Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes this opportunity to give our view regarding Clyde and Hebrides ferry services in the years to come.

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

Many of the communities served by these ferry services along the West Coast of Scotland and across the Inner and Outer Hebrides, are those with the highest percentage of Gaelic speakers.

We believe that it is important that these ferry services endeavour to positively promote the use of Gaelic amongst staff working across the service and also in their dealings with passengers.

We would like to see that this pro-active approach to Gaelic being included as a normalised part of the future procurement of ferry services on the Clyde and Hebrides routes.

The National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 also recognises that a number of wider issues, economic and infrastructural, will have an impact on the use of Gaelic and

**Seirbheisean aiseig airson Cluaidh is Innse-Gall**

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ cur fàilte air a chothrom a tha seo gus beachdan a thoirt seachad air na seirbhisean aiseig airson Cluaidh is Innse-Gall anns na bliadhnaichean a tha romhainn.

Anns a’ Phlana Cànain Nàiseanta Ghàidhlig 2018-23 a chaidh faoilseachadh bho chionn greis, tha amas soilleir ann gun tèid Gàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoinne agus ann am barrachd shuidheachaidhean

Tha na seirbhisean aiseig seo a’ frithealadh an coimhearsnachdan air costa an lár de dh’Alba, Na h-Eileanan A-µuigh agus Na h-Eileanan A-staigh far a bheil na h-àireamhan as àirde de luchd-labhait na Gàidhlig.

Tha sinn den bheachd gu bheil e air leth cudromach gum bi na seirbhisean aiseig seo a’ brosnachadh cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a-measg an luchd-obrach aca agus le bhith dèiligeadh ri luchd-siubhal.

Bu mhath leinn an dòigh obrach for-ghniomhach seo fhaicinn mar phàirt àbhaisteach den phróiseas solarachaidh airson na seirbhisean aiseig Cluaidh is Innse-Gall anns na bliadhnaichean a tha romhainn.

Tha am Plana Cànain Nàiseanta cuideachd ag aithneachadh gu bheil grunn chuísean, leithid na h-eaconamaidh is bun-structar, a bheir buaidh air cleachdadh na Gàidhlig.
this is particularly true in the communities served by these ferry services.

One of the main challenges facing Gaelic-speaking island and rural communities is retaining an economically active population. Demographic projections for the Outer Hebrides show a potential decline in excess of 13% by 2039, with young people particularly affected.

Strategic investment in the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services should be prioritised in such a way as to re-energise Gaelic-speaking island and rural communities to retain and attract young people.

Ensuring investment in affordable and reliable transport links, including ferry services, will act as a key driver for the economic and social sustainability of these communities.

sònraichte anns an coimhearsnachd an a tha na h-aiseagan seo a’ frithealadh.

‘S e aon de na dùbhlain as motha a tha ro na coimhearsnachd eileanach is dùthchail seo sluagh a ghleidheadh a tha a’ cosnadh. Tha na ro-mheasaidhean deamografach airson nan Eilean Siar a’ sealltainn gum faodadh àireamh an t- sluaigh tuiteam còrr is 13% ro 2039, agus iad a’ call òigridh gu h-àraidh.

Tha e deatamach gum bi inbheisteadh ro-innleachdail anns na seirbheisean aiseig Cluaidh is Innse-Gall a’ toirt priomhachas air spionnadh as úr a thoirt do coimhearsnachd eileanach is dùthchail Gàidhlig gus an òigridh a ghleidheadh is a tharraing.

Bidh inbheisteadh ann an goireasan cómhdaill cunbhalach aig prìs reusanta, a’ gabhail a-steach seirbhisean aiseig, mar bhunnait seasmach airson leasachaidhean eaconomaigeach agus sòisealta anns na coimhearsnachd an seo.