

PE1795/C

Bòrd na Gàidhlig submission of 28 September 2020

PE1795: Funding for Spòrs Gàidhlig Response from Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to meet with Bòrd na Gàidhlig to discuss longer term and sustainable funding for Spòrs Gàidhlig, a social enterprise delivering outdoor learning to young people through the medium of Gaelic.

Many thanks for your letter of 1 September 2020 on behalf of the Public Petitions Committee.

We have also had an opportunity to read through the Scottish Government submission of 2 June 2020 the Public Petitions Committee Official Report of 26 August 2020.

The aim of National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 is that Gaelic is used more often, by more people and in a wider range of situations.

Spòrs Gàidhlig has been supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig since its inception as we recognise the opportunity that outdoor education through the medium of Gaelic affords young people in particular, to use the language more often, by more people and in a wider range of situations.

Our initial funding was to help establish the project and subsequent funding was for equipment. We have also funded groups of young people to take part in Spòrs Gàidhlig activities. During this initial phase, Bòrd na Gàidhlig provided £60,000 in funding to the project as part

PE1795: Maoineachadh do Spòrs Gàidhlig Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig

Airson gun iarr Pàrlamaid na h-Alba air Riaghaltas na h-Alba coinneachadh ri Bòrd na Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn mu mhaoineachadh seasmhach nas fhaide-ùine do Spòrs Gàidhlig, iomairt shòisealta a' libhrigeadh ionnsachadh air a' bhlàr a-muigh do dh' òigridh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Mòran taing airson na litreach a chur sibh thugainn às leth Comataidh nan Athchuingean Poblach air 01 Sultain 2020.

Fhuair sinn cothrom cuideachd am pàipear bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba bho 2 Ògmhios 2020 agus Aithisg Oifigeil na Comataidh Athchuingean Poblach bho 26 Lùnastal 2020 a leughadh.

'S e amas Plana Cànanain Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2018-23 gun tèid Gàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine agus ann am barrachd shuidheachaidhean.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air taic a chumail ri Spòrs Gàidhlig bho thùs air sgath 's gu bheil sinn ag aithneachadh a' chothruim a th' ann do sgoilearan òga a bhith cleachdadh na Gàidhlig, nas trice agus ann am barrachd shuidheachaidhean le bhith a' gabhail pàirt ann an ionnsachadh air a' bhlàr-a-muigh tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Thug sinn taic-airgid dhan phròiseact sa chiad dol a-mach airson am buidheann a stèidheachadh agus às dèidh sin airson uidheamachd a cheannach. Cuideachd, chùm sinn taic ri diofar bhuidhnean gus pàirt a ghabhail ann an tachartasan Spòrs Gàidhlig. Tron a' chiad phàirt seo den phròiseact, thug Bòrd na Gàidhlig

of a package, with other funding partners.

In 2019, Bòrd na Gàidhlig agreed to an additional funding package of £45,000 for the period from 1st November 2019 through to 31st March 2021, once we were satisfied that that the financial projections demonstrated viability over that period. This information was required to ensure that as a public body we continue to deliver value for money.

Traditionally Gaelic speaking school children in Scotland have participated in outdoor learning opportunities (for example Ski trips or P7 residential) through the medium of English as no Gaelic medium alternatives existed. These activities have generally been paid for through funding from schools, fundraising efforts, and the families themselves.

The aim of Spòrs Gàidhlig is to offer the same quality of safe outdoor learning through the medium of Gaelic, based on the same funding model as outlined above. The added benefit of course is the Gaelic language skills of participants will be enhanced at the same time.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig's funding is aimed at ensuring that Spòrs Gàidhlig has time to grow their client base, with the long term aim that as high a proportion of their income as possible comes from the same sources as would be the case for an English medium service.

taic-airgid luach £60,000 seachad, ann an co-bhonn le buidhnean maoinachaidh eile.

Ann an 2019, dh' aontaich Bòrd na Gàidhlig ri barrachd taic-airgid luach £45,000 gus taic a chumail ris a' phròiseact eadar 01 Samhain 2019 agus 31 Màrt 2021, aon uair 's gun robh sinn riarachtaiche gum bhiodh am pròiseact seasmhach a thaobh ionmhais thairis air an ùine sin. Bha am fiosrachadh seo a dhìth gus am b' urrainn dhuinn dearbhadh mar bhuidheann poblach gun robh sinn fhathast a' faighinn luach an airgid.

Gu h-eachdraidheil, tha sgoilearan Gàidhlig ann an Alba air a bhith a' gabhail pàirt ann an cothroman ionnsachaidh air a' bhlàr-a-muigh tro mheadhan na Beurla (mar eisimpleir tursan sgìthidh no tachartasan còmhnaidh ann am bun-sgoil 7) air sgàth 's nach robh cothroman tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ri fhaighinn. Anns an fharsaingeachd chaidh na tachartasan seo a phàigheadh eadar airgead bhon sgoil, iomairtean togail-airgid agus na teaghlachan fhèin.

'S e an t-amas aig Spòrs Gàidhlig an aon ìre de chothroman ionnsachaidh sàbhailte air a' bhlàr-a-muigh a thabhann tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, stèidhichte air an aon mhodail ionmhais mar a th' ann gu h-àrd. Ach 's e buannachd mhòr a barrachd gum bi na cothroman seo a' neartachadh nan sgilean Ghàidhlig aca aig an aon àm.

Tha am maoinachadh aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig ag amas gum bi ùine aig Spòrs Gàidhlig gus àireamhan luchd-cleachdaidh fhàs, leis an dùil thàr ùine gum bi ìre cho mòr 's a ghabhas den teachd-a-steach aca tighinn bho na h-aon tùsan mar a th' ann airson nan seirbheisean tro mheadhan na Beurla.

Given the nature of the project, it is difficult to predict exactly at what rate the client base will grow. The additional £45,000 package agreed by Bòrd na Gàidhlig in autumn 2019 was to give Spòrs Gàidhlig more time to grow the client base.

Up until March 2020 and the outbreak of COVID-19, bookings were healthy, and growth was good. Since then and in line with many other outdoor activity providers, the activities of Spòrs Gàidhlig have for the most part come to a halt, with the team placed on furlough.

On 23rd September 2020 and after discussions with Spòrs Gàidhlig, Bòrd na Gàidhlig agreed that Spòrs Gàidhlig could use the remaining time and funding through to March 2021 to offer Gaelic medium outdoor learning opportunities to schools and other groups in-situ, rather than these groups having to travel to participate. The charge for these activities will be set at a level to cover the cost of travel and accommodation for the team only. In this way, we believe that the two aims of 1) offering Gaelic medium outdoor education and 2) growing the client base can continue.

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on the project and has at this stage, put plans for longer-term sustainability back by at least 12 months. Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Spòrs Gàidhlig will continue our dialogue over the coming months to gauge progress and discuss the future. These discussions will be of course in the context of public health considerations at any given time.

Air sgàth an t-seòrsa phròiseict a th' ann, tha e doirbh a bhith cinnteach dè cho luath 's a bhios an àireamh luchd-cleachdaidh a' fàs. Dh' aontaich Bòrd na Gàidhlig as t-foghar 2019 ri £45,000 eile a thabhann do Spòrs Gàidhlig gus am bi barrachd ùine aca gus àireamhan luchd-cleachdaidh fhàs.

Bha cùisean a' dol gu math suas ris a' Mhàirt 2020, le àireamh fhallain airson nam mìosan ri thighinn mus do nochd COVID-19. Bhon uair sin agus coltach ri buidhnean eile a tha a' tabhann ionnsachadh air a' bhlàr-a-muigh, thàinig an obair aig sgioba Spòrs Gàidhlig gu stad agus bha iad air fòrladh.

Air 23 Sultain 2020 agus às dèidh chòmhradhean le Spòrs Gàidhlig, dh'aontaich Bòrd na Gàidhlig gum b' urrainn do Spòrs Gàidhlig am maoineachadh agus an ùine a tha air fhàgail gu Màrt 2021 a chleachdadh gus cothroman airson ionnsachadh air a' bhlàr-a-muigh a thabhann do sgoiltean agus buidhnean eile air an làraich aca fhèin, seach a bhith siubhal gus pàirt a ghabhail. Cha bhi aig na buidhnean seo ach ri cosgaisean siubhail is àite-fuirich an sgioba a phàigheadh. Anns an dòigh seo, thathas ag amas gum bi e comasach 1) ionnsachadh air a' bhlàr-a-muigh a thabhann tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig fhathast agus 2) fàs a thoirt air an àireamh luchd-cleachdaidh.

Thug COVID-19 buaidh mhòr air a' phròiseact aig an ìre seo agus thathas de bheachd gu bheil na planaichean a bh' ann airson seasmhachd san fhad-ùine co-dhiù bliadhna air dheireadh. Cumaidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Spòrs na Gàidhlig na còmhradhean eadarainn a' dol thairis air na mìosan ri thighinn mu dheidhinn adhartais agus planaichean airson nam bliadhnaichean ri teachd. Bidh na còmhradhean seo mar a bhiodh tu an dùil uile ann an co-theacsa

gnothaichean slàinte poblach aig an àm sin.

In our view at this stage, it is highly likely that Spòrs Gàidhlig will require grant support from the public sector for some time yet.

Nar beachd-ne, thathas an dùil gum bi feum aig Spòrs Gàidhlig air taic-airgid bhon roinn phoblaich airson greis fhathast.

We are also of the view that it would be helpful in terms of the long term sustainability of Spòrs Gàidhlig, that other funders come on board with Bòrd na Gàidhlig in support of growing Gaelic usage and also in recognition of the health and well-being benefits of Spòrs Gàidhlig for young people and its contribution to delivering aspects of Curriculum for Excellence.

Thathas den bheachd cuideachd, gum biodh taic bho bhuidhnean poblach eile ann an co-bhonn le Bòrd na Gàidhlig feumail gus am plana seasmhachd fad-ùine airson Spòrs Gàidhlig a thoirt air adhart leis an tuigse gu bheil am pròiseact a' cur ris cleachdadh na Gàidhlig, slàinte is sunnd dhaoine òga agus ris a' Churraicealam airson Sàr-mhathais.