

Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Draft Minute of Board Meeting
Jurys Hotel, Inverness
08/05/2018 12.15 -15.30

Members

Allan MacDonald (*Chair*) (AMD)
Allan Campbell (AC)
Donald MacSween (phone) (DMS)
Fiona Dunn (FD)
Jim Whannel (JW)
Jennifer Gilmour (JG)
Johan Smith (JS)
Joy Dunlop (JD)
Mary T MacInnes (MMI)

Attending:

Shona MacLennan (Ceannard) (SML)
David Boag (DB)
Mona Wilson (MW)
Alasdair MacKinnon (AMK)
Carol Johnston (Minutes)

1 PRELIMINARIES

- a) The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were recorded from Donald MacLeod and Mary Ann Kennedy.

Members requested that papers for Board Meetings should be sent out sooner so that they have more time to read over them, and it was agreed that from now on papers would be circulated at least a week before the date of the meeting.

b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were recorded for items appearing on the agenda:

AC & JD - An Comunn Gàidhealach
MMI – Ceòlas
JS – Comhairle nan Leabhraichean
DMS – Stòrlann

2 CORPORATE PLAN 2018-23

AMK gave Members a summary of the preparation process for the Corporate Plan, which is based on the aims of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23. Members were invited to comment on the content and make recommendations. It was agreed to submit any changes to AMK, and a new version of the Plan would be prepared for the June Board Meeting.

There followed a discussion of the preparation process and AMK was tasked with meeting the Sponsor Division to seek their feedback prior to the final version of the Plan being submitted to the Board for approval in June.

Once the Board has approved the Corporate Plan, it will be sent to the Minister for approval.

There was a recommendation to change the content of the section on finance, so that the funding situation for Gaelic development was strengthened.

Action:

- AMK to prepare an updated version of the Corporate Plan, which will incorporate recommendations from Members and the Sponsor Department, and the final draft of the Plan will go before the Board in June.

3 OPERATING PLAN 2018-19

AMK explained, that although there was no requirement for Ministerial approval of the Operating Plan, that discussions would be held with the Sponsor Department in a similar fashion to the process for the Corporate Plan. The Key Performance Indicators from the annual Operating Plan are used to measure the Bòrd's success in meeting their aims, which are closely linked to the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 and the Bòrd's Corporate Plan 2018-23.

Following discussion of the plan, it was agreed that Members would submit their recommended changes and amendments to the plan to AMK via email before the end of the week. AMK would give the Sponsor Department the opportunity to provide feedback on the plan, and the final draft of the Plan will go before the Board in June.

Action:

- AMK to prepare an updated version of the Operating Plan, which will incorporate recommendations from Members and the Sponsor Department, and the final draft of the Plan will go before the Board in June.

4 DELIVERING THE NATIONAL PLAN

The Ceannard informed Members of plans for the Minister, Iain Swinney, to chair a High Level Conference in August, with the working title "A Faster Rate of Growth", where Chairs and Chief Executives from Public Bodies involved in Gaelic development and Gaelic education will be invited to attend, with the intention that they will assist in meeting the aims of the National Gaelic Language Plan.

The Bòrd will make recommendations for the main aims, which will provide clear guidance to those in attendance, drawing on their knowledge and interests. It is hoped that up to 4 new initiatives will be developed at the event, with collaborative, systematic funding strategies agreed.

Initial preparations will be carried out in partnership with our Sponsor Department. Recommendations and feedback will also be sought at the meeting of the main Gaelic funded organisations, and recommendations should be recorded before the Ministerial report in June.

Members are requested to submit their recommendations to the Chair and Ceannard before the June meeting, where an update will be given.

Actions:

- Members to submit their recommendations for initiatives, for the High-level Meeting in August, to the Ceannard and Chair before the June Board Meeting.
- The Main Gaelic Organisations will also be invited to attend a meeting in mid-June to discuss potential developments and initiatives for consideration at the Conference in August.
- Recommendations for the Ministerial update at the end of June.

5 FUNDING AGREEMENTS: Main Gaelic Organisations (MGOs) 2018-19

DB presented the recommendation for an extension to the MGO funding agreements for the remaining 6 months of the 2018-19 financial year. This would allow the organisations to fully prepare their submissions, based on the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23, for moving to 3-year funding agreements which could be in place for 2019-22.

Members noted that MGOs should also be encouraged to focus on supporting the new initiatives which will be agreed at the High-Level Meeting in August.

Members approved the recommendations, and DB is to inform the MGOs of this decision, the timetable, and he will invite them to a meeting of the MGOs before the Minister's conference in August.

The Chair asked the officers to ensure that the 3-year funding agreements, to be issued to the MGOs, are presented for approval to the Board at their meeting in December.

Actions:

- DB to inform the MGOs of their funding arrangements until the end of March 2018-19, and to invite them to a MGO meeting in June.
- Develop a timetable for the new funding applications from the MGOs, so that they are considered by the Board in December.

6 BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG STANDING ORDERS

AMK to provide recommendations for the August meeting of the Governance Working Group (GWG), using his knowledge to make use of examples of best practice from other public bodies, which would be useful in developing Bòrd na Gàidhlig's standing orders. Once GWG has considered the recommendations in detail, they will submit their recommendations to the Board for final approval in September.

Action:

- AMK to re-draft the Standing Orders for consideration at the GWG meeting in August.

7 BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG CODE OF CONDUCT

AMK spoke on this paper and recommended that the Standards Commission should be invited to give a presentation to the Board on what is expected of Public Bodies. AMK was requested to re-draft the Code of Conduct for consideration at the August meeting of GWG, and following those changes the Code would be submitted to the Board for final approval at their meeting in September.

Gnìomh:

- AMK to re-draft the Code of Conduct for consideration at the GWG meeting in August.

8 'AN T-ALLTAN' FUNDING

The decision to include funding for 'An t-Alltan' as part of Stòrlann's 6-month contract had been made by e-mail between meetings. The decision was formally noted.

Approval:

- Members approved the paper as written.

9 CORPORATE PARENT ACTION PLAN 2018/21

AMK gave a summary of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's responsibilities as a Corporate Parent, and how we comply with the guidance from "Who Cares? Scotland", and he presented this year's annual progress report with an update on progress.

There are now sections in every MGO contract and GLAIF contract with information on the Corporate Parenting duty, and this helps to record and show progress. Public Bodies must also take account of the Corporate Parenting duties in their statutory Gaelic Language Plans, and it now forms part of the Plans assessment process. Issues regarding privacy have caused some difficulties with regard to identifying care experienced young people, but these will be dealt with through greater cooperation with care authorities. The application forms for funding for Teachers will include a question asking whether people have experience of care, but this will be an optional question which applicants do not have to answer.

Members approved the recommendation in the strategy to investigate a joint bursary with SMO for students in this category. Members approved the paper as written

Approval:

- Members approved the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan 2018-21.

Action:

- The application forms for teachers to be amended to include a question on whether applicants have experience of care.

CLOSING MATTERS

The Board will meet in June in Uist, where there will be an opportunity to meet with members of the community and community groups who are involved with Gaelic initiatives.

The Chair thanked all those present for their input and brought the meeting to a close at 15.30.