

<p><b>Co-chomhairle air Ro-innleachd 5-bliadhna Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean – Suirbhìdh Leanmhainn</b></p> <p><b>Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig</b></p> <p><b>02 Màrt 2023</b></p>	<p><b>Highlands &amp; Islands Enterprise 5 Year Strategy Consultation – Follow up Survey</b></p> <p><b>Response by Bòrd na Gàidhlig</b></p> <p><b>02 March 2023</b></p>																				
<p><b>Gu dè an ìre, ma tha idir, a tha thu a’ smaoinichadh gu bheil na h-eileamaidean a leanas den anailis SWOT a’ nochdadh co-theacs eaconamach is sòisealta na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean an-dràsta?</b></p> <table data-bbox="103 873 686 1108"> <tr> <td>Anailis SWOT san Fharsaingeachd</td> <td>Fìor Mhath</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nearتان</td> <td>Fìor Mhath</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Laigsean</td> <td>Fìor Mhath</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cothroman</td> <td>Fìor Mhath</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bagairstean</td> <td>An Ìre Mhath</td> </tr> </table> <p>A' meas Nearthan, Laigsean agus Cothroman “Fìor Mhath” airson gu bheil:</p> <p>Nearthan a’ gabhail a-steach tarraingeachd na roinne air a neartachadh le cultar, cànan, agus dualchas làidir – a’ Ghàidhlig na mheasg.</p> <p>Tha Laigsean a’ toirt a-steach cùisean bun-structair a tha gu sònraichte dona ann an sgìrean/eileanan far a bheil a’ Ghàidhlig air a bhith làidir bho thùs – solar/prìs taigheadais, agus cùisean co-cheangailte ri còmh-dhail agus ceanglaichean didseatach agus foghainteachd seirbheis.</p> <p>Tha Cothroman a' toirt a-steach Togail cothroman coimhearsnachd is eaconamach às ar cànan agus dualchas Gàidhlig a tha gun samhail.</p> <p>A' meas bhagairstean “an Ìre Mhath” – faic an fhreagairt gu h-ìosal don ath cheist.</p>	Anailis SWOT san Fharsaingeachd	Fìor Mhath	Nearتان	Fìor Mhath	Laigsean	Fìor Mhath	Cothroman	Fìor Mhath	Bagairstean	An Ìre Mhath	<p><b>To what extent, if at all, do you think the following elements of the SWOT reflect the current economic and social context of the Highlands and Islands?</b></p> <table data-bbox="869 873 1300 1064"> <tr> <td>SWOT Overall</td> <td>Very Well</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strengths</td> <td>Very Well</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weaknesses</td> <td>Very Well</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Opportunities</td> <td>Very Well</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Threats</td> <td>Quite Well</td> </tr> </table> <p>Rating of Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities as “Very Well” because:</p> <p>Strengths include regional attractiveness is underpinned by strong culture, language, and heritage - which will include Gaelic.</p> <p>Weaknesses include references to infrastructural issues that are particularly acute in areas/islands where Gaelic has been traditionally strong - housing provision/affordability, and issues around transport and digital connectivity and service resilience.</p> <p>Opportunities include Building community and economic opportunity from our unique Gaelic language and heritage.</p> <p>Rating of threats as “Quite Well” - see answer below to next question.</p>	SWOT Overall	Very Well	Strengths	Very Well	Weaknesses	Very Well	Opportunities	Very Well	Threats	Quite Well
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**A' smaoinichadh air an roinn gu h-iomlan, innis dhuinn beagan a bharrachd mu na tha thu a' smaoinichadh a tha a dhìth bhon SWOT/nach eil air a nochdadh gu math san SWOT?**

Ann an earrainn air Bagairtean bhiodh e feumail luaidh a thoirt air sgìre dà-astair a' sìor thighinn am follais – le cuid de sgìrean dùthchail is iomallach a' tuiteam (nas fhaide) air dheireadh air sgàth laigsean ann am bun-structar leithid taigheadais, còmhdhail agus ceangal didseatach. Is iad seo mar as tric na raointean far an do sheall rannsachadh a chaidh a choimiseanadh le IGE (leis an Ionad airson Rannsachadh ann am Poileasaidh Sòisealta, Oilthigh Loughborough) gun robh iad mar-thà a' fulang cosgais bith-beò cuimseach àrd mus do nochd an èiginn cosgais bith-beò làithreach. Is ann an seo cuideachd a bhios call airgead Eòrpach ga fhaireachdainn gu sònraichte, leis an airgead ga chleachdadh ann an cuid de chùisean airson tasgaidhean mòra bun-structair. Tha na h-eileanan agus coimhearsnachdan dùthchail air an taobh an iar gu sònraichte cudromach don Ghàidhlig (mar a chithear sa Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig 2018-23) agus mar sin tha fìor dhroch bhuaidh aig an eadar-dhealachadh seo air coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig.

Bhiodh e feumail cuideachd aithris a chur don phàipear ro-innleachd ag innse gu bheil atharrachadh susbainteach ann an suidheachaidhean air feadh roinn a tha anabarrach mòr.

**A' smaoinichadh air fo-roinnean na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean, a bheil neartan, laigsean, cothroman no bagairtean sònraichte nach eil air a nochdadh gu leòr anns an SWOT roinneil?**

Chan eil iomradh sam bith air na dùbhlain shònraichte a tha mu choinneamh eileanan. Tha seo ann an co-theacs Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean. Anns a' Phlana, tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag aithneachadh cho cudromach 's a tha a' Ghàidhlig do iomadh coimhearsnachd eileanach, agus cho cudromach 's a tha coimhearsnachdan eileanach Gàidhlig a thaobh mairsinn is seasmhachd na Gàidhlig ann an Alba. Tha gealltanasan air feadh a' Phlana a thaobh taic do dhaoine fa leth, do choimhearsnachdan, agus do

**Thinking of the region overall, tell us a bit more about what you think is missing from the SWOT/not well reflected in the SWOT?**

The Threats section could usefully include a two-speed region increasingly emerges-with some rural and remote areas falling (further) behind due to weaknesses in infrastructure such as housing, transport, and digital connectivity. These also tend to be areas where research commissioned by HIE (by the Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University) showed that they were already facing a relatively high cost of living before the current cost of living crisis. They are also ones where the loss of European funds will be particularly felt, with in some cases the funds having been used for major infrastructure investments. The island and rural communities of the west are particularly important for the Gaelic language (as per the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23) and therefore this disparity has a particularly important negative impact on Gaelic-speaking communities.

It would also be useful to include a statement in the strategy document to the effect that there is a tremendous variation in circumstances across what is a very large region.

**Thinking of sub-regions of the Highlands and Islands, are there particular strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, or threats that are not adequately reflected in the regional SWOT?**

There are no references to the specific challenges faced by islands. That is in the context of the National Islands Plan. Within the Plan, Scottish Government recognises the importance of the Gaelic language to many island communities, and the importance of the Gaelic speaking island communities to the survival and sustainability of Gaelic in Scotland. The Plan includes commitments throughout to supporting



bhuidhnean ann an coimhearsnachdan eileanach le Gàidhlig ann an cleachdadh na Gàidhlig.

Tha grunn dhùbhlann mu choinneamh Innse Gall a thaobh fàs na h-eaconamaidh aca agus glèidheadh sluaigh a tha gnìomhach san eaconamaidh. Tha iad seo coltach ri eileanan eile san sgìre. Ach, ann an cuid de cheàrnaidhean de dh'Innse Gall 's e an uiread daoine a tha a' fàs nas sine, meud a' chrìonaidh san àireamh-sluaigh, gainnead thaighean, agus nach eil comas no foghainteachd gu leòr sna seirbheisean aiseig a tha a' fàgail nach eil na coimhearsnachdan sin cho seasmhach. Tha eaconamaidh agus structar sluaigh fallain deatamach airson àm ri teachd a' chànain anns na h-eileanan agus ann an coimhearsnachdan dùthchail eile le Gàidhlig.

Tha sinn ag aithneachadh gu bheil deagh chothroman a' nochdadh anns na h-Eileanan an Iar cuideachd. Gu h-àraidh, comas cosnadh le ScotWind agus cothroman cumhachd ath-nuadhachail eile às dèidh tasgadh ann am Port Domhainn Steòrnabhaigh Ris na tha sin, chuireadh sinn na cothroman eaconamach a tha air an cruthachadh le cleachdadh na Gàidhlig feadh nan gnìomhachasan cruthachail, craoladh, foghlam, turasachd agus roinnean eile.

Tha Innse Gall aig cridhe saoghal na Gàidhlig. Sheall Cunntas-sluaigh 2011 gu bheil sgilean Gàidhlig aig 61.2% den t-sluaigh, aois 3 agus nas sine. Sin an ìre as àirde de dh'ùghdarras ionadail Albannach sam bith, agus an coimeas ri cuibheasachd Albannach de 1.7%. Tha seo ann an co-theacs de chrìonadh ann an cleachdadh na Gàidhlig ann an Innse Gall bho 2011, ged a tha dàta Cunntas-sluaigh 2022 airson seo fhathast ri fhoillseachadh.

Mar sin, chan e a-mhàin gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig cudromach do sgìrean làidir Gàidhlig leithid Innse Gall – tha seasmhachd nan sgìrean sin riatanach airson seasmhachd agus fàs leantainneach na Gàidhlig – agus na buannachdan sòisealta is eaconamach a thig às. Bhiodh e feumail a' phuing chudromach seo a chur don phàipear ro-innleachd.

individuals, communities, and organisations in Gaelic speaking island communities in their use of Gaelic.

The Outer Hebrides face a range of challenges to growing its economy and retaining an economically active population. These are similar to some other islands in the region. However, in some parts of the Outer Hebrides it is the scale and extent of population aging and decline, housing shortages and insufficient resilience and capacity of ferry services that makes these communities less sustainable. A healthy economy and population structure is vital to the future of the language in the islands and other rural Gaelic speaking communities.

We recognise that there are also good emerging potential opportunities in the Outer Hebrides. In particular, ScotWind and other renewable energy opportunities' employment potential following investment in Stornoway Deep Water Part. To these we would add the economic opportunities created by use of the Gaelic language across the creative industries, broadcasting, education, tourism, and other sectors.

The Outer Hebrides is a Gaelic heartland. The 2011 Census showed that 61.2% of its population, aged 3 and over, have Gaelic skills. That is the highest of any Scottish local authority and compares to a Scottish average of 1.7%. This is in a context of an apparent decline in the use of Gaelic in the Outer Hebrides since 2011, although the 2022 Census data for this have still to be released.

Therefore, the Gaelic language is not only important to heartlands such as the Outer Hebrides – their sustainability is essential to the continued sustainability and growth of the Gaelic language - and the social and economic benefits it generates. This important point could usefully be included within the strategy document.



Tha ceithir colbhan ann an dreach frèam-obrach ro-innleachdail HIE: Daoine; Àite; Planaid; agus Soirbheachas. Dè an ìre gu bheil thu ag aontachadh gur e na colbhan sin an fheadhainn cheart airson gnìomhan agus prìomhachasan IGE a stèidheachadh?

Ag aontachadh gu mòr

A' smaoinichadh air na prìomhachasan ro-innleachdail a tha fo gach colbh, dè cho riaraichte 's a tha thu leis an raon de ghnìomhachd a tha air a thaisbeanadh?

Daoine	Air leth
Àite	Gu ìre
Planaid	Air leth
Soirbheachas	Air leth

Gu dè an ìre, ma tha idir, a tha thu ag aontachadh gur iad na leanas na cuspairean cheart airson frèam-obrach ro-innleachdail HIE?

Net zero	Ag aontachadh gu mòr
Fàs nas cothromaiche agus nas in-ghabhalaich	Ag aontachadh gu mòr
Cothroman roinneil	Ag aontachadh gu mòr

Tha na measaidhean seo stèidhichte air a' bheachd gu bheil net zero na chùis dheamach don roinn, agus gum bu chòir taobh cruinn-eòlais a bhith aig Fàs nas cothromaiche agus nas in-ghabhalaich a bu chòir taic a thoirt do leasachadh ann an coimhearsnachdan nas iomallaiche far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig fhathast an ìre mhath làidir, agus "Togail cothrom coimhearsnachd is eaconamach bho ar cànan is dualchas sònraichte Gàidhlig" air a chomharrachadh mar aon de na Prìomh Rointean Cothroman Roinneil.

Ma tha thu airson tuilleadh bheachdan a thoirt seachad air na freagairtean agad don dà cheist gu h-àrd, a' toirt a-steach tuilleadh fiosrachaidh air far nach eil thu ag aontachadh leis na colbhan, prìomhachasan ro-innleachdail no cuspairean tar-ghearraidh, dèan sin gu h-ìosal.

Chaidh prìomhachasan ro-innleachdail Àite a mheas "Gu ìre". Tha sin air sgàth gum faodadh am fear mu dheireadh atharrachadh gu "Sònraich roinneil airson turasachd, in-

HIE's draft strategic framework has four pillars: People; Place; Planet; and Prosperity. To what extent do you agree that these pillars are the right ones on which to base HIE's organisational activities and priorities?

Strongly Agree

Thinking of the strategic priorities listed underneath each pillar, how satisfied are you with the range of activity areas presented?

People	Extremely
Place	Somewhat
Planet	Extremely
Prosperity	Extremely

To what extent, if at all, do you agree that the following are the right cross-cutting themes for HIE's strategic framework?

Net zero	Strongly agree
Fairer and inclusive growth	Strongly agree
Regional opportunities	Strongly agree

The rationale for these ratings is based on the view that net zero is a critical issue for the region, while Fairer and inclusive growth should have a geographical dimension which should support development in remoter communities where Gaelic remains relatively strong, while "Building community and economic opportunity from our unique Gaelic language and heritage" is identified as one of the Key Regional Areas Of Opportunity.

If you would like to provide further comment on your responses to the two questions above, including further detail on where you disagree with the pillars, strategic priorities or cross-cutting themes, please do so below.

The Place strategic priorities were rated as "Somewhat". That is because the final one could usefully be amended to "Regional



thasgadh, tàladh tàlaint (calpa nàdarra, cultar, dualchas *agus a' Ghàidhlig*)". Dhèanadh sin e co-chòrdail ri earrannan eile den phàipear Ro-innleachd a tha a' toirt iomradh air a' Ghàidhlig.

**Dè cho cudromach sa tha na h-amasan ro-innleachdail a leanas don Ghàidhealtachd is na h-Eileanan san fharsaingeachd?**

Mholadh sinn gum bu chòir an t-amas ro-innleachdail a bhuineas ri buannachdan stèidhichte air àite a leudachadh gus àrd-amas a nochdadh gu soilleir airson dualchas cànanach is cultarail sònraichte na sgìre. Tha seo ag adhbharachadh fàs ann am misneachd na coimhearsnachd, fàs anns na gnìomhachasan cruthachail agus a' cur ri eaconamaidh sunnd.

**A thaobh nan amasan ro-innleachdail air ainmeachadh, dè na TRÌ as cudromaiche don roinn san fharsaingeachd?**

- Tha slugh aig aois obrach agus luchd-obrach sgileil a tha cothromaichte, sgaoilte agus a' fàs anns a' Ghàidhealtachd le taic bho fhoghlam, trèanadh agus cothroman cosnadh àrd-inbhe agus solar taigheadais iomchaidh – *leis gu bheil seo na phrìomh eileamaid ann an seasmhachd coimhearsnachd agus eaconamach.*
- Tha buannachdan sònraichte stèidhichte air àite air feadh na roinne air an cleachdadh gus taic a thoirt do tharraing tàlaint, leasachadh roinne agus in-thasgadh – *tha cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig a' riochdachadh buannachd shònraichte stèidhichte air àite agus bu chòir a chur an cèill taobh a-staigh seo.*
- Tha cothromas roinneil air a leasachadh tro eadar-theachdan cuimsichte gus ana-cothrom a lasachadh – *bheir seo taic do sheasmhachd raointean far a bheil/far an robh a' Ghàidhlig làidir, ach aig a bheil dùbhlain nas miosa na iomadh ceàrnaidh eile den roinn.*

distinctiveness for tourism, inward investment, talent attraction (natural capital, culture, heritage *and the Gaelic language*)". That would make it consistent with other sections of the Strategy document that refer to Gaelic.

**How important would you say the following strategic objectives are for the Highlands and Islands overall?**

We would recommend that there the strategic objective which relates to place-based advantages is extended to clearly articulate ambition for the region's unique linguistic and cultural heritage. From this flows growth in the community confidence, growth in the creative industries and contribution to the wellbeing economy.

**In terms of the strategic objectives listed, which THREE do you see as the highest priorities for the region overall?**

- The Highlands and Islands has a balanced, distributed and growing working age population and skilled labour force, supported by high quality education, training and employment opportunities and appropriate housing provision - *because this is a key element in community and economic sustainability.*
- Distinct place-based advantages across the region are levered to support talent attraction, sectoral development and inward investment - *Gaelic language and culture represent a distinct place-based advantage and should be articulated within this.*
- Regional equity is improved through targeted interventions to mitigate disadvantage - *this will support the sustainability of areas where Gaelic is/has been strong, but which are facing more*



Dè am prìomh dhleastanas a bu chòir a bhith aig IGE ann a bhith a' libhrigeadh gach aon de na h-amasan ro-innleachdail air an ainmeachadh? Tha na dleastanasan gam mìneachadh mar a leanas:

- **Ceannard:** A' leasachadh phoileasaidhean, ro-innleachdan, no fianais cho-roinnte (bhon mhullach sìos no le bhith a' leasachadh co-aontachd: is e liut ceannais nas mionaidiche a tha seo) agus libhrigeadh phrògraman no eadar-theachdan gu dìreach.
- **Co-shealbhadair:** Na h-aon ghniomhan ri ceannard ach mar chom-pàirtiche, seach prìomh stiùir.
- **Bròcair/Comasaiche Tagradh,** barganachadh ro-innleachdail, toirt buaidh no togail co-bhanntachd. A' ceangal luchd-gnìomha thairis air siostam. A' leasachadh bunait fianais. A' solar fiosrachadh sònraichte a thaobh dealbhadh poileasaidh no libhrigeadh phrògraman (sin, thairis air siostaman riaghlaidh ioma-ìre).

Tha slugh aig aois obrach agus luchd-obrach sgileil a tha cothromaichte, sgaoilte agus a' fàs anns a' Ghàidhealtachd le taic bho fhoghlam, trèanadh agus cothroman cosnaidh àrd-inbhe agus solar taigheadais iomchaidh **Co-shealbhadair**

Tha buannachdan sònraichte stèidhichte air àite air feadh na roinne air an cleachdadh gus taic a thoirt do tharraing tàlant, leasachadh roinneil, agus in-thasgadh **Ceannard**

Tha coimhearsnachdan nas foghantaich agus air an neartachadh tro bhith a' togail beairteas ionadail. **Co-shealbhadair**

Tha cothromas roinneil air a leasachadh tro eadar-theachdan cuimsichte gus ana-cothrom a lasachadh. **Ceannard**

*acute challenges than many other parts of the region.*

**What do you feel should be HIE's primary role in delivering each of the strategic objectives listed? The roles are defined as follows:**

- **Leader:** Developing shared policies, strategies, or evidence (either top down or by developing consensus: this is a more detailed leadership nuance) and direct delivery of programmes or interventions.
- **Co-owner:** The same functions as a leader but as a partner, rather than main or primary driver.
- **Broker / Facilitator:** Advocacy, strategic bargaining, influencing or coalition building. Connecting actors across a system. Developing the evidence base. Providing specialist input to policy design or programme delivery (i.e., across multi-level governance systems).

The Highlands and Islands has a balanced, distributed and growing working age population and skilled labour force, supported by high quality education, training and employment opportunities and appropriate housing provision. **Co-owner**

Distinct place-based advantages across the region are levered to support talent attraction, sectoral development, and inward investment. **Leader**

Communities are more resilient and strengthened through local wealth building. **Co-owner**

Regional equity is improved through targeted interventions to mitigate disadvantage. **Leader**





Tha barrachd iomairtean is choimhearsnachdan ùr-ghnàthach agus faodaidh iad atharrachadh gus brath a ghabhail air cothroman aig an taigh is gu h-eadar-nàiseanta san àm ri teachd agus gus cinneasachadh agus sunnd àrdachadh. **Ceannard**

**A thaobh na leanas, dè na TRÌ prìomhachasan as àirde do IGE ann a bhith a' toirt taic don ghluasad chothromach gu net zero?**

- Cruthachadh lùth ath-nuadhachail
- Taic do ghnìomhachasan fa-leth gus sgaoilidhean carbain a lùghdachadh
- Leasachadh sèine solair

**Ma tha thu airson tuilleadh beachd a thoirt seachad, dèan sin gu h-ìosal.**

'S e amas a' Phlana Cànan Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig 2018-23 gun tèid "a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine agus ann an raon nas fharsaing de shuidheachaidhean". Bheirear seo gu buil le bhith a' cuimseachadh air:

- Cur am meud cleachdadh na Gàidhlig.
- Cur am meud ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig.
- Cur air adhart deagh ìomhaigh den Ghàidhlig.

Bheirear an cleachdadh a bharrachd seo den chànan gu bhith, gu ìre, le bhith a' toirt am buil nam buannachdan eacanomaigeach a bhios a' Ghàidhlig a' toirt do dh'Alba. Tachraidh sin tro bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig barrachd mar sho-mhaoin eaconamach. 'S e ar n-amas gum faicear is gun cluinnear a' Ghàidhlig gu làitheil air feadh na h-Alba, air dhòigh 's gun tèid aithneachadh gu farsaing gu bheil i aig cridhe beatha na h-Alba agus na stòras nàiseanta.

Thathar a' bruidhinn Gàidhlig air feadh na h-Alba. Tha mu 50% de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a' fuireach sa Ghàidhealtachd agus sna h-Eileanan, agus càch air feadh na dùthcha. A rèir Cunntas-sluaigh 2011, bha sgilean Gàidhlig aig 87,100 daoine (mu 1.7% den t-sluaigh), agus bha 57,600 dhiubh a b' urrainn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn. Tha iarrtas a' sìor fhàs airson cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig agus na buannachdan foghlaim, eaconamach is sòisealta co-cheangailte riutha.

More enterprises and communities are innovative and can adapt to capitalise on future domestic and international opportunities and increase productivity and wellbeing. **Leader**

**In terms of the following, which THREE do you see as the highest priorities for HIE in supporting the just transition to net zero?**

- Renewable energy production
- Supporting individual businesses to lower carbon emissions
- Supply chain development

**If you would like to provide further comment, please do so below.**

The aim of the National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 is "that Gaelic is used more often, by more people and in a wider range of situations". This will be achieved by focusing on:

- Increasing the use of Gaelic.
- Increasing the learning of Gaelic.
- Promoting a positive image of Gaelic.

This greater use of the language will, in part, be achieved through realising the economic benefits that Gaelic brings to Scotland. That will be through increased use of Gaelic as an economic asset. Our aim is that Gaelic is seen and heard on a daily basis across Scotland, such that it is widely recognised as an integral part of Scottish life and a national asset.

Gaelic is spoken across Scotland. About 50% of Gaelic speakers live in the Highlands and Islands with the remainder in the rest of the country. At the 2011 Census 87,100 people in Scotland had Gaelic skills (around 1.7% of the population), of which 57,600 were Gaelic speakers. There is a growing demand for Gaelic language and culture with related educational, economic and social benefits.



Tha Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtMG) a' leudachadh air feadh na h-Alba. Tha e a-nis ri fhaighinn ann an còrr is dàrna leth nan 32 ùghdarrasan ionadail ann an Alba. Thòisich Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an 1985 le 14 sgoilearan sa bhun-sgoil. A-nis tha còrr is 5,600 sgoilear san roinn thar foghlaim Thràth-bhliadhnaichean, Bun-sgoile is Àrd-sgoile. Gus coinneachadh ri fàs leantainneach san iarrtas bidh feum air tasgadh ann an sgoiltean agus tidsearan.

Tha an t-iarrtas airson Gàidhlig ionnsachadh follaiseach san àrdachadh mhòr de dhaoine a tha a' gabhail ris an app/làrach-lìn ionnsachadh cànan Duolingo. Tha mu 1.5 millean neach air tòiseachadh air Gàidhlig na h-Alba ionnsachadh air an app bho thòisich an cùrsa o chionn trì bliadhna. Tha cur air bhog SpeakGaelic san t-Sultain 2021 cuideachd air cur gu mòr ri goireasan do dh'inbich a tha airson a dhol an sàs sa Ghàidhlig agus an cànan ionnsachadh.

Fhuair “Suirbhidh Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba 2021: Beachdan Poball na h-Alba air a' Ghàidhlig”, gu bheil, an coimeas ri 2012,

- A' cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gun urrainn dhaibh co-dhiù corra fhacal Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn air dùblachadh bho 15% gu 30%.
- Gu bheil a' cho-chuid a tha ag ràdh gun tuig iad co-dhiù beagan Gàidhlig air a dhol am meud bho 25% gu 41%.

A bharrachd air sin, tha 79% de dhaoine a' smaointinn gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig an dàrna cuid cudromach no glè chudromach do dhualchas cultarach na h-Alba.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig gu mòr a' cur fàilte air mar a tha am pàipear ro-innleachd ag aithneachadh na Gàidhlig mar sho-mhaoin eaconamach is sòisealta. Tha sin a' gabhail a-steach iomraidhean sònraichte air a' chànan anns an teacsa.

A-rithist, chuireadh sinn cuideam air a' cheangal eadar staid na h-eaconamaidh, deamografaigs agus bun-structair ann an coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig agus slàinte a' chànan annta. Feumaidh cànan soirbheachail eaconamaidh agus sluagh a tha soirbheachail.

Gaelic Medium Education is expanding across Scotland. It is now available in over half of Scotland's 32 local authorities. Gaelic Medium Education began in 1985 with 14 primary pupils. There are now more than 5,600 pupils in the sector across Early Years, Primary and Secondary education. Meeting continuing growth in demand will require investment in schools and teachers.

The demand for learning Gaelic is evident in the huge uptake for the Duolingo language learning app/website. Some 1.5 million people have started learning Scottish Gaelic on the app since the course launched over three years ago. The launch of SpeakGaelic in September 2021 has also greatly contributed to resources for adults who want to engage with and learn the language.

The “Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2021: Public Attitudes to Gaelic in Scotland” found that since 2012:

- The proportion who say they can speak at least the odd word of Gaelic has doubled from 15% to 30%.
- The proportion who say they can understand at least a little Gaelic has increased from 25% to 41%.

Further, 79% of people think Gaelic is either very or fairly important to Scotland's cultural heritage.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig very much welcome the strategy document's recognition of Gaelic as an economic and social asset. That includes the specific references to the language in the text.

We would again highlight the link between the state of the economy, demography and infrastructure in Gaelic speaking communities and the health of the language in them. In short,





Bidh tabhartas IGE a thaobh seo tro bhith a' tasgadh san sgìre. Ach, bidh obair IGE ann a bhith a' toirt buaidh air co-dhùnaidhean aig ìre nàiseanta deatamach cuideachd.

Is e aon eisimpleir am Plana Ceangal Eileanan aig Còmhhdail Alba a tha ga dheasachadh an-dràsta. Cuidichidh co-dhùnaidhean tasgaidh ann a bhith a' cumadh seirbheisean aiseig agus adhair a-staigh san àm ri teachd agus dh'fhaodadh sin leantainn gu togail cheanglaichean stèidhichte ùra.

Bheir a' bhuidhe air foghainteachd, comas, tricead agus prìs ruigsinneach seirbheis buaidh mhòr air na tha san amharc do choimhearsnachdan eileanach na roinne san àm ri teachd. Bidh iad sin a' gabhail a-steach coimhearsnachdan 's a bheil luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig agus mar sin bidh buaidh aig a' Phlana Ceangal Eileanan air na tha san amharc don chànan.

Anns na bliadhnan mu dheireadh tha mothachadh air a bhith a' sior fhàs mu bhuidhe eaconamach na Gàidhlig. B' e toiseach tòiseachaidh an aithisg, *Ar Stòras Gàidhlig*. Rinn aithisg ann an 2014 measadh air an luach eaconamach is sòisealta a tha a' Ghàidhlig a' toirt do dh'Alba. Lean grunn sgrùdaidhean eile, o chionn ghoirid a' tomhas buaidh eaconamach MG ALBA.

Tha leasachaidhean eile air a bhith ann cuideachd gus fàs a thoirt air na tha a' Ghàidhlig a' cur ris an eaconamaidh. Mar eisimpleir, Ro-innleachd Turasachd na Gàidhlig do Alba 2018-2023 aig VisitScotland.

Leis na tha gu h-àrd, dh'fhaodadh gum biodh e feumail nan dèanadh IGE ùrachadh air an aithisg *Ar Stòras Gàidhlig*. Dh'fhaodadh an uair sin IGE agus a chom-pàirtichean beachdachadh air a' bhuidhe a bhios aig an rannsachadh air na dòighean as fheàrr air taic a thoirt do ghnìomhachasan agus buidhnean eile gus luach na Gàidhlig fhàs.

a thriving Gaelic language requires a thriving economy and population.

HIE's contribution to this will be through its investment in the region. However, HIE's role in influencing national level decisions made will also be vital.

One example is Transport Scotland's Islands Connectivity Plan which is currently being developed. Investment decisions will help to shape future ferry and internal air services and could lead to the construction of new fixed links.

The impacts on service resilience, capacity, frequency, and affordability will significantly affect the future prospects of the region's island communities. These will include communities with Gaelic speakers and thus the Islands Connectivity Plan will have an impact on the prospects of the language.

Recent years have seen a growing awareness of the economic impacts of Gaelic. A starting point was the report, *Ar Stòras Gàidhlig*. This was commissioned by HIE in 2014 to assess the economic and social value Gaelic brings to Scotland. That has been followed by a number of other studies, most recently quantifying the economic impacts of MG ALBA.

There have also been other developments to help grow Gaelic's economic contribution. For example, VisitScotland's Gaelic Tourism Strategy for Scotland 2018-2023.

Given the above, there could be merit in HIE considering an update of the previous *Ar Stòras Gàidhlig* report. Following on from that HIE and its partners could consider the research's implications for the best means of supporting businesses and other organisations to further grow the value of Gaelic as an asset.



**Nòta:**

Bidh an fhreagairt seo ri fhaighinn sa Ghàidhlig agus sa Bheurla air làrach-lìn Bhòrd na Gàidhlig – duilleag Chomhairlean Poblach.

Chuireadh Bòrd na Gàidhlig fàilte air suirbhidhean IGE san àm ri teachd a bhith rim faighinn sa Ghàidhlig cho math ris a' Bheurla.

**Note:**

This response will be available in Gaelic and English on the Bòrd na Gàidhlig website – Public Consultations page.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig would welcome future HIE surveys to be made available in Gaelic as well as English.

