ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM **13 June 2019**

COUNCIL FUNDING SUPPORT TO FÈISEAN NAN GÀIDHEAL 2019/20

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to allow members to consider the proposal to provide funding support for Fèisean nan Gàidheal's work in Argyll and Bute in 2019/20.

1.2 Fèisean nan Gàidheal is a third sector organisation that supports the development of traditional music, Gaelic singing and Gaelic drama. Among other activities, they support Fèisean in Coll, Oban, Mull, Tiree, Islay and Jura, Appin, Lochgoilhead and Tarbert; the Argyll Cèilidh Trail, Argyll Drama Festival and the Blas Festival.

1.3 Argyll and Bute Council has provided funding to Fèisean nan Gàidheal for a number of years. A three year Service Level Agreement was put in place in 2012/13 and since 2015/16 the funding agreement has been on a year to year basis. This report formalises notification of the funding to elected members.

1.4 The proposed funding of £20,000 for 2019/20 comprises contributions from the Community Planning and Community Development Team budget (£15,500) and Education Services' Gaelic specific budget (£4,500).

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Fèisean nan Gàidheal is a third sector organisation that supports the development of traditional music, Gaelic singing and Gaelic drama. Among other activities, they support Fèisean in Coll, Oban, Mull, Tiree, Islay, Jura, Appin, Lochgoilhead and Tarbert. They also support the Argyll Cèilidh Trail, Argyll Drama Festival and the Blas Festival.

2.2 Argyll and Bute Council has provided funding to Fèisean nan Gàidheal for a number of years. A three year Service Level Agreement was put in place in 2012/13 and since 2015/16 the funding agreement has been on a year to year basis.

2.3 This report proposes funding arrangements for a one year Service Level Agreement in 2019/20.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee agree a Service Level Agreement of £20,000 in 2019/20 to fund the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal as detailed in paragraph 4.1.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 Proposed funding for 2019 - 2020:

Financial Year	Community Development	Education Services	Total
2019/20	£15,500	£4,500	£20,000

The funding will contribute to the work of Fèisean nan Gàidheal in Argyll and Bute, supporting the Grant scheme for Fèisean, community activity in relation to traditional music and language, and contributing to Gaelic Development Officer work. Such work includes:

- Supporting fèisean to look at additional funding.
- Tutor/organiser training programme
- Helping at fèisean events
- Publicity for fèisean – e.g. bi-lingual posters
- Lending of musical instruments and movement of these
- Organising central insurance
- Support for Argyll Cèilidh Trail (including training)
- Argyll Drama Fèis and Schools Drama Visits

4.2 The Service Level Agreement generates additional funding and activities provided through Fèisean nan Gàidheal which in 2018/19 amounted to approximately £108,000.

4.3 Fèisean nan Gàidheal quote for every £1 they received in funding from the council, they spent £5.40 delivering services in the area. The cultural and educational outcomes for young people from Argyll & Bute are wide and varied. Transparency and accountability on funding spend is provided to the Council through quarterly reports and minutes of formal meetings. Annual reports are published here: http://www.feisean.org/en/annual-reports/

4.4 Fèisean nan Gàidheal have also secured funding agreements with Creative Scotland and also with Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

4.5 The funding provided through Community Development is in relation to grants funding to support community projects. In the grants funding support to community groups, out with Gaelic, through the council's Supporting Communities Fund there have been reductions applied, 10% reduction each year for three years from 2016/17 to 2018/19 and again to be applied in 2019/20. No such reduction is proposed here however that may need to be considered in future years.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Funding provided to Fèisean nan Gàidheal provides economic, cultural and educational benefits to Argyll and Bute. The proposed Service Level Agreement for 2019/20 of £20,000 would support their work this financial year.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy: The activities undertaken by Fèisean nan Gàidheal supports implementation of Argyll and Bute Council's Gaelic Language Plan

6.2 Financial: Community Development and Education have budget in place in 2019/20 to support this proposal.

6.3 Legal: None at this time

6.4 HR: None at this time

6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty

6.5.1 Equalities: The project is consistent with the Equal Opportunities policy of Argyll and Bute Council.

6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty: Gaelic is a minority language within Argyll and Bute and specialist support is required for the development of its use and contribution to socio-economic and cultural outcomes within the area.

6.5.3 Islands: 4 Islands have been involved in this project.

6.6 Risk: None at this time

6.7 Customer Service: None at this time

Cleland Sneddon, Chief Executive
Policy Lead Cllr Robin Currie
13 May 2019

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APPENDICES

None