

**Meeting:** Bòrd-stiùiridh  
**Date/time:** 12 March 2026 at 09.30  
**Location:** Cnoc Soilleir, South Uist

## Minutes - Open Session

### 1. Opening Items

#### 1.1. Welcome and Apologies

**Board Members present:**

Mary MacInnes [Chair] [MTNA]

Seonaidh Charity [SC]

John Neil MacDonald [JND]

Robert Dunbar [RD]

Donald K MacPhee [DKM]

Robert MacKinnon [RMF]

**In Attendance:**

Ealasaid MacDonald Ceannard/Accountable Officer [ED]

Iain MacMillan, Director of Development [IMM]

Calum Munro, Head of Education and Plans [CR]

Nicola Pearson, Head of Finance & Corporate Affairs [NP]

**Minutes:**

Jamie MacLean, Corporate Co-ordinator [JMG]

**Apologies:**

Michelle Macleod [MNL]

Stewart MacLeod [SML]

The Chair welcomed the Members and the staff in attendance. The Chair welcomed RD who will be taking up the role of Chair of the Bòrd and RMF who has been appointed as a member.

#### 1.2. Declaration of Interests

SC – Education Scotland, CLAS

DKM – Comunn na Gàidhlig

RD – Tobar an Dualchais, Ionad Gàidhlig Dhùn Èideann, University of Edinburgh

JND – Ceòlas

RMF – Ceòlas

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

There was none.

### 2. Finance

#### 2.1. Finance Report

NP gave an overview of the report.

It was highlighted that the Development Budget is fully spent and that there has been a lower spend on operating expenses. A small amount of budget will carry over into the next financial year.

It was noted that funding will remain at the same level as in 2025/26, but that the organisation is awaiting the Scottish Government's Grant-in-Aid letter to clarify the spending conditions. The letter is expected in the week commencing March 16, 2026.

Decision:

Members noted the financial report.

## **2.2. Annual Budget and Medium-term Financial Plan**

NP delivered an overview of the Annual Budget and Medium-term Financial Plan.

It was noted that the budget will be maintained at the same level as 2025/26 and that there will be no underspend in 2026/27 as vacant posts have now been filled.

Decision:

Members approved the Annual Budget and Medium-term Financial Plan.

## **3. Corporate**

### **3.1. Stakeholder Communications**

ED provided a summary of stakeholder engagement.

It was noted that collaboration is taking place with Scottish Government officials and that Bòrd na Gàidhlig has advised the Government on Areas of Linguistic Significance. Guidance on Areas of Linguistic Significance is expected before the election period begins. It was clarified that Bòrd na Gàidhlig will not get to see the guidance before it is published.

ED and RD supported submissions the BBC Charter Review and ED will write to Lisa Nandy, UK Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport requesting a meeting.

NP raised the fact that Maraid Design has been successful in the tender process for designing the new Bòrd na Gàidhlig website.

It was announced that Astar Media were being hired to explore options for celebrating success.

A question was raised about collaboration with the Government and the standards which will accompany Areas of Linguistic Significance. ED highlighted that the Government has been collaborating with Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Bòrd na Gàidhlig recommended that a working group on standards be established. It is hoped that this will be taken forward and that Bòrd na Gàidhlig will be at the heart of its delivery. There is still a question about the level of funding that will be provided for the Areas of Linguistic Significance.

A discussion was held about the need to change the communication model with the local authorities where there are Areas of Linguistic Significance. It was noted that the guidelines and standards on Areas of Linguistic Significance will affect these relationships.

Decision:

Updates will be distributed to Members.

Members noted the paper.

The Ceannard will request a meeting with the UK Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. **[ACTION - ED]**

IMM will disseminate information forwarded by CnES officials regarding Areas of Linguistic Significance to the members. **[ACTION – IMM]**

#### **4. Corporate Plan and Performance**

##### **4.1. Report on 25/26 KPIs**

IMM gave an overview of the report on 2025/26 KPIs.

Progress in strengthening collaboration between Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig was acknowledged. It was noted that their applications reflected a change in approach, and that reassurance had been given that Bòrd na Gàidhlig is there to support organisations involved in Gaelic development.

Over the next two years, Bòrd na Gàidhlig will be required to present evidence of progress and advise the Scottish Government on strategy.

Decision:

The content of the report and related points were discussed.

##### **4.2. Education & Learning**

CR summarised the papers on Gaelic Medium Secondary Education and the Curriculum Development Cycle.

The point was raised that while that this research into Gaelic-medium education at secondary school has gathered evidence of the problems faced by education at this level, no solutions have been presented.

The point was raised that this information is useful and had confirmed the challenges currently being faced and that it would aid with the clarification of the duties of different agencies along with further research published by HMIe and Education Scotland. The Areas of Linguistic Significance and the Scottish Languages Act will clarify the key responsibilities of Bòrd na Gàidhlig in partnership with organisations, and with advising the Minister.

It was acknowledged that clarification will be available once the guidance on Areas of Linguistic Significance is published, and that further communication from Bòrd na Gàidhlig to organisations will follow promptly from this. MTNA added that timelines would be appropriate, as changes take time.

A paper will be submitted to the Bòrd-stiùiridh in October 2026 with comments and actions from the research report. An update will be presented at the Board Meeting in October 2026 **[Action – CR]**.

Decision:

A paper with comments and actions from the research report will be brought to the Board Meeting in October 2026 [**Action – CR**].

An information session will be arranged for Members by Education Scotland officials [**Action – CR**].

Members noted the papers.

**5. Risk Management**

**5.1. Strategic Risk Register**

NP provided a summary of the Strategic Risk Register.

It was acknowledged that guidance on Areas of Linguistic Significance will have an impact on the register and that there is no confirmation as yet of any specific conditions to be included in the Grant-in-Aid letter.

Decision:

Members agreed the risk register.

**6. Board Effectiveness and Training**

**6.1. Board Effectiveness and Training**

ED outlined the effectiveness and training of the Board of Directors as an ongoing issue and noted that OnBoard is reviewing this.

Decision:

Members noted the information.

**7. Board Work Plan**

**7.1. Board Work Plan**

A work plan was distributed to Members.

Decision:

Members approved the work plan.

**8. AOCB**

There were none.

Date of next meeting: 25 June 2026

The meeting closed at 10:45am.

**End of Open Session**