

**Meeting:** Board meeting  
**Date/Time:** 13 March 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 MacDonald (JND)

Jennifer Gilmour (JG)

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)

Jennifer McHarrie, Director of Education (JMH)

Steven Kellow, Funding & Projects Officer [SK]

Orla MacDonald, Recording Minutes (OND)

##### **Apologies:**

None.

#### **1.2. Declaration of Interests**

JG – Scottish Government

#### **1.3. Any Other Competent Business (AOCB)**

None. Recognition was given to mark Jennifer Gilmour's work as this was her last meeting and she was thanked for her work and the support she gave to the Board of Directors.

## **2. Communications**

### **2.1. Stakeholder Communications**

ED spoke about the information in the document, which outlined the communications that had taken place over recent months. She explained that much communication was taking place with stakeholders and the media and also reported on developments that had taken place since the paper was written.

The Ceannard raised the public debate about social media. Members asked about the number of followers on social media and the Ceannard informed them that they were stable. Comments were made on the reasons for the decline but it was said that there was no danger at this stage. More information was provided about opportunities and challenges and on how plans are being made for the future.

Members sought clarification on how other public bodies were handling similar social-media issues. The Ceannard advised that discussions had taken place with partner organisations and that Scottish Government practice was being followed.

There was a discussion about how Bòrd na Gàidhlig distributes information to parents and schools. The Ceannard discussed how this is being done and looked at ideas for reviewing procedures.

#### **Decision:**

Members noted the information in the paper.

## **3. Corporate Plan and Performance**

### **3.1. Corporate Plan: Report on KPIs in Corporate Plan 2023-28**

IMM informed the meeting that the papers on communication and education are a large part of the work on achieving the KPIs. He highlighted the need to consider how this information is presented and how it is brought together. He stated that this paper is intended to draw the Board of Directors attention to the progress made over the past few months.

Members highlighted that the report was useful and effective in answering questions regarding progress. They felt that the KPIs offer a broad perspective. IMM considered effective ways of presenting the most important information.

Members asked about the publication of the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education and whether the Scottish Languages Bill would have an impact on this. IMM stated that this was out for public consultation and that approval from the Government would likely not be obtained until after the Bill has been passed.

Members asked about Community Gaelic Plans and IMM informed them of their aims and progress.

IMM updated Members on the next phase of SpeakGaelic and on ideas for the next step of the project. He highlighted the importance of resources for organising learning and that consideration will be given to how these can be strengthened. The Ceannard noted that she had met with their Management Board and assured them of their support, whilst also recognising that it is not a Bòrd na Gàidhlig project.

Decision:

Members noted the information in the paper.

### **3.2. Education and Learning**

JMH summarised the most important information in the paper and highlighted that this all relates to the KPIs in the Corporate Plan.

Members discussed strategies that had already been developed, and JMH and the Ceannard noted that they were aware of this work and outlined what other work was currently under way.

Members welcomed this important work and discussed adult learning and the responsibilities of Local Authorities in this sector. The impact that Universities can have on the numbers of new adult speakers and how this can be strengthened was discussed.

There was discussion of ways in which the number of Gaelic speakers could be measured, and how support could be provided to help increase numbers.

Decision:

Members noted the information in the paper.

#### **4. Risk Management**

##### **4.1. Strategic Risk Register**

NP announced that a note about acronyms had been added to the register and that other points raised by the Audit and Assurance Committee would be considered for presentation at the next Board meeting.

StML, Chair of the Audit and Assurance Committee, provided further information on the recommendations which had been raised with them and noted that they had received assurance from the auditors regarding the practices for reviewing risks.

Members asked about the restriction on recruitment and the Ceannard informed that this is flexible but the restriction has not been lifted.

Decision:

Members agreed the register.

#### **5. Finance**

##### **5.1. Financial Report**

NP explained that this was provided to inform and reassure the Board of Directors that there was an expectation that the full budget would be spent by the end of the financial year.

Decision:

Members noted the information in the report.

##### **5.2. Development Grants Subsidy Scheme**

SK provided Members with background information on why this is required and explained that the expectation was that this scheme would be used to spend the full development budget.. He further explained the regulations related to the Subsidies Control Act 2022. He informed Members that he did not expect this to have too much impact on the work of Bòrd na Gàidhlig and that agreement in principle was being sought.

A discussion was held around the reason for this Act coming into force and about further information on the changes and why this affects the work of Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

SK confirmed that legal advice had been sought on this and that work had been ongoing for a year as part of the update on scheme conditions.

Decision:

Members agreed to the scheme in principle.

## **6. Corporate**

### **6.1. Board Effectiveness and Training**

The Ceannard thanked Members for completing the survey and also for suggestions raised outwith this process.

All the recommendations can be seen in the paper and ED provided further information on this.

Decision:

Members noted the information in the paper.

## **7. Board Work Plan**

### **7.1. Board Work Plan**

The Ceannard reported that Efficiency and Training had been added to the work plan in order to provide an update on recommendations later on in the process.

She added to the discussions earlier in the meeting about bringing together information on comms, KPIs and education.

Decision:

Members approved the work plan.

**8. AOCB**

Date of next meeting: 25/06/26

**End of Session**