
SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY PLAN

Report by Service Director Customer and Communities

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

2 NOVEMBER 2017

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report presents the draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) for the Scottish Borders to Scottish Borders Council. In the Scottish Borders the LOIP will be known as the Community Plan and specifies the improvement priorities that have been identified for the Community Planning Partnership (CPP). The Community Plan focuses on clear outcomes to improve the lives of communities and reduce inequalities.**
- 1.2 Part 2 (Community Planning) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 came into force on 20 December 2016, which places Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) on a statutory footing and imposes duties on them around the planning and delivery of local outcomes, and the involvement of community bodies at all stages of community planning.
- 1.3 Under the 2015 Act, CPPs are responsible for preparing and publishing a plan which has a specific focus on tackling inequalities and improves outcomes for those residing in the area of the local authority to which the plan relates.
- 1.4 The plan aims to meet the needs and ambitions of local people so the voices of local people are especially important. CPPs will also have to produce locality plans at a more local level for areas experiencing particular disadvantage. In Scottish Borders, we will call our plan The Scottish Borders Community Plan.
- 1.5 The draft Scottish Borders Community Plan (presented at Appendix 1) specifies the outcomes that have been identified for the Scottish Borders CPP and focuses the partnership on delivering better outcomes for the people of the Scottish Borders. It sets out our joint commitment to the delivery of an agreed set of priority outcomes based on the conclusions of the refreshed Strategic Assessment, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), other plans, strategies and initiatives, practitioner knowledge and engagement with communities and other key stakeholders. The Community Plan presents these outcomes under 4 themes:
 - a) Our Economy, Skills and Learning - outcomes
 - More people are working more productively for higher wages

- More business people benefitting from greater investment and better support for their new and existing businesses, particularly in key growth sectors
- b) Our Health, Care & Wellbeing - outcomes
- More people in good health and leading an active lifestyle at every age and stage of life
 - More people in good mental health at every age and stage of life
 - Improved support and care for older people
- c) Our Quality of Life - outcomes
- Fewer people experiencing violence (incl. domestic abuse)
 - Fewer people experiencing anti-social behaviour (ASB)
 - Fewer people killed or seriously injured on our roads
- d) Our Place - outcomes
- More people able to afford to heat their homes
 - More people living independently in affordable and sustainable homes
- 1.6 The draft Scottish Borders Community Plan will be presented to the Community Planning Strategic Board on 23 November 2017. Partners will be asked to approve the plan to ensure that they are satisfied that it presents their priorities accurately. If the draft plan is approved, an action plan, indicators and performance measures will then be developed which will allow them to monitor progress of the Community Plan.
- 1.7 Whilst the focus of the Plan is only on those outcomes that have been identified as a priority for the Scottish Borders CPP at this time, there are a number of ongoing areas of work which will in due course inform the ongoing development of the Plan.
- a) Each community planning partnership must prepare and publish a locality plan for each locality which will provide specific local outcomes and thus inform the Community Plan.
- b) As key strategies across the CPP are refreshed, their alignment will be considered in relation to the outcomes within Community Plan

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that Scottish Borders Council:

- (a) Approves the draft Scottish Borders Community Plan (presented at Appendix 1) as the key strategic document for partnership working in the Scottish Borders.**
- (b) Agrees that the draft Scottish Borders Community Plan goes forward to the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board for approval on 23 November 2017.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 was created by Scottish Government to help empower community bodies through ownership of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in the decisions that matter to them.
- 3.2 It will also improve outcomes for communities by improving the process of community planning, ensuring that local service providers work together even more closely with communities to meet the needs of the people who use them. The Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 17 June 2015 and received Royal Assent, becoming an Act, on 24 July 2015.
- 3.3 Effective community planning brings together the collective talents and resources of local public services and communities to drive positive change on local priorities. It focuses on where partners' collective efforts and resources can add more value for their local communities, with particular emphasis on reducing inequalities.
- 3.4 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 makes a number of significant changes to community planning legislation:
 - a) Preparing and publishing a Community Plan which sets out the local outcomes which the CPP will prioritise for improvement.
 - b) Identify smaller areas within the local authority area which experience the poorest outcomes, and prepare and publish locality plans to improve outcomes on agreed priorities for these communities.
 - c) The 2015 Act gives community planning a statutory purpose for the first time. This focuses on improving outcomes and tackling inequalities of outcome, including in localities whose communities experience the poorest outcomes.
 - d) The 2015 Act places specific duties on community planning partners, all linked to improving outcomes. These include:
 - (i) Co-operating with other partners in carrying out community planning
 - (ii) Taking account of Community Plans in carrying out its functions
 - (iii) Contributing such funds, staff and other resources as the CPP considers appropriate to improve local outcomes in the Community Plan and secure participation of community bodies throughout community planning
- 3.5 The 2015 Act places duties to support shared leadership and collective governance on specified community planning partners:
 - a) The Local Authority
 - b) NHS
 - c) Police Scotland
 - d) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
 - e) Scottish Enterprise
- 3.6 These duties include facilitating community planning and taking all reasonable steps to ensure the CPP conducts its functions effectively and efficiently.

4 SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY PLANNING APPROACH TO DEVELOPING THE COMMUNITY PLAN

4.1 The Scottish Borders CPP have set out their ambition through the following vision – “Working together with our communities and through targeted partnership action, the quality of live will improve for all who live, work or study in the Scottish Border”

4.1 In order to ensure that the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership based its priorities on a robust evidence base and to help identify inequalities and pull together our understanding of the key issues and challenges from across the Scottish Borders, the CPP have used a range of information sources, notably:

- a) National and local data and statistics
- b) Community views
- c) Professional knowledge and expertise

This approach places the key data and analysis in one place for decision makers and helped the broad range of partners within the Community Planning Partnership to engage with the prioritisation of outcomes for the Scottish Borders. It also allows the Scottish Government to see that the Scottish Borders CPP is committed to using data and evidence effectively to establish priorities, a key principle of community planning.

4.2 Following detailed analysis of the information sources, a number of outcomes have been agreed because:

- a) They affect the whole of the Scottish Borders (as opposed to one local area, as these would be captured in the relevant area Locality Plan)
- b) They will benefit from a strategic partnership approach
- c) They are not the sole responsibility of one organisation
- d) There is a clear, evidence-based and strong understanding of the Borders-wide need, issue and/or opportunity.

4.3 We recognise that there are a number of other published plans that look to address some of the challenges the Borders faces, for example on Health & Social Care. The ambition is to bring together these plans where appropriate and have one plan for the Scottish Borders and one plan for each of the five localities.

5 DELIVERY OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN

5.1 It is the responsibility of the CPP Joint Delivery Team to ensure that their current work programmes are fully addressing the ambition and vision of this plan, and that any new programmes and projects are developed in order to ensure the outcomes within the plan are delivered.

5.2 Once the actions, indicators and measures are developed, a performance framework will link these into the Council’s corporate and business planning and performance process, and to ensure these align to the priorities within the Council’s Corporate Plan.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

Full analysis will need to be undertaken to determine cost implications of achieving the outcomes of the Scottish Borders Community Plan.

6.2 Risk and Mitigations

- (a) There is a risk that if Scottish Borders Council does not demonstrate leadership within community planning it will not fulfil its statutory duty under the duties of the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015. The development of a robust Community Plan that is performance managed will mitigate this risk.
- (b) There is a risk that the outcomes within the Community Plan will not be effectively implemented and scrutinised. A robust performance management framework will be required in order to monitor progress on the actions, indicator and measures being developed. This risk will be mitigated by building on the performance management framework that has been developed for the existing CPP "Grow our Economy" theme.

6.3 Equalities

- (a) An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on this proposal and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.
- (b) If an adverse impact is identified this would warrant a fuller analysis of impact and likelihood and associated management or political response. The summary of this and any mitigating actions should be included within this paragraph.

6.4 Acting Sustainably

- (a) A Community Plan with a clear focus on reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for communities within the Scottish Borders will increase knowledge and skills, and will deliver economic, social and environmental benefits.

6.5 Carbon Management

- (a) There are no known effects on carbon emissions within the Community Plan.

6.6 Rural Proofing

- (a) The Community Plan is a "plan for place" and as such considers the rural context within which SBC and CPP partners operate.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Jenni Craig
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Signature

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Background Papers:
Previous Minute Reference:

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. [Shona Smith] can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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