

APPENDIX 1 – DIALOGUE

The online Dialogue community engagement tool generated a range of ideas within 27 individually themed discussion threads. These ideas have been consolidated into the 15 areas below with narratives on how these ideas have been used to inform the 2018/19 – 2022/23 financial planning process. Actual responses from residents with all comments are available on the Council's website and a copy has been made available in the Member's Library.

Theme	You Said	We Did
Grass Cutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better kept cemeteries • Outsource grass cutting • Don't reduce grass cutting to where it is unmanaged • Prioritise grass cutting • Reduce grass cutting and add wild flowering, shrubbery and preserve insect and animal life • Use communities to assist with developing and maintaining wild flowers and trees • Reduce roadside verge cutting prioritising those only in the interests of safety 	<p>A review of grass cutting and Biodiversity has been undertaken and a pilot grass cutting regime covering 49 selected areas was undertaken in 2017/18. As a result of this a recommendation will shortly be going to Council on how we can most effectively change this service in future reflecting many of the themes highlighted by members of the public.</p>
Bus Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce bus service frequency to increase service utilisation • Use smaller fleet. Encourage demand-led, ring and ride provision • Reduced, more competitive pricing will lead to an increase in demand • Increased public transport integration and modernisation • Do not cut services, particularly those beyond the A7 corridor 	<p>We are only looking to change service frequencies on the most under-utilised routes in order to improve cost effectiveness</p> <p>We are looking to work closely in partnership with Border Buses which will look to address various issues such as vehicle size and creating an integrated network</p> <p>The bus fleet delivering services is increasingly being modernised with new more comfortable and fuel efficient vehicles by service providers such as Border Buses.</p>
Local Government Pension Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cease defined benefit pension scheme for employees 	<p>The Council has adopted a responsible policy over a number of years of restricting wage increases in line with public sector pay and only provides those benefits through pensions available through statutory provision. Public sector pay has over</p>

APPENDIX 1 – DIALOGUE

		<p>many years been restricted to the level of inflation or below. The Council recognises the need for value for money to the tax payer in the cost of employing staff. The Council has one of the best funded LGPS schemes and one of the lowest contribution rates.</p>
Street Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn off street lighting at certain times 	<p>This opportunity has been considered but was discounted as a feasible option to reduce costs due to negative feedback from other Local Authorities who have already implemented this change and concerns over perceived community safety.</p>
Refuse and Waste Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase efficiency of vehicle utilisation by introducing 24 hour shift patterns 	<p>A review of our kerbside collection service has been undertaken in conjunction with Zero Waste Scotland which looked at multiple delivery options and considered the impact on householders, recycling rates, and cost. The recommendations following this review will be presented to Council in the Spring.</p>
Increase Council Tax for Empty and Second Properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase availability of affordable housing and increase income through raised council tax for empty and second properties 	<p>Levels of Council Tax for Long Term Empty properties and second homes is at the maximum allowed by current legislation with a proportion of that income ring fenced to support the development of Affordable Housing in the Borders.</p>
New Playground in Kelso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernise or redevelop Kelso play area in line with other towns in the Scottish Borders 	<p>Provision of £2.8m over 4 years has been made within the financial plan to invest in new outdoor community spaces to support leisure and play for all ages in all major towns.</p> <p>The Council has delivered a number of new play areas across the Scottish Borders both directly and working in partnership with communities and supporting them to access funding and maintain the playparks. It is committed to the ongoing improvement of all outdoor community spaces including play parks across all towns in the Scottish Borders.</p>

APPENDIX 1 – DIALOGUE

<p>Great Tapestry of Scotland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not proceed with the Tapestry of Scotland project • Redirect capital and revenue resources to more obvious council priorities 	<p>The Tapestry project is proceeding in a new town centre location in Galashiels which will lead to significant economic benefits including increased visitor numbers in Galashiels and the wider Scottish Borders. The development of the Tapestry provides the opportunity to capitalise on this major investment as the first phase of town centre regeneration within Galashiels (with the Council having also recently published a masterplan document) and supports the planned activities and aims of the Border Railway Blueprint Group.</p>
<p>Property Portfolio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and rationalise / re-provision Council properties to deliver priorities 	<p>The Council has significant savings proposals included in the Financial Plan which will be delivered through a review of Property & Assets. Capital receipts of £4.4m are anticipated through disposals of Council assets over the next three years of the 2018/19 Financial Plan.</p>
<p>Make Better Use of Technology for Councillors and Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More efficient working practices through increased use of digital technology will reduce expenditure in travel, stationery and correspondence and property utility costs. 	<p>The Council is committed to developing digital solutions to improve both effectiveness within its workforce and the customer experience. A Digital Transformation Programme was established in 2016 and oversees this work. Significant savings attributed to this efficiency programme are included within the Financial Plan.</p>
<p>Roads Plant and Machinery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a 24 hour shift system for plant and machinery to improve efficiency and responsiveness of unplanned works 	<p>We always seek to maximise the usage of our plant and vehicles to optimise cost effectiveness. This is done by using suitable plant & vehicles with surplus capacity to generate an income by doing work for other Local Authorities and private sector businesses such as AMEY, the trunk road service provider.</p> <p>Some services are not suitable</p>

APPENDIX 1 – DIALOGUE

		for night-time delivery and also carry addition costs in the form of staff overtime. Night works are often used to minimise disruption to the travelling public when major road works or re-surfacing schemes are required.
Scrap Council Awards Ceremonies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abolish staff awards and civic ceremonies for new projects/services 	Scottish Borders Council recognises the importance of valuing its staff. Loyal and committed service of staff is recognised by the local authority through a small award that costs very little to make.
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulate economic development to utilise unused office and retail accommodation in order to increase employment opportunities 	Economic Development is one of the Council's 8 Priorities. Capital Investment in Town Centre regeneration is proposed with the Council's Capital Financial plan to support this work.
Facilities Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Save money by moving to a facilities management company to undertake minor and routine repairs and maintenance Support local businesses and keep money invested in the Scottish Borders 	Scottish Borders Council is committed to supporting local businesses, particularly those small and medium-sized. Nonetheless, it is also committed to delivering best value through its procurement processes and robust planning and management of its commissioning arrangements and frameworks helps ensure this is achieved. The authority commissions services from a large range of national and local providers and will continue to ensure that costs are minimised, whilst the economic benefit to the Scottish Borders is maximised.
A Future Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define and articulate a vision for the region and the local towns. Engage the community and local businesses in defining this vision. Listen to their contributions. Keep the vision simple and easy to communicate but regularly reinforce it. Make use of businesses and 	<p>Since the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 came into force the Council, along with other key partners from across the Borders region, have been working together and with local communities and businesses to look at tackling the challenges and taking up the opportunities the Scottish Borders faces.</p> <p>This is being taken forward by the Scottish Borders</p>

APPENDIX 1 – DIALOGUE

	the community to implement the strategy	Community Planning Partnership (CPP), both at a regional level through the preparation and publication of the Scottish Borders Community Plan (November 2017) which sets out a vision for the Borders, and at a locality level through the newly created five Area Partnerships and the development of their respective Locality Plans. Each Area Partnership invites key partners, local communities and business representatives to discuss the key local challenges and opportunities that together, as a partnership, they can tackle or take forward.
--	---	--