach. |
| 6.4 | Sgioba na Gàidhlig will work with Active Schools and Community Sports staff to develop these ideas further. In order to do this, a letter to all schools will be drafted, after a plan to develop Gaelic in sports has been agreed. | 6.4 | Obraichidh Sgioba na Gàidhlig le luchd-obrach Sgoiltean Gnìomhach agus Spòrs Coimhearsnachd gus na planaichean seo a leasachadh. Gus seo a dhèanamh, thèid litir do sgoiltean a sgrìobhadh, an dèidh tighinn gu aontachadh air plana gus Gàidhlig a leasachadh ann an spòrs. |