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## Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership



MINUTES of Meeting of the TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP held in Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Hawick on Tuesday, 20 February 2018 at 6.30 pm

Present:- Councillors S. Marshall (Chairman), W. McAteer, D. Paterson, C. Ramage, N. Richards and G. Turnbull.  
In Attendance: 31 partners, Community Councillors, officers and member of the public.

1. **WELCOME**

The Chairman, Councillor Marshall, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership.

2. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chairman varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

3. **QUALITY OF LIFE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES**

There had been circulated briefing notes by the Service Director – Assets & Infrastructure, seeking approval for proposed projects within Hawick & Hermitage and Hawick & Denholm Wards under the Council's Quality of Life Scheme and Neighbourhood Small Scheme.

**DECISION**

**AGREED:**

- (a) **The new projects under the Quality of Life Scheme and Neighbourhood Small Scheme detailed in the briefing papers attached to the Agenda; and**
- (b) **To delegate authority to the Service Director Assets and Infrastructure to approve future applications under Neighbourhood Small Schemes and Quality of Life Schemes up until 31 March 2019, subject to the following:**
  - (i) **Application(s) for projects to be carried out through funding from Neighbourhood Small Schemes and Quality of Life Schemes were received, assessed and costed by Council Officers;**
  - (ii) **Officers would then send details of the project(s) to Elected Members along with a recommendation for their consideration;**
  - (iii) **Elected Members would advise Council Officers of their support or otherwise for a particular project – support would be required from a majority of Elected Members for a project to proceed;**
  - (iv) **Should support by the majority of Members not be given for a project, this application would be refused; and**

**(v) Details of projects funded by Quality of Life Schemes and Neighbourhood Small Schemes be presented to the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership as part of any future updates on Grants and Funding.**

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

Councillor Marshall set the scene for how the new Area Partnership would develop. He explained that as well as Councillors and Community Councillors, Area Partnerships would bring together representatives from key organisations, groups, businesses, and individuals from across the public and private sector and third sectors and from local communities to collectively work together. Meetings would be more interactive which would give everyone the opportunity to have discussions in groups at their tables. This first meeting would provide some context to both community 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.

**5. SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY PLAN AND TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE LOCALITY PLAN**

Jenni Craig, Service Director for Customer and Communities, explained that the introduction of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 had seen the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership publish a Community Plan to address Borders-wide challenges and opportunities. Copies of the Community Plan were included in the information packs provided at the meeting. At a local level, Area Partnerships would take forward the development of Locality Plans; so the meeting was an opportunity to participate in an informal discussion about the challenges and issues affecting the Teviot and Liddesdale area. There were four main themes of the Community Plan, namely: our Economy, Skills & Learning; our Health and Wellbeing; our Quality of Life; and our Place.

**6. OPEN FORUM**

Colin Banks, Lead Officer for Localities, invited those present to discuss at their tables the emerging issues in the Teviot and Liddesdale area 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. He 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 four themes, with 'Economy Skills and Learning' emerging as the priority theme for discussion at the next meeting of the Area Partnership. This feedback was summarised as shown in the appendix to this Minute.

**7. OVERVIEW AND LOCALITIES BID FUND**

Shona Smith, Communities and Partnership Manager, summarised the grants and funding streams available to local communities and introduced members of the Scottish Borders Council team of officers who could provide further information and assistance. She also gave an update on the Localities Bid Fund in the Teviot and Liddesdale Area where there were 14 projects being put forward to a public vote which would end on 28 February 2018. In response to questions, Ms Smith advised that there had been a good response from the community and 20,000 voting papers had been issued. Future adjustment in terms of funding allocation could be made if it was found that projects from communities with a low population were at a significant disadvantage in the voting process.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Councillor Marshall thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next meeting of the Area Partnership would be held on 17 April 2018. The layout of the venue had encouraged discussion and he suggested that the next meeting be held again in the Lesser Hall, or Main Hall, if there were significant numbers, of the Town Hall, Hawick at 6.30pm.

***The meeting concluded at 8.10 pm***

## Discussion Output: General Concerns, Issues, Challenges or Opportunities (20<sup>th</sup> February 2018)

Summary/Area of Discussion:

### Economy, Skills and Learning

- Borders needs to be promoted, social media and media need to be more positive
- Grow your own talent and invest in keeping it
- Attract high value business to the area
- Need to take full advantage of the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency, bring to the Borders what the Highlands have had
- Broadband connectivity needs improved, poor connectivity
- Tourism – great opportunities to build on some of the investment within the area, distilleries, park, leisure and historical sites. A great opportunity for young people to access the Tourism job market. Needs to diversify
- Focus on the high street in Hawick – make it a thriving place to visit and do business
- Increase opportunities for apprenticeships and recognition of achievements, focus on the young workforce
- Fewer people working as an older population
- Emphasis to bring larger industries back to Hawick, knitwear industry has gone
- Unusually high number of micro businesses, no large building or engineering companies for apprentices
- Shortage of skilled tradesmen
- Difficult to get an apprenticeship, more would keep younger people in the area. Breakdown of Modern Apprenticeship figures?
- More practical skills need to be taught in school for those who aren't as academic
- Lack of infrastructure and wind turbines puts industries off
- Young people leave and don't come back
- Why forestry? Not bringing jobs and lorries cracking up roads. Low wage economy and not consistent employer
- Hawick High pushing apprenticeships but where are they? Only push traditional ones
- Chain reaction – economy affects health, poverty, neighbourhood and community
- Do college course provide jobs at the end?
- Restricted employment and low wage economy
- What is there for young people in the job market?
- Young people not training in the right areas to match the job market
- Lack of skills and difficulty trying to recruit appropriate skill set
- Rubbish at communicating with young people!! Ask young people what they want, go to them to ask
- Lack of economic opportunity
- Borders College – range of courses – a stepping stone for those who don't have qualifications
- Denholm Primary – lack of capacity
- Breakdown of economy and employment industries in Teviot and Liddesdale needed
- Newcastleton – over capacity for nursery provision
- Great role models need to come back and talk to pupils about their journey

- Tourism being damaged by wind farms, Dark sky opportunities?
- Raise the aspirations of young people
- At what point do pupils lose respect in transition
- Zero hour contracts and low paid jobs
- What is missing for young people careers wise and is access to high school careers advice blocked?
- If offering qualifications then a progression track is needed
- Lack of entrepreneurialism, lack of investment and rural needs to be local
- Quality of jobs
- Secure future and ensure sustainability of development trusts
- Focus free/low cost childcare in the lower income areas, lack of affordable childcare
- 3<sup>rd</sup> sector delivers a wide range of services
- Pupils should be shown all options available not target only the ones going to University
- Poor connectivity, impacts on economy as a barrier to industry
- Forestation instead of agricultural and arable farming

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Health, Care & Wellbeing**

- Drink and drugs an issue for health, all age groups, cultural change is needed and festivals don't help
- Ageing population
- Significant health issues, mental health is a massive issue only 20% of police incidents are crime related
- Isolation can make people ill, need to try and get more people together
- LGBT – support group too far for some to travel and no transport, isolation and rural area
- Mental Health stats for Hawick? Lack of mental health services
- Mental health support for young people? Do they know?
- Pressure on young people to do well creates a negative mental health. Not taken seriously unless suicide?
- Community Hospital underutilised? Not staffed by GP's in the evening
- Social care – people leaving care service due to time pressures (5 min appointments)
- Anonymous survey for young people regarding mental health
- Denholm – Good prescription service (Crosby's) dropped at Post Office
- Connectivity – live links from patients to health providers?
- Difficult to get appointments
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services need overhaul, can be over 24 weeks for an appointment
- Teviot Leisure Centre and Live Borders – a positive for Hawick
- Marked trails in and around Hawick – 3 grades, red, blue and yellow
- Care in the community is good in Teviot & Liddesdale

- Break the cycle of deprivation, poverty and bad behaviour
- Invest time in working with the children/young people and the parents
- Ageing population – look at this as an opportunity rather than a negative
- Intergenerational opportunities
- Rural isolation – lack of social network for those who are vulnerable, huge dependencies on others

**Summary/Area of Discussion:**

**Quality of Life**

- Need to increase peoples aspirations
- Lack of families who own or have access to cars
- What does Council Tax pay for? Can it be reviewed/increased?
- Maximise our fantastic assets, mills, clean water and quality of life
- Demographic changes – peaks and troughs. Connectivity brings people in
- What's to keep the younger generation here?
- Creative solution to develop a remembrance garden in Wilton Cemetery
- Safe area, no graffiti and clean
- Alcohol and drug related crime
- Friendly welcoming town
- Education on anti-social behaviour, involve parents what the challenges are and consequences
- Parenting classes
- Wind turbines, too many and too big, small roads to convey equipment
- Attractive to older people setting up a business

**Summary/Area of Discussion:**

**Our Place**

- Housing – Newcastleton, the conservation status having an impact
- Borders National Park – opportunity for the area
- Old fashioned design of shops (front loading only, no back entrances) deters big companies from occupying shops
- Housing – what opportunities for young people and families, wrong housing going in and affordable? Housing types an issue, single storey needed for the elderly, which would free up housing for families
- Countryside is an asset, how do we make the most of it? Instead it is being damaged
- Newcastleton – flood prevention scheme, issue as a good housing opportunity. Electricity infrastructure, maximum capacity not high
- Newcastleton - Better relationships cross border both Dumfries and Galloway and Cumbria and Carlisle
- Denholm's Local development plan – more housing and infrastructure needs improving at the same time

- More consultation on tree planting and timber lorries are an issue
- Shop property owners need to make better use of premises so they don't remain empty
- Electronic noticeboards around the town, particularly at the mart street bus stops
- Internet has had a negative impact
- Need to market the Borders as a whole
- Housing – fuel poverty, energy efficient, heating, and isolation. Issue of old housing stock, warm homes bill
- Windfarms – local discussion required
- Digital connectivity is an issue
- Review of school estate, will it disadvantage rural areas?
- State of High Street is sad, charity shops and for sale signs
- If people have to walk from a central car park, then covered canopy areas
- Too many large supermarkets, jobs will be displaced
- Take steps to increase footfall on the High Street
- Universal benefits advisor needed to alert people to what they can apply for, they can help older people change energy providers and save money
- Extra support needed to carry out life skills
- Create an 'app' for young people to access to gain information on life skills, finances etc
- Basic financial advice

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Transport**

- Transport and infrastructure limit young people getting Saturday jobs, isolated town
- Accessibility – transport, need to focus on these across the locality. Should be a theme?
- Train would be beneficial, create opportunity for south of Scotland
- Bus services poor in rural areas causing isolation for older people
- Communities could try to get own bus but too much red tape to get funding, voluntary sector should be involved
- Lack of transport in rural areas, too much focus on commercial, no bus service from schools to rural areas, Langholm school transport has to be paid for
- Not great public transport
- Lack of effective transport from Teviot & Liddesdale to Borders General Hospital. Liaison with transport providers required
- South Dean, no public transport just a bus stop
- Potholes!
- Road maintenance