

Title of Report:	Ulster Scots (Language) Leid week and Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language week)
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	19th November 2019
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Peace IV Co-Ordinator

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	TBC
Included in Current Year Estimates	No
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	Peace IV/Cultural Services
Staffing Costs	n/a

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date: August 2016 (CAH strategy, of which this project forms a part)
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date: n/a
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes	Date: 2019
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes	Date: 2019
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to consider requests from both the Ulster-Scots Agency and Conradh na Gaeilge to support the promotion of language weeks within their respective language communities.

See Annexes A&B.

2.0 Background

The Ulster Scots Agency is organising their first ever Leid (Language) Week from the 25th – 30th November in order to increase awareness and appreciation of Ulster Scots. They are organising a number of events and have written asking that Council consider organising an event or activity during this week and cited examples such as an event for local communities or an information session for council. They have offered guidance and support to Council in relation to the organisation of same.

Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language week) takes place annually from 1st to 17th March. Groups and communities are encouraged to organise events/activities during that week with a focus on the Irish language. Conradh na Gaeilge, the Irish language advocacy body have written to council requesting that consideration be given to two types of support to promote the week.

1. That Council provides a specific funding programme to local Irish language community groups to support them to organise their own events during the festival period (1st – 17th March).
2. That Council consider engagement with the local Irish Language community to explore ways to showcase their celebration of Irish within the dates of Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language week)

Conradh na Gaeilge have offered support by way of local engagement with groups and advice to encourage Council's engagement.

3.0 Resources

In relation to the request for a bespoke funding programme for local Irish language community groups to support them to organise their own events during Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language week), Council does not currently provide a specific fund in relation to same. Groups are eligible to apply to council's Culture, Arts and Heritage grant programme, however at this stage budget for the associated funding programme for the period April 2019 – March 2020 has been expended.

The Culture, Arts & Heritage grants programme forms part of council's Cultural Strategy and as such provide opportunities for community and voluntary groups to deliver locally based arts, heritage and cultural activities and events. Groups can apply, in this case under the theme '**History, Heritage and Cultural Tourism**'. Projects which promote a sense of pride, identity and deeper understanding of our area by bringing together the many stories, histories, identities and languages which are present in the area are supported and as such groups may apply under this theme.

Examples of the types of projects which can be funded include:

- Training and skills development programmes.
- Projects and events which develop arts and heritage at a local level and make them more accessible for all.
- Learning activities which are not-for-profit and organised by groups for the community e.g. talks, courses, seminars.

- Cultural resources including publication, exhibitions, trails, digital resources.

Additionally, council also facilitate a Youth Creative Bursary Scheme through its Cultural strategy under the theme, '**Investing in creative learning & skills development**'.

The objective of the scheme is to support the creative development of our young people and creative practitioners through training, skills development and providing opportunities to showcase work. The 2019/20 scheme supported, among other projects, a number of bursaries for young people to attend Irish Language programmes in order to develop their language skills. This scheme has been expended for the 19/20 financial year, but could potentially be considered as appropriate sign posting for young people wishing to pursue eligible skills development activities held during this week for any language week activities for the 2020/21 period.

Due to in year efficiencies, council budgets are limited in terms of additional support cultural services are able to provide at this point in the financial year.

Support is available to community based events through the local Peace IV Programme in this instance. Both language weeks and their respective language communities can be supported through the existing "Languages & Culture" Programme that has been delivered to date under the local Peace IV action plan.

Due to time constraints, Peace IV staff have liaised with the Ulster Scots Agency and relevant Peace IV project co-ordinators to discuss hosting an event for Leid (Language) Week in November which would involve both language communities participating in an event to celebrate Ulster Scots.

This approach enables Council to support these Cultural events within the existing Peace IV Programme while being able to develop further links with both these organisations and their respective communities.

Facilitated and funded through the Peace IV Programme, community events for both minority language weeks can be organised, in which the communities from both main language communities would come together to celebrate their language with the wider community, while showcasing the efforts of both Ulster Scots and Irish language groups to share each other's culture. This builds on the work that has been undertaken through the Peace Programme in relation to language and culture.

4.0 Recommendations

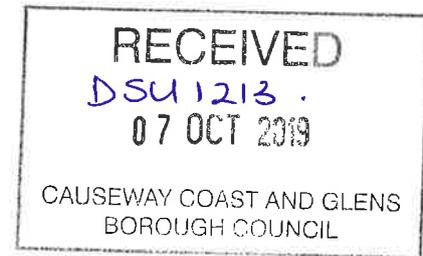
- 1. That Council endorse the organisation of two shared language events through the Peace IV Programme, involving both Ulster Scots and Irish Language groups engaging in joint celebration events, one during the Ulster Scots Leid (Language) Week in November and the second during Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language week).**
- 2. That officers engage with both Ulster Scots Agency and Conradh na Gaeilge to explore programming potential within Council's Cultural strategy for next financial year that would benefit both language communities.**

In addition, the attached correspondence at Annex B, makes reference to funding. Considering the current financial position and in year budget savings, Council is further asked to:

- 3. Consider the request from Conradh na Gaeilge to provide a specific funding programme to local Irish language community groups to support them to organise their own events during the festival period (1st – 17th March 2020).**

3 October 2019

David Jackson
Chief Executive
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY



Guid David,

ULSTER-SCOTCH LEID WEEK, 25-30 NOVEMMER 20an19

The Ulster-Scots Agency will be running the first ever Ulster-Scots Language Week from 25th to 30th November. This is an exciting new initiative for us that we hope will increase awareness and appreciation of the Ulster-Scots language.

We have already programmed a number of events, which will include talks and discussions featuring some of the foremost Scots language writers and activists in Ulster and Scotland. However, we would like to encourage the participation of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council by inviting you to organise an event or activity during the week.

This could for example involve an introductory language session in a local community centre or an awareness raising session for Council staff. The Agency would be happy to facilitate a speaker for you and supply promotional literature. Perhaps we could also organise a photo opportunity with a civic dignitary to publicise the week?

We will also be launching a new badge, featuring a wee tartan speech bubble, which will be available for fowk wha hae a wheen o wurd in Ulster-Scotch. This may also provide an opportunity for some joint activity.

If you would like to explore this further, please have someone from the Council get in touch with my office. I can be contacted using the details below.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours aye,



Ian Crozier
Chief Executive



**Ulster-Scotch
Leid Week
Ulster-Scots
Language Week**

25-30 November 2019

(English Language version follows)

A Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh, a chara,

Is í **Seachtain na Gaeilge**, a bhíonn ar siúl idir 1 Márta go dtí Lá Fhéile Pádraig, an fhéile Ghaeilge is mó agus is fadmarthanaí sa bhliainfhéilire. Tagann pobail agus grúpaí le chéile, go háitiúil agus thar sáile, chun imeachtaí a eagrú le béim ar an Ghaeilge. Bíonn imeachtaí ann ar nós dianchúrsaí teanga, cóisirí sráide, agus go leor eile. Cuidíonn agus spreagann muidne i gConradh na Gaeilge – an grúpa abhcóideachta ar son na Gaeilge – an oiread grúpaí agus is féidir le páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí **Seachtain na Gaeilge**, is cuma cé chomh mór nó chomh beag is atá an imeacht.

Ar an ábhar seo, iarraidimid ort i do ról mar Phríomhfheidhmeannach ar Chomhairle Chósta an Chlocháin & na nGlinntí dul i dteagmháil le hionadaithe tofa Chósta an Chlocháin & na nGlinntí agus le pobal na Gaeilge i do cheantar i dtreo is go mbeidh **Seachtain na Gaeilge** á cur chun cinn go bliantúil i gceantar na Comhairle.

Molann Conradh na Gaeilge go gcuirfeadh Comhairle Chósta an Chlocháin & na nGlinntí ciste faoi leith ar fáil do ghrúpaí pobail Gaeilge chun cuidiú leo a n-imeachtaí féin a eagrú le linn **Seachtain na Gaeilge**. Tuigtear dúinn go gcuireann roinnt comhairlí scéimeanna miondeontais téamacha ar fáil go bliantúil agus creidimid go gcuirfeadh a leithéid go mór leis an athbheochan leanúnach sa Ghaeilge ag leibhéal an phobail, athbheochan a bhfuil an iomaí buntáiste ag baint léi.

Ina theannta sin, mholfaimís don Chomhairle plé a dhéanamh le pobal na Gaeilge go háitiúil chun amharc ar na bealaí is fearr le hardán a chur ar fáil le ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar an phobal le linn **Seachtain na Gaeilge**. Tá Conradh na Gaeilge ar fáil chun rannpháirtíocht a éascú leis an phobal áitiúil agus chun ceist ar bith eile a bhaineann le cosaint agus cur chun cinn na Gaeilge a phlé.

Le meas,
Seán Ó Murchadha
Oifigeach Ardú Feasachta
Conradh na Gaeilge
028 30257812 / 07548 393601

Conradh na Gaeilge
Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail
Sráid an tSéipéil
An tIúr
BT34 2DZ

Dear Mayor,

Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language week), which takes place from the 1st of March to St. Patrick's Day, is the biggest and longest running Irish language festive event in the calendar year. Communities and groups, both locally and abroad, come together to organise events with a focus on the Irish language. These events range from intensive language courses, to street parties and everything in between. We in Conradh na Gaeilge, the Irish language advocacy group, encourage and assist as many groups as possible to involve themselves in some way in **Seachtain na Gaeilge**, no matter how small or big the event.

With this in mind, we would ask you as Mayor of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council to engage with the elected representatives of the council and the Irish speaking community in your borough so that the council would promote **Seachtain na Gaeilge** annually within its area.

Conradh na Gaeilge asks that your council provide a specific fund to local Irish language community groups to support them to organise their own events during **Seachtain na Gaeilge**. We are aware that many councils provide thematic small grant schemes annually and we believe this would contribute significantly to the ongoing revival of Irish at community level, with all of the benefits that flow from that.

Furthermore, we would encourage Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council to engage with the local Irish Language community to explore ways to best showcase their celebration of Irish within the dates of **Seachtain na Gaeilge**. Conradh na Gaeilge would be available to facilitate engagements with the local community to assist the council with this with and with any other issue in relation to the protection and promotion of the language.

Le meas,

Seán Ó Murchadha
Language Awareness Officer
Conradh na Gaeilge
028 30257812 / 07548 393601

