

GAELIC LANGUAGE ACT IMPLEMENTATION FUND (GLAIF)

1. SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to highlight to the Community Planning Partnership the funding opportunities available through the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF).

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Planning Partnership:

- note the content of this report
- investigate possible partnership working opportunities for GLAIF funded projects to raise the profile of Gaelic in the local authority area

3. DETAIL

The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament in 2005, with the intention of securing the status of Gaelic as an official language of Scotland which commands equal respect with the English language.

The overall purpose of the Act is to promote the use of Gaelic in Scottish public life, and to encourage the increased use of Gaelic in the home, community, and place of learning and in the workplace.

As part of the Gaelic Language Act, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnaG), was established to promote the use and understanding of the Gaelic language. BnaG is a statutory Non-departmental Public Body which was set up in 2006. BnaG has the functions of:

- Producing a National Gaelic Plan
- The authority to issue certain public authorities to prepare and publish Gaelic Language Plans in connection with the exercise of their functions
- Issuing guidance in relation to Gaelic Education

Argyll and Bute Council was one of the first six public authorities in Scotland issued with a statutory notice by BnaG to produce a Gaelic Language Plan. The Council's Plan was formally approved by the BnaG in June 2008.

Other Community Planning Partners that will have received notification from BnaG to produce Gaelic Language Plans include HIE, NHS Highland, Forestry Commission, SNH, CalMac and Visit Scotland.

BnaG has recently announced that £1.4 million has been made available by the Scottish Government for the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF) in 2009/10.

The primary purpose of GLAIF is to support initiatives which develop the capacity of public authorities to implement their Gaelic Language Plans under the framework of the Gaelic Language Act (Scotland) Act 2005.

Applications for funding are invited from public authorities or other organisations which meet the following criteria:

- Public authorities that are currently implementing or about to implement a statutory Gaelic Language Plan
- Public authorities named in the Bòrd's published notification programme who will be asked to prepare a statutory Gaelic Language Plan
- Public authorities who are unlikely to be asked to prepare a Gaelic Language Plan in the immediate future, but who wish in the meantime to progress their support for Gaelic
- Bodies not covered by the provisions of the 2005 Act, such as private companies and public bodies, who wish to enhance the environment of support in which the Gaelic Language Plans approved by BnaG will be implemented.

The Bòrd will look favourably on joint applications for funding from public authorities or other organisations who can demonstrate the added value to be achieved through partnership working.

Argyll and Bute Council have applied for funding from the Bòrd through GLAIF in previous financial years to assist with the implementation of the Plan. Details of projects and results of funding that has been awarded to Argyll and Bute Council in previous financial years can be found in Appendix 1.

4. CONCLUSION

This report summarises the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act, the role of Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund and makes recommendations for the Community Planning Partnership to work in partnership on projects that will enhance the usage and status of Gaelic.

Further details:

Stephen Colligan, Policy Assistant, Policy and Strategy, Chief Executive's Unit, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT
Tel. 01546 604472 stephen.colligan@argyll-bute.gov.uk

2007/08 Funded Projects - £206,690

Projects included:

Ùlpan language courses
Advertising
Publication Translation
Corporate Branding
Road Signage
Bilingual Signs for buildings
Teachers CPD
Increasing Gaelic skills through Sport
Gaelic Skills in the Home

2008/09 - £107,200

Projects included:

Pre School Support DVD
Family Learning Seminars
Community Language Development
Programme of specialist visits to Primary & Secondary Schools
Stramash – Family Learning Outdoors
Stramash – Instructional Staff Development
Stramash – Outside Edge
Increasing Gaelic materials in libraries

NB: Some projects that had been identified in 2007/08 and were successful in receiving funding through GLAIF, received funding in 2008/09 as continuation projects.

The application in 2008/09 was for 3 year funding and it has been agreed by the Bòrd to award Argyll and Bute Council £49,900 for 2009/10 and £30,200 for 2010/11.