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Cheviot Area Partnership



MINUTES of Meeting of the CHEVIOT AREA PARTNERSHIP held in Canteen, Kelso High School, Angraflat Road, Kelso on Wednesday, 7 February 2018 at 6.30 pm

Present:- Councillors S. Mountford (Chairman), S. Hamilton, E. Robson, S. Scott, T. Weatherston together with 32 Representatives of Partner Organisations, Community Councils and Members of the Public.

Apologies:- Councillor J. Brown

In attendance:- Communities and Partnership Manager, Lead Officer for Localities, Funding Officer, Strategic Community Engagement Officer, Community Police Officer (Gina Dickson), Clerk to the Council, Democratic Services Officer (F. Henderson).

1. **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership and advised that he hoped everyone would complete evaluation forms at the end of the meeting.

2. **INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW AREA PARTNERSHIP**

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Locality Services, Councillor Aitchison, set the scene for how the new Area Partnership would develop. He explained that Area Partnerships would bring together key organisations, groups, businesses and individuals from across the public, private and third sectors and from within the local communities to collectively work together. The first meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership, would be used to introduce the new format of meeting, provide some context to both community planning and locality planning, as well as an overview of grants and funding. Future Area Partnership meetings would be themed to help discuss and debate issues in a more manageable way.

3. **LOCAL PLANS**

The Chairman introduced Shona Smith, the Communities and Partnership Manager who explained the purpose of the Local Plan, which in future would feed into the Borders wide Community Plan. She further explained that each meeting of the Partnership would focus on a theme within the Community Plan to populate the Local Plan for Cheviot.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

The Chairman invited those present to discuss at their tables the emerging issues in Cheviot across the themes of the Community Plan and to write these down on the post-it notes provided. 30 minutes was given for this activity. The Chairman also asked those present to complete meeting evaluation forms which had been provided. From the feedback it was clear that the debate had included issues, challenges and opportunities across all five themes, with 'Economy Skills and Learning' emerging as the priority theme for discussion at the next meeting of the

Cheviot Area Partnership. The feedback was summarised as shown in the appendix to this Minute.

5. **GRANTS AND FUNDING OVERVIEW/UPDATE ON LOCALITIES BID FUND**
Shona Smith, Communities and Partnership Manager advised that a total of £85k was available through the Localities Bid Fund for the Cheviot Area. £35k had been allocated for Phase 1 and bids totalling £49, 596k had been received. Those who did not meet the criteria were being directed to other funding options. A list and summary of all projects was available on the Council's website and each applicant would be encouraged to publicise their project. Voting would either be available on-line, by paper in ballot boxes located throughout the area or by post between 1st February and 28th February. For those who were unsuccessful alternative funding options would hopefully to be identified. Ms Smith went on to outline the other funds available in the Cheviot Area which included the Community Grant Scheme, Small Schemes and Quality of Life. In response to questions regarding voting and small communities being disadvantaged, Ms Smith advised that those who had carried out such schemes previously had not found this to be a particular issue. However, once the first phase had been completed the voting pattern would be assessed and changes could be made for future phases if required.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 28 March 2018 in Jedburgh Grammar School, Jedburgh at 6.30 p.m.

The meeting concluded at 7.55 pm

Discussion Output: General Concerns, Issues, Challenges or Opportunities (7th February 2018)

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Economy, Skills and Learning

- More life skills need to be taught
- Limited job opportunities
- Broader range of school subjects – Jedburgh Grammar, earlier choice of subjects, school technology in Jed improved. Jed and Kelso used to share school subject, no transport (bus) available between schools anymore. Work experience should be less bureaucratic to arrange and insurances
- Increase Education Maintenance Allowances?
- Sporting facilities in Kelso good
- Ageing population
- How do we bring jobs to Cheviot?
- Reasonable sized employers in Kelso and Jedburgh, unique busy shops. Kelso shops cater for tourists and small number of high income families only. Shops need to offer things that you don't get at the supermarket
- Agricultural based jobs and Borders College expand on agricultural education
- Tourism – Tweed programme massive influence
- Kelso High School fantastic hub
- Borders College – upskilling in Jed, outreach to Kelso
- How to attract other industries to Cheviot if poor roads, connectivity, low unemployment to counteract low wage economy – low grade jobs and low paid
- 50% of young people leave for higher education and majority do not return
- Lack of apprenticeships for trades. Shared apprentice schemes?
- Volatile nature of private industry
- Job and skill match, factories would attract people but do they have the skills?
- Wifi connectivity in Jedburgh an issue?
- Shops closing in Kelso, empty properties in Jedburgh – conditions and absentee landlords?
- Lack of office space. Hot desking facilities in Kelso – SBC buildings?
- Poor Broadband in rural areas and slow
- Who you know culture needs looked at when applying for jobs
- Need to attract more teachers – incentives such as housing (reduced rates?)

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Health, Care & Wellbeing

- Higher demographic of older people
- Figures for school meals and pension credits suggest more education on uptake needed
- Isolated elderly – issue of poverty and care
- Opportunity to use village halls for social centres, community cafes and joint lunches
- Men's Shed
- Opportunity for community trees (for fuel), veggies and fruit
- In general good in Kelso, minor op's provided. Health Centre also good
- More awareness of mental health issues, somebody to talk to? Teachers need more knowledge on mental health issues
- Better access to Doctors and dentists
- Eating disorders due to exam pressures
- Young people use technology too much and do less physical activity. Increases diabetes
- Retirement village?
- Uptake of school dinners increased at new Kelso High School – healthier, increased Physical Education slots
- Jedburgh has a high level of child poverty – Live Borders could reduce prices to allow more access
- Come and try events in Jed for sports for all young people?
- New play parks in all major Scottish Border towns
- Work needed with Public Health Improvement Team to train Cheviot Youth
- Young people – mental health issues – depression and anxiety
- Kelso – people live longer, develop independence in later life but must be safe
- Kelso – Great Health Centre, Kelso Cottage Hospital, Queens House for dementia – all good facilities

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Quality of Life

- Safe place to live, low crime rate
- Good place to bring up a family
- Still issues of drugs and alcohol in pockets
- Too easy to access drugs and alcohol
- Live Borders – good at marketing activities
- New play park nice to have but not a priority in Kelso
- Smaller care homes but more community based?
- Roads – Drivewise been great for younger and older drivers

- Free school meals not being taken up? – Stigma? SIMD inaccuracies
- Drug use an issue with high school aged young people. Cheaper than drink. Runners get money and easier than getting a Saturday job. Not just deprived areas, young people from affluent areas too. Educate young people about dangers and consequences of drug and alcohol misuse. Energy drinks
- Landlords need to be more aware of young people being housed within older generational areas can lead to anti-social behaviour
- Young people – S3 age what is there for them?
- Identify needs of families in deprived areas and target with intervention
- Outward bound opportunities – Duke of Edinburgh, Borders Search and rescue – a junior section?
- Lot of fun living in a small town
- Feel safe
- Need more wifi in rural areas

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Our Place

- Museum needed, Kelso needs a museum – funding and resources an issue. No Tourist Information Centre, it used to be the museum
- Lack of extra care housing
- Lack of parking signage (not lack of parking just knowing where the parking is!)
- Jed and Kelso streetscaping project – pavements, TIC
- Not a lot of private rented property and it is expensive
- Parking an issue, parking in residential zones, traders parking outside shops
- Hiring of accommodation becoming expensive ie Halls/rooms, people will stop using them – Live Borders
- No traffic wardens – unruly parking
- Jed needs a recycling centre
- No places for young people
- No choice of shops
- Lack of elderly residential housing
- Young people struggle to get on the property ladder
- Affordable housing for the elderly
- Fire Service Venue could be used for the community
- Hidden poverty behind pretty housing facades, multi-agency approach to counteract this
- Registered Social Landlord property a good standard

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Transport

- Public transport not great, no joined up thinking. Elderly people struggle to access transport for the Borders General Hospital
- Under 16 free rail pass. Young people shouldn't have to pay the full price for tickets
- Accessible transport – getting to college, work, health appointments and social events. Any good examples elsewhere? Rural transport needs improved and Kelso links to main routes
- More driving lessons at Jedburgh by school
- Transport links to the Cheviot area
- Lack of public and community transport
- Unreliable buses
- Poor public transport, state of roads and road safety (crossings)
- Free bus passes for young people
- Transport to Borders General Hospital an issue – could multiple appointments for one area be clustered?