

**MONITORING OF PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH “GROWING GAELIC”  
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING GRANTS 2017/18**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide monitoring information on the grants distributed through the Growing Gaelic Participatory Budgeting pilot.
- 1.2 Five projects were awarded funding through a digital community voting process open to anyone aged 16 or over, who is resident in Argyll and Bute.
- 1.3 Projects were required to spend their funding within financial year 2017/18 and to submit an end of project monitoring report outlining the project funded, projected costs, actual costs incurred and beneficiaries.
- 1.4 The pilot project received funding through the Scottish Government’s Community Choices Fund 2016/17. This was matched with budget from the Community Development Team. The project aimed to trial engaging communities in financial decision making using online tools.
- 1.5 Participatory Budgeting is a Scottish Government commitment which aligns with the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 Part 10: Right to Participate in Public Decision Making.
- 1.6 Members are asked to consider the contents of the report showing the contribution of the groups to strengthening and growing Gaelic in Argyll and Bute.

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Argyll and Bute Council received Community Choices funding from the Scottish Government in 2016/17 to support a pilot digital Participatory Budgeting pilot with a Gaelic theme.
- 2.2 An online site was set up where communities posted and discussed ideas of how the available £15,000 could be used to strengthen and grow Gaelic across Argyll and Bute. Public Sector and Third Sector organisations were then able to submit costed applications to take these ideas forward with the decision on what projects would be funded, made via an online public vote. 889 people voted in the pilot project and funds were awarded to be spent in the financial year 2017/18.
- 2.3 This report provides an end of year (2017/18) monitoring on the projects funded. Information is taken from the end of year project monitoring reports returned by those organisations awarded funding.
- 2.4 The total funding available through the project for allocation across Argyll and Bute for 2017/18 was £15,000.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the contents of the report showing the contribution of the groups to Growing Gaelic in Argyll and Bute.

**4.0 DETAIL**

- 4.1 All projects have returned end of project monitoring reports. Organisations have up to three months from the end of the project to complete and return the project monitoring reports; June 2018.
- 4.2 Detailed below is a summary of the information received from the end of project monitoring reports.

No	Organisation	Project funded	Total Projected Costs	Actual Costs	Award	Comments	Beneficiaries		
							M	F	Age
	Air Ghleus	Gaelic language and song tuition in 6 schools across Mull and Iona	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	Children competed in local (Acharacle and Mull) and national mòds, performed at cèilidhs throughout the year and sang at the Clan MacLean Gathering, An Tobar and Glen Iosal			0-4 46 5-9 50 10-16 60
	Argyll and Bute Council	Gaelic Storytelling and library resources for GME units across Argyll and Bute	£3,762	£4,127.42	£3,412	120 children benefitted from Gaelic storytelling session across 6 schools and were involved in purchasing new Gaelic books for the school library.	60	60	5-9 10-16 Breakdown not given
	Auchindrain	Gaelic immersion weekend at Auchindrain township	£820	£740	£420	"I think there was a superb mix of people e.g. younger and older folk, male and female and learners and fluent speakers. It was great trying to tune in on everybody's conversation. This is actually the longest time I've ever been in a Gaelic-speaking environment, which is brilliant. That is one of the things I think hinders my progress so that was a big plus."	4	12	5-9 2 10-16 1 17-24 2 25-64 10 65+ 1
	Comann nam Pàrant	Feasibility study for a stand-alone Gaelic school in Oban	£5,500	£9,919	£5,500	The project has achieved the very first full feasibility study into a Gaelic stand-alone school for Oban. During the course of the project community awareness was raised regarding Gaelic language locally. Parents that took part in the questionnaires commented "If there was a Gaelic school I	Not given – feasibility study in itself does not directly benefit individuals		

No	Organisation	Project funded	Total Projected Costs	Actual Costs	Award	Comments	Beneficiaries		
							M	F	Age
						would definitely send my children, bilingualism is so important” “ I didn’t know there were so many children in the Unit”			
	Oban Mòd Academy	Gaelic language and singing tuition in primary schools in Oban and Lorn	£12,375	£11,835	£2,000	Tutors worked with children in a number of primary schools and attendance at both the local Mòd and Royal National Mòd was healthy with a number of children achieving medals. Children participated in Gaelic conversation, poem and singing.	8	52	5-9 40 10-16 20

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The project monitoring form has a section asking for comments on the grant process. Not all applicants completed this section but of those received the comments have largely been very positive. Thanks are noted for the support received from staff and elected members.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy: Participatory Budgeting is a Scottish Government commitment which aligns with the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 Part 10: Right to Participate in Public Decision Making.
- 6.2 Financial: The pilot project received Scottish Government Community Choices Funding and a digital support package. On-going costs of digital PB engagement appears disproportionate in relation to funding being distributed and the costs of PB will need to be considered carefully before future funding distribution using this methodology.
- 6.3 Legal: None.
- 6.4 HR: None.
- 6.5 Equalities: The pilot is consistent with the Equal Opportunities policy of Argyll and Bute Council.
- 6.6 Risk: None.
- 6.7 Customer Service: 5 projects proposed and selected by communities across Argyll and Bute received stand-alone funding to strengthen and grow Gaelic.

**Cleland Sneddon,  
Chief Executive, Chief Executive's Unit**

**Councillor Robin Currie,  
Policy Lead for Communities, Housing, Islands and Gaelic**

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**For further information please contact:**

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