

Public Document Pack

MINUTES of Meeting of the
CHEVIOT AREA PARTNERSHIP
held in Jedburgh Grammar School,
Jedburgh on Wednesday, 28 March
2018 at 6.30 pm.

Present:- Councillors S. Mountford (Chairman), J. Brown, S. Hamilton, S. Scott,
T.Weatherston together with 10 Representatives of Partner Organisations,
Community Councils and Members of the Public.
Apologies:- Councillor E. Robson
In attendance:- Head of Economic Development & Environment, Senior Lead Officer,
Education and Lifelong Learning, Communities and Partnership Manager,
Democratic Services Officer (F. Henderson)

1.0 **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Cheviot Area Partnership.

2.0 **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 7 FEBRUARY 2018**

2.1 The minute of the first meeting of the Area Partnership had been circulated which included a summary of the discussion output as an appendix. The Communities and Partnership Manager referred to the general concerns, issues, challenges and opportunities raised at that meeting and confirmed that the theme identified as a priority to take forward for more in-depth discussion was Our Economy Skills and Learning. This theme would therefore be the focus for debate for the remainder of the meeting.

3.0 **THEME: OUR ECONOMY, SKILLS AND LEARNING**

3.1 Head of Economic Development and Environment, Bryan McGrath, provided an introduction to the theme for the evening. He drew attention to issues highlighted at recent Business Breakfasts; the main concerns related to digital connectivity, business rates, Brexit, business premises and access to people with the right skills. Opportunities for Economic Development within the Borders were recognised. Many related to tourism with mountain biking and the Tapestry being referred to in particular. Colin Gilmour, Regeneration Scheme gave a brief introduction in terms of grant funding, upskilling Borders Contractors and the Jedburgh CARS Scheme.

3.2 Following the introductory talks, officers joined Elected Members, partners and members of the public at their tables for a discussion of the Key Areas relating to "Our Economy Skills and Learning" in the Cheviot Area including Developing Young Workforce/Careers Advice (both in terms of learning and employment), incl. utilising existing businesses to showcase options/inspiring local people and building closer relationships between local schools and businesses and Life Skills for Young People; opportunities for intergenerational projects. A pack of information was provided at each table to aid the discussion as were post-it notes to record the emerging points. Following this first discussion period and a short break each group returned to their tables where they were asked by the Chairman to focus on the key issues raised and to discuss and identify ways of taking these forward within the Cheviot area. A summary of the output of the discussions was provided as an appendix to this minute.

4.0 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 6 June 2018 in Kelso at 6.30 p.m. when the theme would be Health and Wellbeing.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

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Discussion Output: Our Economy, Skills and Learning 28th March, 2018

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Education, Skills & Learning and the World of Work

Post-it Notes:

- Challenge around work based learning – Health and Safety – DYW (Developing Young Workforce) Groups
- Are young people more aware of alternative pathways now? Vocational opportunities
- Apprenticeships – small businesses can't afford them, new system needed, use people on certain jobs just to upskill them. Emtelle, Mainetti and Staratts could they do more for MA's
- Most young people staying on for 6th year only a handful leaving, most going to a positive destination
- Young People that fall out of the system, do they reach a positive destination?
- Importance of having local people coming into schools and show what can be achieved – positive role models
- Challenge to help young people understand what opportunities are out there in local businesses
- Traders going out with the Borders, how do we upskill the trades to look after heritage buildings
- Heritage building/contractors – Selkirk CARS, lack of traditional skills
- Sending teachers to "on site" days with local businesses helps understand the needs of business and work place skills, opportunities to do more
- How to encourage young people into Agriculture and other rural enterprises
- Young people – cooking education and budgeting, communication and relationship skills, better IT skills other than social media, more apprenticeships, careers officer, different sharing platform to inform youths, shortage of teachers, certain subjects can't be catered for, costly to go to other schools, Borders College could offer other subjects
- 98% Jed youths go onto positive destinations
- Intergenerational cooking programmes, older people teaching younger
- Training schemes 16-25 life skills, employability skills for school leavers if not going to College
- STEM – challenge to get enough STEM tenders, Scottish level issue
- Kelso has ICT policy to consider technology – can enhance learning.
- Risk people get left behind in the workplace. Technology – need to help people to keep learning

"Priority" & "Solutions/Actions" Post-its:

- Jobs – Informed of more specialised careers, less opportunities in farming so more vocational apprenticeships, local, well paid apprenticeships will increase shops, economy. Reduce stigma of apprenticeships. Large companies need to promote more apprenticeships
- Directory of specialised skills e.g. 'dry stane dyking'
- Life skills needed
- More intense career advice
- Digital skills – ensure enough courses
- Workplace "on site" days so teachers are aware of skills needed
- Promote partnership working, existing work be better co-ordinated

- Build on good work already started through Developing Young Workforce – level of funding required
- Mentoring and coaching scheme to help young people think about career routes
- Consider a new employer recruitment incentive programme – support businesses to provide 6/12 month paid placements
- Support for young people who have left school to get them a positive destination – support and track these young people

Key Areas for Cheviot

- **Developing Young Workforce/Careers Advice (both in terms of learning and employment), incl. utilising existing businesses to showcase options/inspiring local people and building closer relationships between local schools and businesses**
- **Life Skills for Young People; opportunities for intergenerational projects**

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Employment and Entrepreneurism

Post-it Notes:

- More IT creative industry jobs required
- Opportunities in the care sector, how can we help people find pathways into that as a career
- Better food chains
- More employers need brought into the area to keep young people here – how?
- Rate relief if you have an MA? Value workforce
- Challenge to recruit young people – apprenticeships?
- Community Spirit and local network to help find opportunities for young people in local business

“Priority” & “Solutions/Actions” Post-its:

- More hotel opportunities – jobs and economy

Key Areas for Cheviot

- **Developing the Young Workforce programme**

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Infrastructure, Facilities & Premises (incl. School Estate and Transport)

Post-it Notes:

- Opportunity from the investment in the new High School in Kelso and Jed – what else can be done to take advantage of this? Intergenerational learning
- Better facilities retail, leisure, transport, housing
- Digital connectivity an issue if working/driving out and about
- Use of old grammar school – hotel, housing?
- Transport – School leavers access to work and further information, reliance on limited bus services, how to move between rural areas

- Roads – poor state, no motorways and dangerous
- Infrastructure and broadband poor in rural areas – businesses suffer
- Old High School sites into Travel lodge or hotel accommodation, no major capacity accommodation for events
- Digital infrastructure important. Jed restarting Computer Science courses, affordability of digital connections – not everyone can afford connection

“Priority” & “Solutions/Actions” Post-its:

- Investment, attitude to Jedburgh, maximise school campus and support 2 main industries
- Infrastructure – roads and buildings need repaired, more focus needed on essential roads
- Transport links – better bus links, be creative to help people move around
- The provision of employment land in rural communities

Key Areas for Cheviot

- **Build on the investment in new school estate (Kelso and Jed) and maximise the opportunities for the old High/Grammar School sites**

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Tourism and Town Centres

Post-it Notes:

- Tourism destination – streetscape? Tourism bus companies – get more of them to use the Borders, Destination Scottish Borders, what role for the Scottish Borders Tourism Partnership, MBTAG? What does Visit Scotland offer now? TIC locally?
- Jed & District Community News Group – Leaflet supporting tourism? Marketing, banners/flags on lamp posts
- Leader funding – horse tourism, cross border
- Jedburgh Distillery – creating 50 jobs, bring tourism into the town centre, better or more hotel accommodation
- What is the attraction into the Borders from Northern England, who are our biggest tourist groups, make use of the Borderlands initiatives
- Jedburgh has smaller businesses popping up – restaurants? Need good chefs, have the produce! Different eateries – Born in the Borders is a positive
- Tourism – St Cuthberts, Pennines, 3 Abbeys Way – organised tours, good quality accommodation needed, Ghost tours, outdoor activity centre needed with high quality activities – affordable – similar to Foxlake or a Centre Parc. Small to grow as Glentress started. Arts and Crafts, expand Melrose Book Festival and other festivals we have. Tourist Information type person is needed
- Jedburgh poor footfall, centre looks run down with scaffolding
- Kelso Farmers Market needs improved, campsites need advertised better
- Luxury Lodges, Yurts, Wedding Venues – opportunities
- Jed – 2 week festival Healing Town with health and wellbeing – ME Society, Alternative medicines etc.
- Towns and villages look for more events and themes to maximise footfall
- Springwood Park a positive, booked majority of the time
- Public toilets, locked after 6pm and pay – key to tourism?
- Attracts families to the area – quality of life but limited night life

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small organisations find it difficult to promote events
<p><i>“Priority” & “Solutions/Actions” Post-its:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism – marketed and taken forward collectively – working group, resources available? Package to attract visitors? Show what we have to offer, smaller attractions linked together and co-ordinated. Info and demographics for the right place and right people. Interpersonal skills taught. Funding – people/pots by locality, localised officers, SBC partner with Tourism events and provide support with paperwork • Promote the area for inward investment and great place to bring up a family – quality of life
<p><i>Key Areas for Cheviot</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ better understanding of tourism support on offer, funding available etc. ○ how to make the most of all the new investment in the town and surrounding area (e.g. new distillery, CARS scheme and intergenerational community campus) ○ what opportunities can be realised/created (e.g. marketing, tour packages, start-ups), what support is on offer to take these forward • Town Centre regeneration – how to make the most of CARS scheme, and other inward investment that could be drawn into the town

<p>Summary/Area of Discussion: Community & Third Sector</p>
<p><i>Post-it Notes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port House – services accommodation for social enterprise – hub/incubator units • Admin support for communities dealing with ‘red tape’ paperwork SAG’s • Jed alliance – Hydro Scheme? • Communication – how can things be better communicated
<p><i>“Priority” & “Solutions/Actions” Post-its:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p><i>Key Areas for Cheviot</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understanding of what support is on offer for and within the community & third sector