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Purpose

The primary aim of this consultation is to gather feedback as to how Bòrd na Gàidhlig can most effectively utilise its budget in supporting Gaelic development across Scotland.

In a financial and political climate where public finances are limited, Bòrd na Gàidhlig is looking to ensure that it is maximising its impact in supporting opportunities to use, learn and promote Gaelic in line with the objectives of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2023 and the Bòrd's Corporate Plan.

We would like to hear feedback from stakeholders as to how Bòrd na Gàidhlig is currently using its development budget, the effectiveness of the bodies and projects supported, and recommendations as to how the Bòrd's funding schemes can be made more effective and accessible. These views will inform our 2021/22 funding schemes onwards, including our anticipated 2022-2025 delivery partner funding programme (which is scheduled to open for applications in 2021).

Background

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is funded by grant-in-aid from the Scottish Government. For the 2020/21 financial year, the organisation received £5.179m.

The grant-in-aid letter from the Scottish Government specifies that the following sums must be spent towards the following purposes:

- Core costs – a maximum of £1.629m
 - Including specific funding of a Teacher Recruitment Officer post
- Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF) – a minimum of £1.14m
- Gaelic development - £2.405m
 - Including specific funding of Nova Scotia Gaelic bursaries

For 2020/21, Bòrd na Gàidhlig also received a further £100k from Comann nam Pàrant via the Scottish Government's Children and Young People's Early Intervention Fund & Adult Learning and Empowering Communities Fund to support Early Years groups.

From this basis, Bòrd na Gàidhlig's current budget for the 2020/21 financial year is segmented into five areas:

- Core costs - £1.629m

Staff and operations of Bòrd na Gàidhlig as an organisation, including: development and monitoring of Gaelic Language Plans and the National Gaelic Language Plan; supporting Gaelic-medium education development and early years groups; providing research support; providing support and guidance to arts and community groups; operating funding schemes and more.

- Delivery partners - £1.7m

Core and project funding for a network of 13 organisations across Scotland who have been provided with a three-year funding commitment between April 2019 and March 2022 to extend Bòrd na Gàidhlig's work, particularly in engaging with Gaelic on a community level.

The delivery partners include (with 2020/21 funding amounts):

- **Comunn na Gàidhlig** (including **Comann nam Pàrant**) - £463,700

Delivering a network of 13 Iomairtean development officers across Scotland; Supporting parent groups to request Gaelic-medium education provision; Supporting local Sradagan groups; Running a national programme including Seachdain Dhun Eideann, Cuach na Cloinne and summer camps.

- **Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig** - £314,741

Developing Gaelic-medium education resources for all education levels; Supporting CLPL for teachers through an t-Alltan and other events; Supporting teachers through online resources; Supporting parents through Gaelic4Parents; Innovating in the field of Gaelic education

- **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig** - £198,100

Funding 3 separate projects:

- Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba - £81,600

Providing a research service for Gaelic placenames; Building a database of Gaelic placenames that is accessible to all

- Faclair na Gàidhlig - £76,500

Compiling a historical dictionary of the Gaelic language; Training Gaelic lexicographers

- Tobar an Dualchais - £40,000

Providing an online heritage resource; Engaging with communities to capture and conserve their heritage

- **Comhairle nan Leabhraichean** - £180,770

Providing strategic guidance to Gaelic literature; Providing publishing and marketing support to Gaelic writers; Promoting Gaelic literature at events and through awards

- **Fèisean nan Gàidheal** - £145,600

Promoting Gaelic through the traditional arts; Teaching Gaelic through the arts; Supporting Gaelic drama; Providing extra-curricular opportunities for usage among Gaelic-education pupils

- **Ionad Chaluum Chille Ìle** - £104,960

Providing a Gaelic hub in Islay; Running Gaelic classes and conversation sessions in the centre and via VC; Running a Gaelic film club; Providing a space for Gaelic events in Islay

- **An Comunn Gàidhealach** - £100,850

Delivering the Royal National Mod; Supporting local Mods across the country; Delivering preparation sessions to young people for Mods; Promoting Gaelic usage and learning

- **Ceòlas Uibhist** - £57,700

Delivering community Gaelic classes and immersion experiences in South Uist; Delivering arts events through the medium of Gaelic

- **Acair** - £57,540

Publishing Gaelic books; Supporting new Gaelic writers and translators; Promoting Gaelic literature at festivals and events

- **Theatre Gu Leòr** - £55,870

Producing professional theatre through the medium of Gaelic; Providing support to the Gaelic drama sector

- **An Lòchran** - £35,000

Providing a Gaelic hub in Glasgow; Running an artistic programme;

A total of £100,000 is also available to delivery partners as part of a challenge fund, the “Gaelic Collaboration Fund”, to promote collaborative projects and working between delivery partners and third parties.

- GLAIF - £1.14m

A ring-fenced funding stream used to support public authorities and strategic projects in the implementation of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, the National Gaelic Language Plan and authorities’ individual Gaelic Language Plans. Typically supports around 70 different projects from across 30 public or local authorities each year.

N.B – For certain delivery partners that work closely with public authorities, elements of delivery partner funding and GLAIF overlap (e.g. partnerships between Bòrd na Gàidhlig and local authorities to support Comunn na Gàidhlig’s Iomairtean network; funding of Ainmean-Aite na h-Alba’s work in providing placename research to local authorities).

- Funding schemes - £574k

Providing funding to community groups, charities, public authorities and individuals to fulfil the aims of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Corporate Plan through five different funding schemes:

- Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd (grants for local community projects)
- Early Years Grants (in partnership with Comann nam Parant and the Scottish Government's CYPEIF & ALEC Fund)
- Education Grants (to support students seeking a career in GME teaching and to support CLPL for existing GME teachers)
- Colmcille (supporting links between speakers of Gaelic and Gaeilge in partnership with Foras na Gaeilge)

Funding can also be provided discretionally through applications outwith the funding schemes where the Bòrd believes the project will clearly deliver elements of its Corporate Plan.

In 2020/21 a special fund was also created to support organisations in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Across these funding streams there are typically around 300 awards each year.

- Bòrd na Gàidhlig supported projects - £255k

Projects run by, in partnership with, sponsored by, or commissioned by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to help deliver the National Gaelic Language Plan and Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Corporate Plan.

Examples include:

- LearnGaelic.scot
- FilmG
- Na Duaisean Gàidhlig / The Gaelic Awards
- Nova Scotia Gaelic Bursaries
- #cleachdi
- Siuthad (youth jobs forum)
- Corpus projects and research commissions (e.g. education data)

Funding Principles

The primary goal of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's development budget is to provide support to projects or campaigns that help deliver our vision of progress for Gaelic.

To do this, we work with a wide variety of stakeholders with different needs and visions:

- Public authorities
- Gaelic organisations
- Community groups
- Charities (local and national)
- Artists
- Students

To make funding accessible to these stakeholders, a range of different methods of accessing funds should be available:

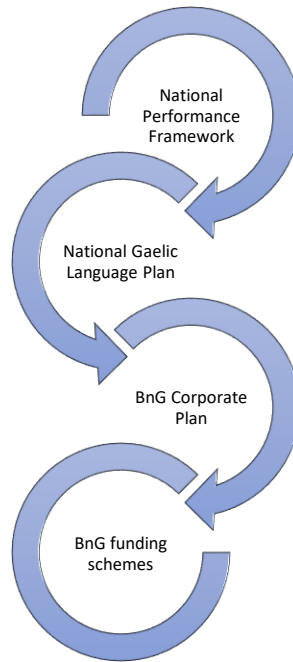
- Regular, medium-term funding to provide opportunities for organisations to plan their work further ahead, provide value for money and to provide security
- Topical funding to further different objectives or support specific communities or project types (e.g. supporting cross-border links with Ireland through the Colmcille initiative, supporting early years groups or Gaelic classes)
- Open, discretionary funding to allow for new ideas and bespoke solutions

The operation of our funding is based on three key principles:

- Growing Gaelic
- Value for Money
- Deliverability and Measurable outcomes

1. Growing Gaelic

For all projects and organisations that Bòrd na Gàidhlig fund, their expected/final outputs are measured against the Bòrd's Corporate Plan objectives, which are in turn based upon the priorities of the National Gaelic Language Plan and the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework.



Our priority in funding any project is to ensure our funding contribution supports Gaelic usage, learning and promotion as part of that project, and therefore that our funding schemes strongly reward projects delivered through the medium of Gaelic.

2. Value for money

As a public body Bòrd na Gàidhlig has a duty to secure best value for public funds. Therefore, for every project we fund we must ensure that the level of funding we provide is proportionate to the outcomes expected of the project and what the project entails.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is committed to ensuring value for money and requires projects to include a level of match-funding (typically at least 20%) and that all projects demonstrate that they can secure relevant income from fundraising, participant contributions or grants from other sources.

As funding is limited, Bòrd na Gàidhlig aims to be an organisation which promotes mainstreaming of Gaelic within existing work or organisations – and therefore will aim to prioritise new and innovative projects and provide support to ongoing projects on a sliding scale of support or in partnership with other bodies.

Projects should also be expected to show how they connect with other organisations, events or projects as collaboration can improve value for money, deliverability of outcomes and ensure knowledge and best practice is shared.

3. Deliverability and Measuring outcomes

It's important to us to ensure that organisations awarded funding can deliver what they set out to achieve and are able to measure the impact of their work so that the aims of our Corporate Plan and the National Gaelic Language Plan are met.

Our Corporate Plan includes key performance indicators and we ask all projects we fund to ask those that engaged with the project for their responses to the qualitative questions:

- Has this project encouraged you to use Gaelic more often?
- Has this project enhanced your Gaelic skills?
- Has this project made you believe more strongly that Gaelic is important to Scotland?

The responses to these questions will help us build a national picture of the work being funded to support Gaelic development and the positive impact that Gaelic has on people's lives.

As such, it's crucial that projects are able to contribute to this national picture by providing information on the response to their project and the people it impacted.

Questions

Delivery partners

1. Do you believe that the current network of delivery partners is effective and provides value for money in their delivery of Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Corporate Plan objectives?
2. Do you believe that support is available from the Bòrd to support your organisation to work in partnership with other organisations, and if not what support do you believe would be appropriate?
3. Do you believe that support is available from the Bòrd to support your organisation with resources and training in terms of communication and ICT, and if not what support do you believe would be appropriate?
4. Do you believe that the current balance of funding between delivery partners, funding schemes and Bòrd na Gàidhlig supported projects adequately deliver the priorities of the National Gaelic Language Plan and address the needs of the Gaelic community?
5. Do you have any proposals that could improve the way Bòrd na Gàidhlig supports organisations that deliver Gaelic projects?

Funding schemes

6. Do you believe that Bòrd na Gàidhlig's current funding schemes adequately address the priorities of the National Gaelic Language Plan and the Gaelic community, and if not what changes would you propose to improve them?
7. Do Bòrd na Gàidhlig's current funding schemes provide you or your organisation sufficient opportunity to support your goals in Gaelic development? If not, how would you propose addressing this?
8. Do you agree with the funding principles and is there anything else you would recommend to improve them?
9. Do you have any other proposals to enhance Bòrd na Gàidhlig's funding schemes?

General

10. Do you have any other proposals that could improve how Bòrd na Gàidhlig uses its development budget?