

Meeting: Bòrd-stiùiridh
Date/Time: 26 June 2025 at 09.30
Location: Microsoft Teams

Minutes - Open Session

1. Opening Items

1.1. Welcome and Apologies

Board Members Present:

Mary T MacInnes (MTNA) [Chair]

Donald K MacPhee (DKM)

John Neil MacDonald (JND)

Seonaidh Charity (SC) *(from point 5)*

Rob Dunbar (RD)

Stewart MacLeod (StML)

Michelle Macleod (MNL)

In Attendance:

Ealasaid MacDonald, Ceannard/Accountable Officer (ED)

Iain Macmillan, Director of Development (IMM)

Nicola Pearson, Head of Finance & Corporate Affairs (NP)

Steven Kellow, Funding & Projects Officer [SK]

Karen Smith, Operations Manager (KNG) *(for item 7)*

Orla MacDonald, Recording Minutes (OND)

Apologies:

Seonaidh Charity (SC) *(until item 5)*

1.2. Declaration of Interests

DKM – Comunn na Gàidhlig, FC Sonas

RD – Ionad Gàidhlig Dhùn Èideann, Faclair na Gàidhlig, University of Edinburgh

JND – Ceòlas

1.3. Any Other Competent Business (AOCB)

None.

2. Communications

2.1. Stakeholder Communications

The Ceannard summarised the information in the paper. She also provided information about the Gaelic survey mentioned in the paper, as well as the Gaelic Usage Questionnaire.

Decision:

Members noted the information in the paper.

2.2. Celebrating success

The Ceannard explained the purpose of the paper and requested approval for the launch of a new model for celebrating success. There was discussion on the ways in which success has been celebrated in the past and how it can be done in the future.

Members said that this was a great opportunity for people to come together and asked for ideas on what they planned to do in the future. The Ceannard said that the Gaelic Awards held felt very distant from communities, and that the plan is to engage with stakeholders and communities before bringing proposals back to Members.

Action:

Bòrd na Gàidhlig to discuss ideas as to the best way to celebrate success with partners and to return to Members with recommendations this financial year.

Decision:

Members noted the information.

3. Finance

3.1. Financial Report

NP informed the members that all the information is contained in the paper. StML commended Officers for finishing the financial year so close to the budget.

Decision:

Members noted the report.

4. Corporate Plan and Performance

4.1. Report on progress with the 2023-28 National Plan

IMM referred to the information in the document and noted that effort was being made to create a strong link between actions and priorities.

Members noted a difference between what is set out in the Plan and the actions, and commented that the Plan was overly broad. Staff were commended for their work on delivering the actions.

The Ceannard announced that a meeting was anticipated between Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Government to consider the responsibilities associated with the Plan. IMM provided further information on the work being done with the Government to progress the Plan, and on Bòrd na Gàidhlig's responsibilities

Members recommended holding a meeting to discuss new responsibilities and how this affects the work of Bòrd na Gàidhlig. It was said that there is nothing on the agenda about the use of Gaelic in the home, and that this should be considered given its importance. IMM provided comments on this and on how important it is to work with communities in doing this.

Decision:

Members noted the report.

4.2. Gaelic Officers Scheme 2025-28

IMM briefed Members on the information in the paper and mentioned that Members had agreed to the scheme's priorities in March 2025. He said that there had been 44 applications to the scheme seeking £3.25m between July 2025 and March 2028, which is over the available budget of £1.65m. Where applications were rejected, he provided the reasons for this.

It was reported that more information would be provided to the Board in the afternoon on the applications where approval would be sought for the proposals.

SK reported that he sees great opportunities for this scheme and that it provides certainty for organisations for the years to come. He said that the challenge with funding rounds like this is that there isn't the capacity to support every post, and explained how they made decisions.

Members asked whether the funding was going to groups that had previously received support or whether there were new groups, and IMM responded that it was a mixture.

Decision:

Members noted the information.

4.3. Education and Learning

The Ceannard announced that all the necessary information is in the paper and that this would be the last time Bòrd na Gàidhlig would deal with the Statutory Guidance as responsibility for this is transferring to the Scottish Government.

Members asked who has access to education for children under three years of age and the Ceannard replied that this depends on the local authority and advised that more information would be provided on this at the next meeting.

Members asked whether the changes in the law arising from the Bill will affect the guidance. The Ceannard informed them that it had been created before the Bill was approved and that she would recommend to the Government that they look at it in this context.

Members asked whether Bòrd na Gàidhlig is notified about Gaelic Specific Grants, and the Chief Executive replied that it is not, unless the organisation requests the information, and that this issue is frequently raised with the Scottish Government.

Decision:

Members approved the Statutory Guidance.

4.4. Report on 2024/25 KPIs

It was reported that the group was making good progress with the actions. Where tasks had not been completed, IMM informed Members of the work being done on them.

IMM provided Members with further information on the community Gaelic plans and indicated that a copy of the plans will be sent to Members next week when they are published for community consultation.

NP reported to Members that an administrative process is being established for PCC 6.

Decision:

Members noted the report.

4.5. Report on Gaelic Language Plans

IMM summarised the information in the paper and discussed progress and challenges in the process.

Members asked whether organisations are submitting the required reports with the necessary information, as this is important for planning. IMM believed that work this is not required at Board of Directors level and reported on the work being done by officers.

Members asked about Language Planning Officers and IMM reported on when the correct number of officers would be in place and noted that there are no concerns in this regard.

Decision:

Members noted the report.

5. Risk Management

5.1. Strategic Risk Register

SC entered the meeting

NP summarised the information in the paper. The Ceannard informed Members about communication she had received from the Government regarding the recruitment of new Members.

StML informed Members about the discussions taking place with the auditors and that they are receiving assurance from them about the work being carried out.

Decision:

Members agreed the register.

6. Committee Annual Reports

6.1. Committee Annual Reports

Audit & Assurance Committee 2024/25

StML thanked Nicola and the Sgioba-stiùirdh for their work through the year. He reported that the auditors attend the meetings and that this is important to the work of the Committee. It was reported that the internal audit reports were available in the paper and that almost all of them were at a robust level.

The Ceannard reported that the Committee had carried out a great deal of important work, and that the feedback from the auditors is very useful to the organisation.

Decision:

Members approved the report.

Policy and Resources Committee 2024/25

SC noted the number of Gaelic Language Plans approved through the committee over the year and commended the team for their work on this. Reference was made to the policies examined by the Committee and the importance of this work. The team were thanked for their work as were the Committee Members for raising questions and discussion.

Decision:

Members approved the report.

7. Corporate

7.1. Health and Safety Policy

KS reported that there have been no reportable accidents. She informed Members that BnG have moved to a new EAP product and provided further information on this service.

Decision:

Members noted the report.

7.2. Standing Orders

The Chief Executive reported on the standing orders and stated that there had been no changes.

Decision:

Members approved the Standing Orders.

8. Board Work Plan

8.1. Board Work Plan

The Ceannard reported that no changes had been made to the work plan but that important topics not on the agenda would be raised at future meetings.

Decision:

Members approved the work plan.

9. AOCB

Date of next meeting: 25/10/09

End of Session