

Meeting: Bòrd-stiùiridh
Date/Time: 09 October 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)

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)

Orla MacDonald, Recording Minutes (OND)

Apologies:

Rob Dunbar (RD)

1.2. Declaration of Interests

SC – Stòrlann, Gaelic Books Council, Education Scotland, Highland Council

MNL– Theatre gu Lèor

DK– Comunn na Gàidhlig

JNM – Ceòlas

1.3. Any Other Competent Business (AOCB)

There were none.

2. Corporate Plan and Performance

2.1. Report on the KPIs in the 2023-28 Corporate Plan

IMM summarised the information in the paper. He suggested that Members view this at every second meeting and Members were satisfied with the suggestion.

Decision:

Members noted the report and agreed that this document will be updated at every other Board meeting.

2.2. Progress report on community Gaelic Plans

IMM informed the meeting that that there is a commitment in the National Gaelic Language Plan to ensure progress is made on three Community Plans and that Bòrd na Gàidhlig has supported two areas in the work required to create these Plans. Significant progress has been made with these plans and they went out for consultation during Summer 2025. He drew Members' attention to the fact that more information had been added to the Plans since the last time they had been presented to them.

Members requested further information on the format of the public consultations and IMM provided them with this information.

Members asked how we could encourage organisations to submit progress reports to BnG and IMM advised that this is a responsibility of BnG, the public sector and Gaelic organisations.

IMM clarified that high-level approval is being sought and that more detailed work will then be done on the actions in Plans and on how progress will be made through them.

Members asked whether there is additional funding to implement these plans. ED commented on the ways of gathering evidence from communities about where funding is needed, and noted that there is an awareness of how important the wider funding context is for these plans and of the challenges involved.

IMM noted the reasons why people might feel uncomfortable and said that they are very aware of these.

Decision:

Members agreed that a formal response was required for both communities and that progress reports on Community Plans would be presented to the Board.

2.3. Education & Learning

The Ceannard summarised the information in the paper.

Members suggested that there is a huge opportunity with apprenticeships in childcare which could have a major impact on the 0-3 strategy.

Decision:

Members noted the information in the paper.

3. Finance

3.1. Financial Report

NP announced that the entire annual budget is expected to be spent and that there is an additional £46k in grant-in-aid and this will be going directly to Stòrlann.

Decision:

Members noted the Finance Report.

3.2. Financial Management

NP advised that this paper reviewed the Financial Management arrangements in place and confirmed that no changes had been made.

Decision:

Members noted the information in the paper.

3.3. Community Grants Scheme 2026- 28

IMM summarised the information in the paper and highlighted the main points.

Members asked how often individuals come to BnG to seek support. IMM spoke about this and how such a situation would be dealt with and how their request would be assessed.

The pros and cons were considered.

Decision:

Members agreed that the Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd scheme will be run in accordance with the priorities and rules set out in the document.

3.4. Progress of Delivery Partner Groups

IMM updated Members on the progress of the Delivery Partner Groups. Since the scheme was changed and groups have been given five-year funding, we have been asking them for more information from them and groups have been reporting on progress.

Members raised a question about what BnG resources will be used to measure progress. IMM commented on what is being done to make work more efficient and noted that the new responsibilities from the act are not clear as yet but that there is an awareness that there will be changes and that the Bòrd-stiùiridh will be kept informed on this matter.

Decision:

Members noted the information in the paper.

3.5. Framework Agreement

The Ceannard advised that this is an annual paper and that it is recommended that the framework agreement be reviewed in line with the implementation of the new act. The Sgioba-stiùiridh will keep the Members informed about this work.

Decision:

Members noted the information in the paper and agreed to the proposal to review the Framework Agreement in line with the implementation of the Scottish Languages Act.

4. Risk Management

4.1. Strategic Risk Register

NP informed Members of any changes made since the last time it was presented to Members and of any new risks added during this time. The changes were approved by the Audit and Assurance Committee in September 2025.

Decision:

Members agreed the recommendations in the paper and agreed the Risk Register.

5. Corporate

5.1. Stakeholder Communications

The Ceannard spoke about the information in the paper and informed the meeting about the information which goes to Members outside of meetings to give them the opportunity to see what is happening.

Decision:

Members noted the information in the paper.

6. Board Work Plan

6.1. Board Work Plan

The changes agreed at this meeting have to be incorporated and this will be updated before the next meeting.

Decision:

Members approved the work plan.

7. AOCB

Date of next meeting: 11/12/2025

End of Session