

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL 26 April 2018

STARRED ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 17 April 2018

6. SELKIRK TOWN CENTRE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT UPDATE

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of 19 September 2017, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Executive Director providing an update on the Selkirk Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID), outlining the support provided by the Council for the delivery of the BID and in terms of governance. Members were advised that the Selkirk Town Centre BID was developed following a period of business plan development and local business consultation. The Selkirk Town Centre BID Steering Group, with the formal agreement of both the Scottish Government and Scottish Borders Council, progressed to a successful formal ballot in November 2017. Governance processes were required to ensure transparency of funding and resources, including SBC's financial input and contribution to the Project, and it had been agreed by Council that an Elected Member be appointed to the Selkirk BID Board. The report being considered by the Committee today proposed that the representative should be a Member from the Selkirkshire Ward. During discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Edgar be recommended as the Selkirkshire member to be appointed to the Selkirk BID Board.

DECISION

- (a) **NOTED the successful, positive Selkirk Town Centre BID ballot on 30 November 2017.**
- * (b) **AGREED TO RECOMMEND that an Elected Member from the Selkirkshire Ward represents the Council on the Selkirk Town Centre BID Board.**

7. HAWICK AND EAST BERWICKSHIRE MEMBER WORKING GROUPS

There had been circulated copies of a report by the Executive Director proposing the establishment of two new Working Groups to consider the economic challenges and opportunities in Hawick and Eyemouth and East Berwickshire. The Groups would have advisory powers and would offer advice and guidance to the Executive Committee based on the analysis undertaken. Local Elected Members would form the core of the Working Groups, along with other local stakeholders, who would be involved as appropriate. Both Groups would be Chaired by Councillor Rowley, Executive Member for Business and Economic Development and other Elected Members could be co-opted to the Groups as required. During discussion, Members agreed that a young person's representative should be included as a key stakeholder and it was noted that the Working Groups would work closely with local Area Partnerships.

DECISION

- * (a) **AGREED TO RECOMMEND that:-**
 - (i) **the two new Working Groups be established as soon as possible; and**
 - (ii) **business people and other local stakeholders should be co-opted onto the new Working Groups in line with local Member expectations.**
- (b) **AGREED to receive further appropriate progress reports by the Executive Director as agreed with the Chair of the Working Groups.**

8. BORDERLANDS INCLUSIVE GROWTH DEAL UPDATE

With reference to paragraph 7 of the private Minute of 5 December 2018, there had been circulated copies of a report setting out progress made in taking forward the Borderlands initiative and highlighting the work to produce a Borderlands Inclusive Growth Proposition. The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Proposition had been submitted to the Secretary of State for Scotland and to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work in October 2017 and it had since been agreed that the five partner Local Authorities should sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide a clear governance framework for the pre-Deal period. The report also advised that all partners had agreed to provide £100k of funding during this pre-Deal period and for Scottish Borders Council, this required an additional contribution of £50k in the year 2018/19. Discussion followed and officers responded to questions from Members. In response to a question the Chief Officer Economic Development explained that “inclusive growth” meant that all sections of the communities would be considered when taking this Proposition forward. In view of the importance of this project the Chairman proposed that this decision should be ratified by Council and that a further recommendation should be added with regard to the approval of the approval of the final deal.

DECISION

- (a) NOTED the positive progress made in developing a Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and in discussing that with UK and Scottish Governments.**
- * (b) AGREED TO RECOMMEND:-**
 - (i) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Business and Economic Development, to accept the terms of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;**
 - (ii) that the Council contribute a further £50,000 towards the joint pre-Deal development costs, to be allocated from existing budgets in the Economic Development service; and**
 - (iii) that further progress reports be presented during 2018 as the development stages of the deal proceed; and**
 - (iv) that Council should approve the final proposition of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal prior to submission to the UK and Scottish Governments.**