

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
CHEVIOT AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the CHEVIOT
 AREA FORUM held in the Assembly Hall,
 Jedburgh Grammar School, Jedburgh on 13
 February 2013 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors T. Weatherston (Chairman), J. Brown, S. Mountford, A. Nicol, S. Scott, R. Stewart.
 Community Councillors R. Breeze, M. Ladds, T. Yourston, E. McNulty, I. Athey, A. Hall, H. Oliver, C. McGrath, K. Steel, R. Thomson; Inspector B McFarlane (Lothian & Borders Police).

Apologies:- Community Councillor F. Scott,

In Attendance:- SB Local Manager - Divisional Manager, Clerk to the Council, Democratic Services Officer (Fiona Henderson).

Members of the Public:- 1

MINUTE

1. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of Meeting of the Cheviot Area Committee of 7 November 2012.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute.

BUDGET 2013/18

2. The Financial Services Manager, Debbie Collins, was in attendance to give a presentation on the Scottish Borders Council Budget 2013/18. Handouts were circulated and Ms Collins outlined the main headlines of the financial strategy which formed the 5 year revenue and 10 year capital plan. The Council would continue to invest in business transformation, service reviews and efficiency projects to deliver long term financial and service benefits. There would be investment in infrastructure with a £191m capital programme. The Council would maximise income while keeping fees and charges to service users at an affordable level and Council tax would be frozen at 2007/08 levels for the sixth successive year. Unallocated reserves of £5.6m for 2013/14 would be maintained in line with the assessed risk register. The presentation went on to look at the Council's funding, the highest proportion of which was Revenue Support Grant from the government. However the number of households at January 2013 had increased by over 300 giving an increase in the income from Council Tax. With regard to the Revenue Budget proposals Ms Collins outlined the budget pressures and how it was proposed to fund these, further details being given about the Council's transformation projects, business efficiencies and rationalisations. The presentation moved on to look at the Capital Budget Proposals where the Council had approved a programme of £191m over the next 10 years. The proposed capital projects were summarised, details of which were included in the document circulated. Ms Collins answered questions on the changes to the pay scales for staffing which were being consulted on and demographics.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

PROMOTING HEALTHY WEIGHT

3. The Joint Head of Health Improvement, Allyson McCollam, was in attendance and gave a presentation on Healthy Weight. She advised that current statistics showed that 67% of those aged 16 years and over were overweight and of these 26% were obese. The rate was rising for both men and women, and 1 in 5 of Primary 1 children in Scottish Borders were overweight or obese. This was an issue as obesity led to ill health and resulted in these people having a poorer quality of life as well as premature mortality. This in turn meant a higher dependency on services provided by health and social care and the resultant increase on the costs of having to provide those services. There were a number of different factors which influenced weight including food production and marketing, lifestyle and income. Encouraging healthy weight could only be tackled by partnership working both locally and nationally. Ms McCollam outlined the place of the Area Forum in the Early Intervention Project being carried out on in the Borders. The aim of the project was to help people make healthier choices, to create environments that promoted health and to strengthen delivery of programmes and interventions. She also highlighted examples of the types of action which were being used to meet the aims of the project. Ms McCollam answered questions and emphasised the need to influence the eating habits of the whole family.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

POLICE REFORM

4. Inspector Brian MacFarlane was present at the meeting and reported on the Police Reform. The new logo for the Police Service of Scotland had been unveiled and was an evolution of the original Semper Vigilo crest - which was designed in the early 1930s - as a visual brand to represent Scottish Policing. The structure of command had been fully put in place with Chief Constable Steven House leading the new service. There would be four Deputy Chief Constables (DCC) to assist him, each with a specific strategic responsibility. DCC Rose Fitzpatrick - portfolio for Local Policing which incorporated Divisional Policing, dealing with the public and criminal justice and would be assisted in her role by six Assistant Chief Constables, three with geographic responsibility for local policing and three with functional responsibility. ACC Mike McCormack had been appointed as Local Policing ACC East incorporating the Scottish Borders.
5. There would be 14 territorial divisions in Scotland each headed by a Chief Superintendent. The Scottish Borders would become a local policing area within the new Lothians and Scottish Borders Division incorporating West Lothian, Mid Lothian, East Lothian and Scottish Borders with the designation of 'J' Division. Chief Superintendent Jeanette McDiarmid had been appointed as Divisional Commander based at Dalkeith and would be assisted by two uniform Superintendents and a Detective Superintendent. Each local policing area would be commanded by a Chief Inspector and CI Andrew Clark had been appointed as the operational Commander of the Scottish Borders. The Scottish Borders would retain a Roads Policing Unit based at Galashiels supplemented by the national Trunks Road Policing Unit based at Edinburgh and the new CID structure for 'J' Division would also incorporate specialist investigation units for specific crime types:-
- Rape Investigation Unit
 - Domestic Violence Unit
 - Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit
 - Community Investigation Unit (Housebreaking and Drugs)
6. It was further reported that the Scottish Borders would retain the three Community Policing Areas which were in existence North, South and East with an Inspector command in each area. The Cheviot area, which was split between the South and East, would have Inspector Carol Wood and Brian MacFarlane respectively and they would head the local Community Policing Teams in their areas with responsibility for partnership working and public reassurance. It was emphasized that there remained a commitment to the current partnership working arrangement with Scottish Borders Council and the co-located Safer Communities team at Council HQ would remain in place, working with the Anti-Social

Behaviour Unit and other partners to make the Borders a safer place to live. Chief Superintendent McDiarmid had visited the unit and viewed the partnership work being undertaken as 'cutting edge' and was delighted to ensure it continued under the supervision of CI Kenny Simpson and delivering the Safer Communities strategy in the Borders. It was highlighted that local policing remained at the core of the transformation to a single service and there would be no reduction or redistribution in either community police officer or response police officer numbers in the Scottish Borders. In fact there should be an increase in officers as those in current headquarters posts were released as the single force came into operation.

7. The deadline for implementation was that, by 1 April 2013, the policing plans for all 353 multi-member council wards in Scotland as well as 32 Local Policing Plans covering every Local Authority area in Scotland would be in place. The local policing plans were influenced by the actual needs of that local community and would be driven by public input obtained through meetings such as the area forum, community council meetings and police surgeries. The policing plan for the Cheviot ward was in the process of being completed and outlined the operational priorities within the Cheviot area.
8. The new non-emergency police number 101 would be launched to the public on 21 February 2013 and would be operational by March 2013. Calls would cost 15p irrespective of the duration of the call or whether it was from a landline or mobile. Deaf or hard of hearing members of the public could access it through the Text relay service by dialling 1 800 1101. The message from Chief Superintendent McDiarmid had been clear in that she was impressed by the current standard of policing in the Scottish Borders and wanted to maintain that alongside a commitment to partnership working and to ensure that local policing was delivered through an intelligence led approach allowing the police to respond to emerging issues and direct resources accordingly. Inspector MacFarlane answered questions in relation to the potential closure of Police Stations and introduction of mobile units, community policing in rural areas and the locality of the Police Call Centre, which would potentially remain at Bilston Glen as it had been purpose built.

DECISION

(a) NOTED the presentation.

(b) AGREED that the names of the main Police Officers and their contact details - for the Borders and the Cheviot Area in particular - be circulated to all Members of the Cheviot Area Forum.

LOW CARBON ECONOMIC STRATEGY FOR SCOTTISH BORDERS

9. The Economic Strategy Co-ordinator, Louise Cox, was in attendance to give a presentation on the development of a Low Carbon Economic Strategy for the Scottish Borders. The reason for the presentation being brought to the Area Forum was that the draft strategy had been issued for a 12 week public consultation period which would end on 26 April 2013. Ms Cox explained that there was a need for development of a Low Carbon Economic Strategy due to the introduction of emissions reduction legislation, the economic/job opportunities presented, rising fuel prices and also the generally accepted view that the climate was changing and there was likely to be a higher incidence of extreme weather events. The objectives of the strategy would address individuals/domestic, business, renewable energy projects, buildings, transport and Infrastructure, skills and education, and adaptation and resilience. Ms Cox went on to give some examples of actions put forward through the strategy. It would become important to draw down maximum Scottish Government funding to support home energy advice and to pursue the establishment of the Scottish Borders Woodfuel Forum. Options should be investigated for public transport shuttles between major employers and key towns. It was proposed that there should be support for the delivery of a programme of low carbon training opportunities with Borders College. Also of huge importance would be to support the development of community resilience action plans, to cover transportation, essential supplies, medical needs etc. The draft strategy had been

considered by Scottish Borders Council on 31 January 2013 before the launch of the consultation on 1 February. The consultation process would involve the Area Fora, Community Councils, Community Planning Boards and other key partners, as well as individuals. It was hoped that the approved version of the document would be presented to Council for approval in June 2013, with ongoing development of the action plan and a full review of the strategy after 3 years. Among the key questions that should be addressed were whether the low carbon objectives were appropriate, whether the actions and timescales were feasible, what opportunities for local businesses may be presented and consequently what the implications were for education and training needs in the Borders. Ms Cox advised that the full consultation document was available to view on the Scottish Borders Council website. In the ensuing discussion Members recognised the potential opportunities for local businesses in relation to woodfuel. The possibility was noted of forming a Borders Woodfuel group in conjunction with the Borders Machinery Ring which was already carrying out work in this area. Reference was also made to the potential for further development of hydropower in the Borders.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

REVENUE, CAPITAL AND SB LOCAL WORKS

10. There had been circulated copies of details of potential Members Priority Schemes for consideration by the Area Forum. The following Members Priority Schemes were proposed:-

Estimated Cost

(a) install plumbing to reinstate water to fountain, Market Square, Jedburgh	£5,000
(b) Supply and erect basketball goal play park, Maxton	£1,700
(c) Repair footpath at community garden, Lanton	£ 845
(d) Supply and erect a notice board at Maxton Village	£ 980
(e) Refurbish notice board, Exchange Street, Jedburgh	£ 80
(f) Manufacture and erect sign, Lothian Hall, Crailing	£ 150

11. With regard to the SBLocal Small Schemes in the Cheviot area, the SB Local Manager advised that a budget of £34,702 was available through SB Local for small schemes in the Cheviot area in 2012/13. Approval of the above schemes would reduce the budget to £11,343 for future schemes. It was explained that in order to fully utilise the remaining budget in the 2012/13 financial year, it was proposed that authorisation be sought to delegate authority to the Director of Environment and Infrastructure to allocate the remaining 2012/13 small schemes budget, subject to consultation with, and approval by, all six members of the Cheviot Area Forum through email. A report on all approved small schemes would be presented at a future meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum. It was reported that Schemes had been completed on the B6404 Capilaw Road, St Boswells; B6404 Main Street, St Boswells; C61 Belford, Sourhope; A698 Crailing, Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate, Kelso.

DECISION

AGREED to:-

- (a) **approve and implement the following new Members Priority schemes:-**

Estimated Cost

(i) install plumbing to reinstate water to fountain, Market Square, Jedburgh	£5,000
(ii) Supply and erect basketball goal play park, Maxton	£1,700
(iii) Repair footpath at community garden, Lanton	£ 845
(iv) Supply and erect a notice board at Maxton Village	£ 980
(v) Refurbish notice board, Exchange Street, Jedburgh	£ 80
(vi) Manufacture and erect sign, Lothian Hall, Crailing	£ 150

- (b) **delegate authority to the Director of Environment and Infrastructure to allocate the remaining funds for the current financial year to small schemes, subject to consultation with and approval of all six members of the Cheviot Area Forum through email;**
- (c) **consider a report on all approved small schemes for 2012/13 at a future meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum.**

OPEN QUESTIONS

12. There were no questions from the public

**DECISION
NOTED.**

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

13. It was reported by Community Councillor Claire Balderston that Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet Community Council had set up a Scheme to buy heating oil in bulk, saving each household 8p per litre for a tank of oil. The Scheme which had been operating for 6 months had reportedly saved members a total of £2,500. Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet Community Council would be willing to advise other Community Councils on the scheme.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

14. Community Councillor T Yourston advised that Oxnam Community Council were unhappy about the re-allocation of priority gritting routes which had resulted in the Bus route being removed from the priority gritting route. It was explained that a review of the priority gritting routes would be undertaken in spring/summer 2013 and Community Councils and the wider community would be consulted. Ms Yourston requested a copy of the criteria and the SB Local Manager agreed to circulate this.

DECISION

- (a) **NOTED that a review of the priority gritting routes would be undertaken in Spring/Summer 2013.**
- (b) **AGREED that the criteria used to set the priority gritting routes be circulated to Oxnam Community Council.**

15. Community Councillor R Thomson requested work be undertaken on potholes, the SBLocal Manager advised that when requests for pothole repairs were received, the work was undertaken. The Chairman requested that Mr Thomson submit a list of potholes he would like to be repaired. Councillor Stewart advised that concern had been expressed that the pothole repairs were temporary and not substantial enough and therefore were requiring to be repaired more than once. The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that the road network as a whole was being reviewed and ditch repairs undertaken in order to reduce water on the roads, causing the potholes. A jet patch machine had been purchased and the purchase of another was being considered as a matter of priority. Councillor Brown enquired if farmers could become involved in some of the work and the SBLocal Manager advised that it was the disposing of the materials which caused some issues for farmers.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

16. Community Councillor Oliver raised the issue of the Welfare Reform and The Clerk to the Council advised that a report would be considered by Scottish Borders Council and would then be reported to the next Meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

17. With reference to paragraph 21 of the Minute of 7 November 2012, Community Councillor Oliver requested an update. It was reported that the demolition at 31 High Street, Jedburgh was well underway and nearing completion, although weather problems had caused delays as it had been an intricate job.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

18. In relation to Oxnam Road, Jedburgh it was reported that an assessment would be carried out in the near future as to whether the area would be patched or resurfaced. It was highlighted that the road served 2 of the biggest employers in Jedburgh and would only get worse.

**DECISION
AGREED that an update be provided to the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

19. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum was scheduled for Wednesday, 17 April 2013 in Kelso.

**DECISION
NOTED the date of the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum and that the venue was to be confirmed.**

The meeting concluded at 8.20 p.m.