

**SCOTTISH BORDERS**  
**COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD**

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY  
PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD held in  
Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells  
on 1 October 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

-----

Present:- Councillor J. Brown (Chairman), Councillor S. Bell, Councillor M. Cook, Chief Superintendent J. McDiarmid (Police Scotland), Ms H. Cuckow (Eildon Housing Association), Mr A. Herd (Scottish Borders Community Development Co.), Mr I. Lindley (Berwickshire Housing Association), Mr P. Heath (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service), Mr A. McKinnon (Scottish Enterprise), Mr J. Raine (NHS Borders), Mr C. Campbell (NHS Borders), Mr A. Jackimciw (Borders College), Mrs R. Stenhouse (Waverley Housing).

Apologies:- Councillors D. Parker, C. Bhatia; Mr R. Licence (SBHA).

In Attendance:- Mr D. Cressey (SBC Head of Strategic Policy), Mr R. Dickson (SBC Director of Environment & Infrastructure), Ms T. Logan (SBC Chief Executive), Mrs E. Torrance (Programme Director for Health and Social Care Integration), Mr. B. McGrath (SBC Head of Economic Development), Mr E Baijal (Joint Director of Public Health), Clerk to Council, Democratic Services Officer (F. Henderson).

-----

**CHAIRMAN**

1. In the absence of Councillor Parker, the meeting was chaired by Councillor Brown. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a round of introductions.

**MINUTE**

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 13 June 2013.

**DECISION**

**APPROVED the Minute, for signature by the Chairman.**

**UPDATE ON SOA PRIORITIES**

3. (a) **Grow Our Economy**  
There had been circulated copies of a report detailing the Strategic Aims A to D of the Scottish Borders Economic Strategy 2023 that had been approved at the last meeting, which addressed this priority. Mr Bryan McGrath, SBC Head of Economic Development, gave an explanation of the document, advising that for each key strategic aim there was a series of Objectives, under which the resourced actions (those currently underway) and the Project Pipeline (those projects still to start which required resources had been shown; and details of either progress or the blocks to progress. Work was still to be carried out to develop the model further for other workstreams and feedback on the document was sought. Some of the actions were aspirational and the lower the %, the fewer actions were resourced and therefore underway. Members discussed the format and content of the document which they felt was not immediately clear, and considered the inclusion of columns on outcome and completed actions as well as the percentage resourced. It was felt appropriate to know what stage each project had reached, and how far away they were from the objectives.

**DECISION**

**NOTED that the document was a work in progress and comments should be sent to Mr McGrath.**

(b) **Reducing Inequalities**

Mr D. Cressey, SBC Head of Strategic Policy, explained that while no strategy for reducing inequalities had been produced yet, work was currently underway in the Council, in conjunction with other partners, to prepare an approach to develop a draft strategy for consideration by the Early Intervention and Prevention Group on 14 October 2013. The intention would be to use a similar format to both the Economic and Low Carbon Economic Strategies. Dr Baijal explained that a workshop event linked to the Director of Public Health's Annual Plan had considered definitions, with Deprived Areas being the main focus to build any strategy. Sarah Watters of SBC Policy Unit went on to explain that the focus had been on two geographical areas with a huge range of practitioners i.e. from Schools, Health, Community Development, Police etc attending and talking about what they were doing, which had highlighted that there was a lack of awareness amongst all the practitioners about the many activities each was undertaking. David Cressey explained that SBC was currently scoping a pilot project focussing on 10 challenging families, the results of which would be reported through the Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG) to enable the sharing of relevant information. Members questioned the timescales and how the information would be driven forward. The Project required to be scoped with the agreement of CSOG, and Helen Forsyth, Chief Executive of Berwickshire Housing Association, had taken the lead role within the Berwickshire area on behalf of the partnership. This meant that the methodology would be tested outwith the 2 main areas of deprivation but that "lessons learned" from the Berwickshire area would be valuable for the next two main areas that the Board wished to target.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

(c) **Maximising the Impact from the low carbon agenda – Sustainable Transport Review**

Rob Dickson reported that the Joint Delivery Team had looked at the contract with the consultants to consider current operations right across the Community Planning partnership but also looked at future capacity and customer information held by various bodies i.e. SBC, NHS and College. The timescales were to complete work by end of the year/early next year with final report being considered by the Board at its meeting scheduled for February 2014. This was a key part of this priority, alongside the Low Carbon Economic Strategy .

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

**LOW CARBON ECONOMIC STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

4. There had been circulated copies of the Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023 and Action Plan which were aligned to the Scottish Borders Economic Strategy 2023 and with the wider community Planning Partnership priorities. The Director of Environment and Infrastructure explained that the vision for a Scottish Borders low carbon economy had been developed based on consultation with stakeholders, and was well aligned with the Community Planning Partnership Board's three key priorities within the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). In order to set out the first steps towards the vision, the Low Carbon Economic Strategy focused activity around four interlinked Strategic Aims which had been developed through consultation and in response to the challenges identified and to achieve the proposed vision. Councillor Cook expressed concerns that the aspirations of the Board may not match those of Scottish Government: the Scottish Borders was 'fuel poor' compared to the rest of Scotland and there was some discomfort with some of the propositions in the strategy as they flagged up some tension between high level government strategy. The SBC Chief Executive advised that the Scottish Government had, by in large,

signed up to the SOA targets. David Cressey advised that consultation with the RSLs' Chief Executives were ongoing with some meetings yet to be concluded. Mr Lindley reported that it was the Board's remit to identify actions to which each partner could sign up and contribute.

5. The members of the Strategic Board then divided into four smaller break out groups to consider the four Strategic Aims – Improving our competitiveness; Improving our residents quality of life; Adapting our infrastructure and Increasing Community Resilience. The groups then reported back to the meeting,
6. **Improving our competitiveness** – by addressing resource efficiency and costs within local businesses, and by exploiting low carbon business opportunities in supply chains and new markets. Alistair McKinnon summarised the group's discussion:-
  - (a) There was some confusion in terms of low carbon and not enough of a distinction between the three strands identified by the group:-
    - Energy Efficiency for households/businesses
    - Energy generation (renewables)
    - Low carbon products and services (niche products)
  - (b) It would be necessary to consider supply and demand, how to stimulate demand then how to satisfy that demand, bearing in mind that priorities differed from sector to sector.
    - Farming sector - efficiency of operation and less energy use
    - Manufacturing sector - Efficiency of operation, minimisation of raw materials, low carbon markets further afield
    - Supply of skills – needs to be demand in order to get uptake of training
    - Education in its widest sense – vocational opportunities, down to Primary School level, and sustaining this through Secondary School and College
    - Availability of funding – using Scottish Government and EU funding to stimulate the local economy, whilst improving quality of life for individuals
    - Articulating and creating region-wide initiatives to meet Borders' needs and present these to Scottish Government and Europe
    - All this had to be converted into something tangible on the ground.
7. **Improving our Residents' Quality of Life** – by addressing fuel poverty and encouraging behaviour to change towards lower carbon lifestyles, supporting individuals to develop new low carbon related skills and localisation of service access. Elaine Torrance summarised the group's discussion:-
  - Agreed that the Strategic Initiatives were correct
  - Home energy was number one priority
  - District Heating Schemes – Easter Langlee Pilot – considered not ambitious enough and should be widened out to engage more partners on a phased approach. A co-ordinating role moving forward was important.
  - Gaps were identified as :-
    - Some projects were quite small and needed to be prioritised with key projects identified
    - Possibly look at 6 strategic projects and identify which of the partners could feed into these
    - Link to fuel poverty action plan
    - More focus
    - Project pipeline actions: demand/supply of land for community food production had only a small gain, so resources could perhaps be targeted at areas with a greater outcome
8. **Adapting our Infrastructure** – to encourage a low carbon built environment that will reduce carbon emissions and is better prepared for changing weather pattern including extreme weather events. Rob Dickson summarised the group's discussion:-

- Strategic theme of Flood Risk with a range of stakeholders (households/businesses)
- Gaps identified as:-
  - Lack of co-ordination across collective measures which partners could achieve; more work required on this
  - Broadband investment could come into infrastructure as it could potentially lead to a reduction in travel
  - Project pipeline – level of ambition; future investment in infrastructure eg buildings, BGH to be included in Easter Langlee project
  - Whole concept of public sector buildings/transport

9. **Increasing Community Resilience** – we will work with our communities to increase their capacity to withstand future climate change impacts and access opportunities including local food production and renewable energy generation. Douglas Scott summarised the group's discussion:-

- A lot of work was underway and need to capture actions across partners
- A quick win for communities would be using energy more efficiently
- Work on making communities aware of what was available
- Strong link into work in Burnfoot and Langlee to reduce inequalities
- Pipeline actions – opportunities through volunteering e.g. Walkerburn Watch Project' tenant participation officers

10. In summary, Councillor Bell highlighted that 'low carbon' was too general a term, with low carbon efficiency and low carbon energy different. The majority of input from the groups in relation to gaps was around prioritisation and focus; communication between partners; if there was clarity about how the different partners' projects operated, this could make the Strategy and Actions more ambitious and draw down further funding. It was important that the whole was greater than the sum of the parts, and it was acknowledged that the documents had to remain fluid. The feedback from all the groups would be incorporated and further engagement would take place with partners, before a refined Strategy and Action Plan would be considered by the Council at its meeting in October 2013. Councillor Bell thanked the Board members for their input.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

**SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

11. **Quality Assurance** – there had been circulated copies of a letter dated 20 June 2013 from Mr Colin Mair, CE of Improvement Scotland Service, in which were identified 5 areas for further development.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

12. **Response to Quality Assurance Process** - there had been circulated copies of a letter from the SBC Chief Executive to Mr Colin Mair, CE of Improvement Scotland Service, in response to the five specific points made by Mr Mair in his letter of 20 June 2013.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

13. **Community Planning Statement** - there had been circulated copies of the agreement on Joint Working on Community Planning and Resourcing. The SBC Chief Executive advised that she would like the Joint Delivery Group to consider this at its next meeting scheduled for 6 November 2013. The aim was then to dedicate most of the meeting of the Board scheduled for 28 November 2013 to considering the Community Planning Statement and how it would be resourced and taken forward by each of the partners.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

**JOINT DELIVERY TEAM**

14. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of Meeting of the Joint Delivery Team held on 4 September 2013.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

**URGENT BUSINESS**

15. Under Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Chairman was of the opinion that the item dealt with in the following paragraph should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency, in view of the need to keep Members informed/make an early decision.

**HOUSEHOLD SURVEY**

16. Mr Douglas Scott, SBC Policy Unit, advised that a report on the Scottish Borders Household Survey results had been considered at the meeting of Scottish Borders Council held on 25 September 2013, where it had been decided that these results would be considered by the Council's Executive and Service Committees. Each partner would need to take the results to their own organisation. Mr Scott requested that each partner allow a link to the survey results on their own website. Feedback was also requested on the survey results and the respective Chief Executives would do this through the Joint Delivery Team.

**DECISION**

**AGREED that the value of the Household Survey be an agenda item for consideration by the Board at a future meeting.**

*The meeting concluded at 3.45 pm*

**Report by Chief Executive**

---

**Scottish Borders Economic Strategy 2023 – Action Plan  
Update**

**13 February 2014**

---

**1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 **This report updates the Board on progress against the actions set out in the Scottish Borders Economic Strategy 2023 which was agreed in June 2013.**
- 1.2 The Economic Strategy sets out the vision, strategic aims and objectives that will provide the focus for our efforts to ensure sustainable economic growth for the Scottish Borders. The associated Action Plan sets out in detail how the Community Planning Partnership will deliver the outcomes identified in the Economic Strategy.
- 1.3 Good progress has been made in delivering the actions set out in the Action Plan (Appendix 1), but some areas of activity require additional partner focus, or in some instances, additional resources.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Community Planning Partnership :-**
  - (a) **Note the positive progress made in relation to the Economic Strategy Action Plan; and**
  - (b) **Discusses and agrees how to realign partner's resources to deliver these priorities.**

### 3 ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2023 - BACKGROUND

3.1 The Economic Strategy was prepared in order to set direction for the activity of the Community Planning Partners. It was agreed by Community Planning Partners at the Strategic Board in June 2013. The Strategy consists of three documents, an Economic Profile, an Economic Strategy document and an Action Plan. This report provides an update on progress in relation to the actions set out in the Action Plan.

3.2 The Strategy sets out the vision, strategic aims and objectives that will provide the focus for our efforts to ensure sustainable economic growth for the Scottish Borders. The agreed vision is:

“By 2023 the Scottish Borders will be amongst the best performing and most productive rural economies in Scotland. By supporting existing businesses and encouraging higher value economic activity, our quality of life will increase. The Borders will become a location of choice for growing businesses and for people to live and work.”

3.3 The four strategic aims are derived from the analysis in the Economic Profile and reflect the particular opportunities and challenges that the economy of the Scottish Borders faces. The four strategic aims are:

**1. Creating the conditions for businesses to compete** - reflecting our entrepreneurial strength and the need to create the conditions for businesses to grow, and/ or to attract entrepreneurial people;

**2. Building on our assets** - attracting and retaining people and growing businesses will be helped by what the Scottish Borders as a place has to offer and by our ability to maximise our assets;

**3. Developing the workforce of the future** - fundamental to future prosperity and competitiveness is the supply of, and demand for, a skilled workforce. As there are fewer jobs available here than residents in work, people are travelling outside the area for work and this means economic performance is lower;

**4. Providing leadership** - essential for successful economic development to be achieved, leadership will also help deliver other policy and organisational priorities too – around education, health, and the public good.

### 4 ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE

4.1 The Action Plan acknowledged the need to demonstrate ambition and aspiration whilst at the same time recognising the resource constraints in the public sector, now and in the future. The Action Plan addresses this by setting out those actions which had resources and were part of planned activity by CPP partners (covered by a ‘tint’) and those actions which were part of a ‘Project Pipeline’ where resources had still to be identified (no tint). Since the Strategy was published in June 2013, good progress has been made on the ‘resourced’ actions and many of the ‘Project Pipeline’ actions have also been positively progressed.

4.2 Officers have used a simple Red/Amber/Green marking on the attached Action Plan Update (Appendix 1) to highlight the status of the action. The categorisation is subjective, but Red equates to no progress, or concerns about the level of resources still required; Amber equates to some

progress, but not as anticipated; and Green equates to 'on track'.

- 4.3 Overall, there is a positive sense of progress against the resourced actions with progress being made against all of these actions. Examples of good progress include the commencement of the Superfast Broadband project which will roll-out over the next four years. The activity of partners and communities around Homecoming 2014 is also very positive. In relation to peoples and skills the fall in the 18-24 unemployment rate is also positive progress for the area.
- 4.4 There are some areas of concern in relation to the resourced actions. The first of these relates to the Borders Railway Economic Opportunities Realisation Programme where a significant range of actions need to be delivered. Although positive progress has been made in identifying resources for some of those projects, additional staff and financial resources are still required. More focus and effort is also required on youth employment and the employability agenda, particularly to bring more focus onto the priority localities of Burnfoot and Langlee. Finally, the work in Eyemouth on a vision and Whole Town Framework is taking longer than anticipated and it is important that this is finalised quickly after the Community Open Sessions in February and March.
- 4.5 Turning to the 'Project Pipeline' actions, partners have delivered good progress in view of the resources available for this work. Some of the key projects in this category do require additional resources, for instance Borders Business Park and Inward Investment activity, and Council officers are currently working with Scottish Enterprise to develop a programme of strategic economic development interventions for the South of Scotland that will hopefully draw additional resources in for these projects. It is also clear that more coordination and additional resources will be required to take forward activity around employability and youth employment.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Council, and its Community Planning Partners, will need to continue the dialogue around which of the actions identified in the Project Pipeline will be highest priority and where they will be able to justify targeting resources towards them. It should be noted that limitations on future public spending may place constraints on the delivery of the Action Plan. In view of this it is expected that the Action Plan will be reviewed and updated in June 2014 to allow it to reflect shifting priorities and resources.

### **Author(s)**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Bryan McGrath	Head of Economic Development & Environment, Scottish Borders Council, 01835 826525

# Scottish Borders Economic Strategy - The Action Plan

## A. Creating the conditions for business to compete

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target/ Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
<b>1. DESIRED OUTCOME – Business Start-Up and Growth is encouraged &amp; supported</b>					
Business Gateway Start Up Service <b>(Underway)</b>	£141,000 (annual average) 6 FTE advisers (Revenue)	Business Gateway	660 start up businesses are trading 3 year survival rate % of these businesses	2013/14 to 2015/16	The period up to 31 January 2013 saw the Business Gateway team work with 368 businesses and individuals, and assist a total of 171 business start ups, of which 17 were high growth. During this period the Advisers have delivered over 51 business start up workshops and 38 local workshops that are part funded by ERDF; these focus primarily on e-business topics including social media, website building and e-commerce.
Business Gateway/ Scottish Enterprise Growth Advisory Services <b>(Underway)</b>	£141,000 (annual average) 6 FTE advisers Additional ERDF investment (Revenue)	Business Gateway Scottish Enterprise	No. of businesses assisted % turnover growth Innovation Exporting Key sectors 100 Companies are account managed	2013/14 to 2015/16	Increased focus on growth and key sectors through 'Business Gateway Plus' ERDF project – advising and supporting businesses with projected increase in turnover in excess of £100,000.

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target/ Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
Business Support & Business Gateway Local Services <b>(Underway)</b>	£300,000 pilot loan fund £100,000 business grant fund (annual) Additional ERDF investment (Revenue)	Business Gateway SBC Economic Development	35 target loans/ grants per annum – number and leverage 100 ‘expert help’ assists	2013/2014 to 2015/16	So far this financial year (2013/14) the Scottish Borders Business Fund has received 101 enquiries and approved 34 grant applications valued at approximately £96,000 supporting projects with a value of around £287,000. These projects are forecast to create 56 jobs and safeguard 78 jobs with a forecast economic impact of £1.3 million GVA. The Business Loan Fund has received 22 applications and approved 8 loans to a value of £74,500. It is forecast that this activity will create 5 jobs, safeguard 39 and have an impact of about £115,000 GVA.
Deliver the South of Scotland Business Competitiveness Project <b>(Underway)</b>	£600,000 (3 years) including ERDF investment (Revenue)	SBC Economic Development Business Gateway	200 businesses assisted 63 FTE jobs created in assisted businesses	2013/14 to June 2014	Additional support being provided to tourism, food & drink and renewables sectors. 217 businesses assisted to date, with 64 FTE jobs created.
Supplier Development Programme – improve SME capacity to compete for any public sector contracts <b>(Underway)</b>	£6,000 (annual) (Revenue)	SBC Economic Development SBC Procurement	6 ‘meet the buyer’ events per annum No. of businesses tendering for public sector contracts No. of new contracts	2013/14 to 2015/16	The Council continues to participate in the Supplier Development Programme promote contract opportunities to local business. In February SDP hosted ‘Tendering Together: Collaborative Bidding’ event in

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target/ Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
					Selkirk.
<b>2. DESIRED OUTCOME – There is a supply of immediately available land and premises for business expansion and inward investment</b>					
Ensure Local Development Plan has adequate supply of employment land <b>(Underway)</b>	No direct cost	SBC Forward Plans	Ha of available employment land	2013/14 to 2015/16	The Local Development Plan is out for Public Representation until 3 March 2014. Adoption of the LDP is expected in 2015. Consideration of employment land allocations and policies has been a key part of the LDP process.  11.7% of the Total Land Designated for Employment Use in local plan is immediately available (serviced and marketed) in Scottish Borders. This means 37.3 ha is available of the 318.7 total designated.
Deliver the Borders Strategic Employment Land Project (Coldstream, Lauder, Duns & Hawick) <b>(Underway)</b>	£2.9m including ERDF investment (Capital)	SBC Economic Development	Ha serviced sites	2013/14 to June 2014	Project completion date extended agreed to December 2014, due to ongoing site servicing delays.  Project will deliver 3.69 ha or 9.1 acres of new employment land, with 6 sites in Hawick (0.97 ha), 8 sites in Duns (0.95 ha), 7 sites in Lauder (0.97 ha ) and 6 sites in Coldstream (0.8 ha).

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target/ Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
<b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b>					
Marketing of Scottish Borders Employment Land sites (existing property portfolio and serviced land sites)	£10,000 (Revenue)	SBC Economic Development	No. of Enquiries % Occupancy Rate	2013/14 to June 2014	Invest in Scottish Borders advert placed in UK commercial property magazine, promoting employment land sites. Sites also being marketed on Council website. 9 enquiries received to date.
Develop 'Central Borders Business Park' (land acquisition and phased refurbishment)	Market dependent (Capital)	Private sector SBC Economic Development Scottish Enterprise	Ha. serviced sites	2013/14 to June 2015	Economic and market assessment for new business space study complete.
Facilitate development of Eyemouth 'Seafood Technology Park'	Market dependent (Capital)	Private sector SBC Economic Development SBC Estates	Ha. serviced sites	2013/14 to June 2015	Gunsgreenhill Industrial Estate extension – following completion of feasibility work, planning applications have been submitted for the first and second phase expansion, which are currently being processed. The Council has committed £250,000 and £180,000 has been approved in principle from EFF Axis 4 (FLAG) funding. The project will facilitate business moves from the Harbour Road area to Gunsgreenhill. This is linked to Eyemouth Harbour Road SPG.
Caerlee Mill Redevelopment	Market dependent	SBC Estates	Occupancy Rates	2013/14 to 2015/16	The Council has worked with Historic Scotland and produced a

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target/ Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
	(Capital)	SBC Economic Development SBC Built & Natural Heritage Historic Scotland	No. of Jobs created		planning brief to help reduce the uncertainty and risk around planning and Listed Building requirements.  Site currently for sale through the Administrators.
<b>3. DESIRED OUTCOME - Businesses have cost effective access to key infrastructure</b>					
Rollout of NGA to broadband in South of Scotland. <b>(Underway)</b>	£8.4m additional SBC investment £130k per annum on South of Scotland Broadband team (Capital & Revenue)	Scottish Government South of Scotland Alliance SBC Economic Development Community Broadband Scotland	85% premises in Borders get NGA  100% basic access	2013/14 to December 2015	The Superfast Broadband Programme is now underway. It will be delivered across Scotland through quarterly phases over the next four years. In the first phase, nearly 5,200 premises in Melrose and Selkirk will receive high speed technology for the first time, while 570 additional premises will be connected in Galashiels as a result of building upon its existing fibre broadband.
<b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b>					
Improvement of key Roads Infrastructure – A1 / A68 / A7	Options appraisal required (Capital)	Scottish Government SBC E&I	Km of road upgraded	2013/14 to 2015/16	The Council has developed a Roads Asset Management Plan to forward plan for its roads infrastructure. The RAMP links to the Council's Capital Programme. It is expected to be finalised in

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target/ Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
					March 2014.
Lobby for improvement of Mobile telecoms coverage – 3G and 4G access. Link to tourism as well as emergency/safety.	Feasibility/ demand stimulation required (Revenue)	SBC MPs/MSPs Private sector	100% 3G coverage Significant 4G coverage	2013/14 to 2015/16	The Council is liaising with Scottish Government and the UK Government to lobby for more investment from the Mobile Phone Implementation Programme (MIP) currently being run by Department of Culture Media and Sport. This topic was raised as a strategic issue when the South of Scotland Alliance met John Swinney MSP in December 2013.
Lobby for re-opening of Reston Station to enhance development of Eastern Berwickshire.	Detailed cost estimate required. Scottish Government (Scottish Stations Fund) 2014/15 (Capital)	Network Rail SBC East Lothian Council	Initial approval from Scottish Government and Transport Scotland. Funding package approved in principle.	2013/14 to 2015/16	Reston Station is a 'priced option' within the Scotrail franchise. It is intended that a proposal will be submitted to the 'New Station Fund' being run by Scottish Government.
<b>4. DESIRED OUTCOME – Activity is increased in key local sectors including textiles, tourism, food &amp; drink</b>					
Promote and market 7stanes and 'Cycle Scottish Borders' product <b>(Underway)</b>	£120k £80k (Revenue)	7stanes CIC Recreational Cycling Group	No. of marketing campaigns No. of additional visitors % increase in average stay	2013/14 to 2015/16, then self-sustaining	7stanes Business Plan is complete, with new income identified (car parking, sponsorship and 'sniper' photography) to help ensure sustainability. Potential relocation of office base to Glentress to

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target/ Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
			% increase in revenue		reduce overheads being considered.  'Cycle Scottish Borders' website and social media being regularly updated to promote cycling events.
<b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b>					
Develop Scottish Borders Textiles Enterprise Initiative	£100k (Revenue)	Scottish Government Scottish Enterprise SBC Economic Development	Net additional investment in textile companies  New markets entered	2013/14 to 2015/16	No progress.
Creative Sector Support Programme	£75k per annum (Revenue)	SBC Economic Development SBC Arts Development Business Gateway (Business Advisors) Creative Scotland	Programme delivered  No. of businesses assisted	2013/14 to 2015/16	The Business Gateway and Creative Arts Business Network (CABN) will continue to work together and deliver support to the creative sector. An interim budget allocation from existing resources to match fund an offer from Creative Scotland has ensured the continuation of CABN in 2014/15. This will ensure that the impacts for resources available are maximised and the Council is well placed to attract funding from the next EU structural funds programme from 2015 onwards.

<b>5. DESIRED OUTCOME - Recreational, retail and cultural opportunities are maximised</b>					
Events Support Programme <b>(Underway)</b>	£100,000 per annum (Revenue)	SBC Economic Development SBC SAG EventScotland	No. of National & International events No. of Event Attendances	2013/14 to 2015/16	The Council has supported 9 national and 3 international events, with a total economic impact of 8.7 million. Additional event development and digital marketing support has been delivered via LEADER, supporting training and skills development and a new online resource.
Homecoming 2014 <b>(Underway)</b>	£80,000 (Revenue)	Event organisers VisitScotland/ EventScotland SBC Economic Development	3 homecoming projects delivered Marketing activity No. of Event Attendances	2013/14 to 2014/15	3 Homecoming 2014 'signature events' being supported by EventScotland and the Council (Tweedlove, Return to the Ridings and Melrose 7s). Event attendance numbers expected to be 83,000 additional visitors, with 8,400 bednights for Return to Ridings. The Council is also assisting with the promotion of 'partner events', including Borders Book Festival.
Tourism marketing & promotion and information <b>(Underway)</b>	£115,000 (Revenue) Additional ERDF	VisitScotland Area Tourism Partnership SBC Economic Development	ROI of Campaigns Purchased Through VisitScotland ROI for Visitor Information Centres	2013/14	STEAM 2013 data shows economic impact of visitors to Scottish Borders was £85.2 million. This is up 2% from same period in 2013. Approx. 912,000 visitors to Scottish Borders in this period.  New VisitScotland marketing campaign funded by ERDF in

					<p>August 2013 targeted 'young domestic explorers'. 21,000 people visited the campaign webpages.</p> <p>New interactive visitor screens for two town centres (Galashiels and Kelso) now contracted.</p>
Textiles tourism trail <b>(Underway)</b>	No additional cost	Private Sector Textile cluster SBC Economic Development VisitScotland	Increased footfall in textile attractions	2013/14 to 2014/15	Textile Trail complete, with 25,000 leaflets distributed. SurveyMonkey has been used to collate data from visitor attractions on the trail, which estimates additional 200 customers to date.
<b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b>					
Borders Railway marketing with links to Walter Scott and Abbotsford House	£50,000 (Revenue)	Area Tourism Partnership VisitScotland SBC Economic Development	Marketing campaigns Additional visitors per annum to key attractions	2014/15 to 2015/16	<p>Borders Railway Economic Benefits Realisation Programme – a joint marketing approach has been agreed with Midlothian Council, City of Edinburgh Council and VisitScotland. It is likely to use Walter Scott connection in parts of the campaign.</p> <p>New Walter Scott Trail is being developed in similar format to Textile Trail. There will be around 17 main attractions on trail leaflet, along with map of region. Target date for completion March 2014.</p>

**6. DESIRED OUCTOME – New business and enterprise is attracted to the Borders**

**Project Pipeline – Resources Required**

<p>Inward Investment Programme - building on “Our Scottish Borders” and “Best move of your life” campaigns</p>	<p>£75,000 (Revenue)</p>	<p>SBC Economic Development Scottish Enterprise/ SDI</p>	<p>Website traffic Enquiries Jobs supported by Inward Investment Projects</p>	<p>2014/15 to 2016/17</p>	<p>This will be taken forward as part of Railway Economic Benefits Realisation Programme.  Recent work led by the Council to secure Assisted Area Status for parts of the Scottish Borders will underpin this activity.  The OSB website is currently being updated.</p>
--	------------------------------	--	---	-------------------------------	--

## B. Building on our assets

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
<b>1. DESIRED OUTCOME – The economic development potential of the Borders Railway is maximised</b>					
Implement plan to maximise the Economic opportunities of the Borders Railway. To ensure the opportunity is capitalised on and information disseminated across key sectors of the economy (Procurement, Construction etc) <b>(Underway)</b>	Use existing staff resource to support this priority area.	SBC Economic Development Business Gateway SE (Commercial property) Network Rail (Procurement) Borders College, BCIF (Training) Scottish Borders Tourism Partnership	From Action Plan	2013/14-2015	An Action Plan is in place. A Strategic Board workshop is planned for 13 Feb. Seeking more input from partners on the opportunities, but also considering any potential negative impacts.

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
Deliver Transport Interchange and Galashiels Inner- Relief Road projects <b>(Underway)</b>	£3.7m+ Including ERDF investment (Capital)	SBC E&I	Sq m of business space No. of businesses assisted	2015	Linked to maximising Borders Railway benefits. Contractor due to start construction of Transport Interchange in April/ May 2014, with project completion date May 2015. Marketing will commence off-plan once construction starts. 428 m <sup>2</sup> of high quality SME office space will be created.  Galashiels Inner-relief road linked Infrastructure is near completion with new entrance to town centre opening April 2014.
<b>2. DESIRED OUTCOME – FE/HE links with business are developed at the Scottish Borders Campus</b>					
Build new business relationships with Heriot-Watt University locally and at main Riccarton Campus.	No additional resource	SBC Economic Development	Regular communication between HWU and CPP	2013/14	Meeting held with HWU senior officials and Cllr Bell. Focus on opportunities around the campus and the potential of the new student accommodation.

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
<b>3. DESIRD OUTCOME – Vibrant Town Centres</b>					
Deliver Selkirk CARS town centre regeneration project <b>(Underway)</b>	£1.2million including Historic Scotland investment (Capital)	SBC Built & Natural Heritage SBC Economic Development Selkirk Regeneration Company	Sq m of business space No. of businesses assisted Occupancy Footfall Visitor Numbers	2017	<b>Selkirk Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme</b> (Selkirk CARS) was formally launched at “The Future of Selkirk” community event on Saturday 2 November 2013. The five year partnership project, developed by Scottish Borders Council, successfully obtained £795,000 funding from Historic Scotland for a heritage led regeneration project for Selkirk town centre. The Council has provided grant funding to Selkirk Chamber of Trade for town centre regeneration activity, including extension of the successful Selkirk pop up shops initiative and a contribution for the development phase of a BIDS (Business Improvement District Scotland) business plan.
Deliver Kelso Town Centre Business Hub <b>(Underway)</b>	£800,000 including ERDF investment (Capital)	SBC Built & Natural Heritage SBC Economic Development Future Kelso	Sq m of business space No. of businesses assisted Occupancy Footfall Visitor Numbers	2015	Building due for completion in June 2014. It will provide 342 m <sup>2</sup> of new business space, a bus interchange and tourist information.

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
Review Town Centre Retail Policy <b>(Underway)</b>	No additional cost	SBC Forward Plans	Policy updated to encourage retail and non-retail uses  Increased investment in town centres  Increased town centre footfall	Ongoing	Revised town centre policies have been included in the Local Development Plan. These aim to shift the balance between retailing and other town centre activity.
<b>4. DESIRED OUTCOME – Rural land-use is integrated</b>					
Undertake Scottish Government pilot Regional Land Use Strategy <b>(Underway)</b>	£215,000 Scottish Govt grant  (Revenue)	SBC Built and Natural Heritage  Tweed Forum  A Working Countryside	Plan in place	2013/14 – 2015/16	The Council is working with Tweed Forum to run a pilot Land Use Strategy project on behalf of Scottish Government. The Stage 1 mapping exercise has been completed and the Main Issues Report should be available by April 2014.
<b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b>					

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
Deliver Innerleithen Aim Up Bike Park Project	£5.5m (Capital)	AIM Up (Management) FCS SBC Economic Development Scottish Enterprise VisitScotland Potential Lottery and SRDP investment SportScotland	Bike Park development Marketing actions Visitor Numbers	2015	Identifying a deliverable funding package is the key next step. Council officers are providing support to the Group in relation to Lottery and EU funding sources.
<b>5. DESIRED OUTCOME – A framework is provided for communities to contribute to economic growth</b>					
Deliver 2007-2013 LEADER Programme (Underway)	£4.5 million EAFRD investment (Revenue)	SBC Economic Development A Working Countryside	70 local rural development projects supported	2014/15- 2015/16	The current LEADER Programme has until July 2014 to complete all projects and submit outstanding claims. Funding rounds for the new programme will not commence until January 2015 at the earliest
Deliver Fisheries Local Action Group (EFF Axis 4 funding) Programme (Underway)	£800,000 Including EFF investment (Revenue)	Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) Private sector	No of projects supported in Berwickshire Coast	2013/14 to 2015	FLAG funds are 86% committed, with a final £95,000 to be committed to projects in the pipeline. The final deadline for project approvals is 30 June 2014, and project spent deadline 30 June 2015.

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
Develop Newtown St Boswells Development Framework <b>(Underway)</b>	No additional cost	SBC Plans & Research	Supplementary Planning Guidance in place	2013/14-2015/15	Development Framework in place. Bid submitted to the Council's Capital Programme for village centre re-development. Revised options appraisal on school site complete.  Linked to potential private sector redeveloped Auction Mart site.
Develop Eyemouth Harbour Development Framework <b>(Underway)</b>	The actions identified as part of the Framework will require additional resources	SBC Plans & Research	Supplementary Planning Guidance in place	2013/14-2015/15	The Council has produced a Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document for the Harbour Road area of Eyemouth. The document is currently out for public consultation. It links to one of the key issues in the 'Town Framework'.

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
Deliver 'Whole Town Plans' <b>(Underway)</b>	No additional cost	CPP partners Local town centre regeneration organisations	Delivery of Action Plans for each key centre – following Eyemouth pilot Retail footfall Town Centre vacancy rates	2013/14 – 2013/14	<p>A short, accessible, 'Framework' rather than 'Plan' has been produced for Eyemouth with input from the community and CPP partners. The draft document has been accepted by key community contacts and is to be tested in Community Open Days in February and March 2014. Helen Forsyth, BHA, has chaired a number of meetings of the key local stakeholders. Actions are being taken forward around:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Community Open Days</li> <li>2) Supplementary Planning Guidance for Harbour Road area.</li> <li>3) Marketing for the town – led by the Chamber of Trade.</li> <li>4) Signage on the A1.</li> </ol> <p>The Council and NHS Borders have also begun working with Scottish Futures Trust to identify possible property related opportunities in Eyemouth, using the information collected earlier in the 'whole town' process.</p>

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
<b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b>					
Develop new Scottish Borders LEADER Programme 2014 - 2020	EAFRD investment  Match funding required (Revenue)	SBC Economic Development  A Working Countryside	New Programme approved by Scottish Government	2013/14	The Scottish Borders LAG has been awarded a small grant to prepare and consult on a local development strategy and business plan for the LEADER and FLAG 2014-2020 programmes. The aim is to have draft documents ready for submission in June 2014.

## C. Developing the workforce of the future

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
<b>1. DESIRED OUTCOME – Increase young people and other job seekers are supported into employment</b>					
Develop Employability Support Pipeline <b>(Underway)</b>	No additional cost  (Supported by national Employability Fund)	Skills Development Scotland  Job Centre Plus  FE/HE Institutions  SBC ELL	Unemployed People Participating in Employability & Skills Programmes  Unemployed People Assisted into Employment	2014/15	The 'Opportunities For All' group will ensure that the Youth Employment Action Plan is refreshed and updated to capture changes in service provision and activity.  December 2013 JobSeekers figures show a 23.1% reduction in the 18-24 unemployment rate since December 2012
Deliver 'Youth Employment Scotland' funded local employment recruitment incentive <b>(Underway)</b>	£250,000 including ESF/ Scottish Government funding	SBC Economic Development  Business Gateway	Unemployed People Assisted into Employment (80 work placements target)	2014/15 – 2015/16	Youth Employment Scotland Scheme - Since the formal launch in October 2013, 33 grant commitments have been issued with a further potential 15 in the next 2-3 weeks. The grant scheme will support up to 80 job placements to encourage local businesses to create new jobs for unemployed young people. All placements / grant offers must be made by 31 March 2014. This support complements existing SDS and JCP employer recruitment incentives.

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
<b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b>					
Develop a Local Skills Plan – with effective links between skills supply and demand	No additional cost	Borders Learning and Skills Partnership Skills Development Scotland Job Centre Plus FE/HE Institutions SBC ELL	There is a clear plan outlining demand for skills	2013/14-2014/15	SDS has been working on regional skills assessments to identify gaps and opportunities linked to College Outcome Agreements. Our Local Skills Plan will be derived from the regional assessment.  Funding for a Skills and Employability Coordinator secured from the Council.
Prepare school leavers for world of work, linked to Curriculum for Excellence	Additional costs  (Revenue)	SBC ELL Skills Development Scotland	Increased levels of youth employment  Increased proportion of 'positive' leaver destinations (current target 90%)	2014/15-2015/16	All schools are using the SDS website – My World of Work. This includes a partner zone on the site for teachers to use as a resource.  Some Borders schools have been offered places on the 'Academy' model that has been developed in East & Mid Lothian. This encourages young people to consider careers in a range of sectors.

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
Improve access to learning and skills opportunities for young people in the Eyemouth/East Berwickshire area	Additional costs (Revenue)	Borders Learning and Skills Partnership Skills Development Scotland FE Institutions	Increased access to appropriate vocational skills	2013/14-2015/16	Employability skills provision is factored in as part of the co-commissioning process for the SDS Employability Fund.  Further work is required to define how this action can be taken forward.
'Scottish Borders Guarantee' – apprenticeships, internships and graduate placements for young people	£100,000 (Revenue)	CPP partners Job Centre Plus Skills Development Scotland FE/HE Institutions	Unemployed People Participating in Employability & Skills Programmes  Unemployed People Assisted into Employment	2014/15-2015/16	The Council is in the process of introducing a new policy in relation to the work experience and apprenticeship opportunities that it can offer young people and other disadvantaged client groups. Other CPP partners, including NHS Borders, are also providing additional opportunities for young people.  Further work is required to develop a wider 'Scottish Borders Guarantee'.

**2. DESIRED OUTCOME – Employers are supported to address skills deficiencies in response to current and future need**

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
Engage with employers to identify workforce development training needs in key sectors – land based industries, textiles, tourism and food and drink sectors <b>(linked to Local Skills Plan)</b>	£250,000 (Revenue)	Skills Development Scotland Sector Skills Councils Borders College Business Gateway Job Centre Plus	Sectoral programmes developed (new and existing) - Scottish Qualifications Framework-accredited  Informed by Textiles Pilot Modern Apprenticeship (MA) evaluation	2014/15-2015/16	SDS, DWP, SBC and Borders College have been working together to simplify the 'employer offer' and to promote it more effectively. This aims to make it easier for local businesses to gain support for training and skills development.
<b>3. DESIRED OUTCOME – Talented and entrepreneurial people who place high value on access and quality of life are attracted to the Borders</b>					
<b>4. DESIRED OUTCOME – New entrepreneurial and business skills are developed</b>					
Business Gateway and Inward Investment Actions contribute to delivering these Objectives					Both of these Desired Outcomes are being addressed through earlier Business Gateway and Inward Investment Actions.

## D. Providing leadership

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
<b>1. DESIRED OUTCOME – Transition to a low carbon economy is encouraged and supported</b>					
Develop a Low Carbon Economic Strategy for the Scottish Borders <b>(Underway)</b>	No additional cost	SBC Economic Development CPP Partners	Approved Low Carbon Economic Strategy	2013/14	Completed. Approved by Strategic Board in October 2013.
<b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b>					
Energy efficiency skills development programme for businesses	£50,000 (Revenue)	SBC Economic Development Private sector Business Gateway Borders College SDS	No. of businesses assisted Increase in Profitability	2014/15- 2015/16	This action will be considered by the Learning and Skills Partnership and is linked to Business Gateway delivery on resource efficiency.
Development of renewable energy demonstration projects. Focus on farm scale renewables in the first instance	£tbc (Capital)	SBC Economic Development Borders Environment Agency Borders College Private sector	Increase in renewables sector GVA	2014/15- 2015/16	Business Gateway has continued to work with individuals, businesses and organisations firstly to develop awareness and interest in renewables, the majority are farm scale and/ or farm based. This has led to other secondary business opportunities both from without and within the Borders in supporting these renewable projects

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
<b>2. DESIRED OUTCOME – The case for the Scottish Borders is promoted at Scottish, UK and EU levels</b>					
Scottish Borders Business Forum is established formed by the business organisations, reflecting business leadership and priorities. <b>(Underway)</b>	£2,000 (Revenue)	Chambers of Commerce/ Federation of Small Businesses / Sector Groups  SBC Economic Development	Delivery and support of a functioning business forum	2014/15	Scottish Borders Business Forum (SBBF) is established and has organised three events to date, discussing Broadband connectivity, roads investment and housing construction.
Lobby for special assistance at NUTS3 level to overcome the disadvantage in attracting investment <b>(Underway)</b>	No additional cost	MPs MSPs	Regional Selective Assistance status	2014/15-2015/16	A joint response submitted to the UK Government's 'Regional Aid – Assisted Area' consultation to make the case for parts of the South of Scotland to be included as an 'Assisted Area' has been successful, with the majority of the core area being included on the draft 2014-2020 map. This work was led by Scottish Borders Council on behalf of Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Midlothian and East Lothian Councils. A stage 2 consultation response will be submitted by 7 February.

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
Lobby to ensure representation of the area in Scotland and Europe <b>(Underway)</b>	No additional cost	MPs, MSPs South of Scotland Alliance Scottish Borders Council SBC Economic Development Scottish Enterprise	External funding leverage for economic development	2014/15-2015/16	Officers and Members Involved in national discussions and stakeholder groups for development of new EU Programmes – Structural Funds, Common Agricultural Policy and Scotland’s Rural Development Programme, LEADER, European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.
<b>3. DESIRED OUTCOME – Budgets and activities are coordinated with collaboration across CPP</b>					
<b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b>					
The Scottish Borders develops a case internally and externally for match funding for priority projects to be funded under new 2014-2020 EU Programmes	£5m match fund (Revenue & Capital)	CPP – agencies Private sector	£ Leverage	2014/15	At the South of Scotland Alliance’s meeting with Mr John Swinney MSP in December 2013, it was agreed that a Rural Economic Development Programme for the South of Scotland should be prepared and presented to Scottish Government. The Programme will focus on a small number of key strategic economic development interventions.

Action	Resource	Who	3-year Target Measure	Timescale	Progress Update
Provide regular communication on developments in the Scottish Borders for a range of key stakeholder groups	No additional cost	SBC Economic Development  SBC Communications team	Participation and buy in to Economic Strategy from all relevant stakeholders	Ongoing	FSB and SBCC represented on Council's Economic Development Group. Economic Development Update circulated to FSB and SBCC members. Economic Development bulletin produced Monthly and circulated widely to businesses and other stakeholders. Twitter feed 'Our Scottish Borders' updated regularly.
<b>4. DESIRED OUTCOME – Spending by Community Planning Partners has a positive impact on the economy</b>					
Public sector procurement reform	No additional cost	CPP agencies (Procurement sections): SBC NHS Borders College	% contracts delivered by local companies	2014/15-2015/16	Baseline - 38% SBC spending via local suppliers.  New SBC Procurement Policy in development.

---

**Report by Chief Executive**

---

**Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023 –  
Action Plan Update**

**13 February 2014**

---

**1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 **This report updates the Board on progress against the actions set out in the Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023 which was agreed in October 2013.**
- 1.2 The Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023 sets out a series of strategic aims and initiatives which form the first steps in the transition towards a low carbon economy for the Scottish Borders. The strategic aims and objectives are aligned to the priorities identified by the Community Planning Partnership and Single Outcome Agreement.
- 1.3 Good progress has been made in delivering the actions set out in the Action Plan (Appendix 1), but some areas of activity require additional partner focus, and in some instances, significant additional resources.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Community Planning Partnership :-**
  - (a) **Note the positive progress made in relation to the Low Carbon Economic Strategy Action Plan;**
  - (b) **Discusses and agrees how to realign partner's resources to deliver these priorities; and**
  - (c) **Considers how best to embed low carbon economy issues within partner's strategies and operating plans.**

### 3 LOW CARBON ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2023 - BACKGROUND

3.1 The Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023 sets out the context for the transition to a low carbon economy at international, national and local levels. Movement towards a Low Carbon Economy is a key feature of European, United Kingdom and Scottish Parliaments' policy frameworks and the development of a Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy is central to the future of the area's economy. By acting now, the area can begin to secure the benefits of this transition and prepare for the challenges which will be faced by our businesses and communities.

3.2 The strategy outlines a series of strategic aims and initiatives to deliver the key priorities identified by the Community Planning Partnership. The agreed vision is:

'By 2023 the Scottish Borders will have a more resilient low carbon economy. By supporting businesses and communities to reduce their carbon footprint our business competitiveness and quality of life will be improved.'

3.3 In order to achieve this vision, the Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy is framed around a series of strategic aims, which will contribute to the national aspirations set out by the Scottish Government:

**1. Improve business competitiveness** – by addressing resource efficiency and costs within local businesses, and by exploiting low carbon business opportunities in supply chains and new markets.

**2. Improve residents' quality of life** – by addressing fuel poverty and encouraging behaviour to change towards lower carbon lifestyles, supporting individuals to develop new low carbon related skills and localisation of service access.

**3. Adapt our infrastructure** – to encourage a low carbon built environment that will reduce carbon emissions and is better prepared for changing weather patterns including extreme weather events.

**4. Increase Community Resilience** – by working with our communities to meet future climate related challenges.

The Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy is aimed at any organisation operating in the Scottish Borders which wishes to take part in the transition to a low carbon area. It is hoped that these partners will include businesses, community and voluntary organisations, and individuals, as well as government bodies. The process of driving forward implementation of the strategy will be led by the Economy and Infrastructure Theme within the Community Planning Partnership.

### 4 ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE

4.1 The Action Plan acknowledged the challenge of how to demonstrate ambition and aspiration whilst at the same time recognising the resource constraints in the public sector, now and in the future. The Action Plan achieved this by setting out those actions which had resources and were part of planned activity by CPP partners (covered by a 'tint') and separating those actions which were part of a 'Project Pipeline' where resources had

still to be identified. Since the Strategy was published in October 2013, some progress has been made on the 'resourced' actions and all of the 'Project Pipeline' actions have also been progressed to some extent.

- 4.2 Officers have used a simple Red/Amber/Green marking on the attached Action Plan Update (Appendix 1) to highlight the status of the action. The categorisation is subjective, but Red equates to no progress, or concerns about the level of resources required; Amber equates to some progress, but not as anticipated; and Green equates to 'on track'.
- 4.3 Overall, there is a sense of progress against the resourced actions with progress being made against all of these actions. Examples of good progress include the Business Gateway Plus action around low carbon advice for businesses; good progress with domestic energy efficiency measures through the Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland; and significant activity being delivered by the Registered Social Landlords.
- 4.4 The Community Planning Partnership agreed that there were five 'Strategic Initiatives' that should receive a particular focus. Although there is progress to report on all of these, officers are aware that these are major initiatives that will require significant additional resources in future. The partners will have to work even more closely together in future to identify creative ways of successfully securing these additional resources.

## 5 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council, and its Community Planning Partners, will need to continue the dialogue around which of the actions identified in the Project Pipeline will be highest priority and where they will be able to justify targeting resources towards them. It should be noted that limitations on future public spending may place constraints on the delivery of the Action Plan. In view of this it is expected that the Action Plan will be reviewed and updated in October 2014 to allow it to reflect shifting priorities and resources.

### Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Bryan McGrath	Head of Economic Development & Environment, Scottish Borders Council, 01835 826525

## SCOTTISH BORDERS LOW CARBON ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2023 - ACTION PLAN

**Aim A. Improve business competitiveness** – work with local business to increase resource efficiency, and provide assistance to exploit low carbon business opportunities for instance in supply chains and new markets.

**Strategic Initiatives** – Building the Low Carbon Knowledge and Skills Base

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
<b>Objective 1: To ensure that businesses can easily access carbon reduction support</b> - thereby increasing competitiveness.					
Deliver 'Business Gateway Plus' services <b>(Underway)</b>	Business Gateway delivery –additional ERDF resources secured	SBC (Economic Development)	Integration of low carbon advice into business support to all clients	Sept 2013 - Mar 2015	Additional Business Gateway Plus advisers now in post. Resource Efficient Scotland working with Business Gateway service to offer low carbon advice to local businesses to increase efficiency. RES led training session with advisers scheduled for 26 Feb 2014.
<b>Objective 2: To increase business awareness of low carbon opportunities</b> - develop and deliver awareness and engagement programmes for local businesses which increases knowledge and capacity to deliver changes in business activity.					
Deliver support via Business Gateway and Scottish Enterprise to highlight low carbon opportunities <b>(Underway)</b>	Business Gateway delivery –additional ERDF resources secured, Scottish Enterprise staff/consultancy support	SBC (Economic Development), Scottish Enterprise	Number of businesses supported/developing new business proposals.	Ongoing	Additional Business Gateway Plus advisers now in post. Resource Efficient Scotland to work with Business Gateway service to offer specific key sector support to local businesses, e.g. tourism, food & drink, creative sector.

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
<p><b>Objective 3: To develop the renewable energy sector which maximises economic and social benefits to the area</b> – to develop a strategic approach to the delivery of all scales of renewable energy schemes.</p>					
<p>Work with Community Energy Scotland to assess renewable energy generation opportunities for the Council <b>(Underway)</b></p>	<p>Staff resource to assess investment opportunities</p>	<p>SBC (Strategic Policy)/Chief Financial Officer</p>	<p>Identification of renewable energy options for the Council</p>	<p>by March 2014</p>	<p>Assessment of potential for photovoltaic panel installation in SBC premises completed Dec 2013. Recommendations are being considered.  Council currently developing brief for assessment of biomass heating potential in Council buildings.</p>
<p>Complete feasibility assessment for provision of kiln drying facilities for local timber and progress recommendations <b>(Underway)</b></p>	<p>Staff resource to progress recommendations</p>	<p>SBC (Built &amp; Natural Heritage/Economic Development – Business Gateway)</p>	<p>Assess economic opportunities offered by kiln drying facility and potential partners</p>	<p>by Dec 2013</p>	<p>Feasibility assessment completed Jan 2014 with indications that business models are viable.  A partner working group (SBC/Scottish Enterprise) is proposing a seminar to release the information to the market.  Study recommended that Council could consider potential for biomass use within SBC estate to generate demand for fuel.</p>

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
<p><b>Objective 4: To develop a workforce equipped with low carbon skills and awareness</b> – to ensure that we are equipping our current and future workforce with skills for success in a low carbon future. This covers overall resource efficiency, adaptation to new technologies and techniques including renewable energy generation.</p>					
<b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b>					
Support delivery of programme of low carbon training opportunities with Borders College	Additional cost to Borders College	Borders College /SBC (Economic Development)/Scottish Enterprise/Skills Development Scotland	Training courses delivered and increase in number of trained individuals.	by Aug 2015	Draft Action Plan for this Objective has been produced and will be considered by Learning and Skills Partnership.
Deliver energy efficiency skills development programme for businesses (Identified in Scottish Borders Economic Strategy Action Plan)	£50,000 (Revenue)	SBC (Economic Development) /Private Sector/Business Gateway/Borders College /SDS	Number of businesses assisted  Increase in profitability	2014/15-2015/16	This action will be considered by the Learning and Skills Partnership and is linked to Business Gateway delivery on resource efficiency.

**Aim B: Improve residents' quality of life** – assist individuals and communities to access advice and financial support to reduce domestic energy use, waste and unnecessary travel

**Strategic Initiatives** - District Heating Schemes – Easter Langlee Pilot  
Fuel Poverty Delivery Plan

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
<b>Objective 1: To ensure greater uptake of energy support</b> - to improve the energy efficiency of homes, delivering economic benefits and tackling fuel poverty.					
Deliver Home Energy Efficiency Programme (Implementation of Fuel Poverty Delivery Plan) <b>(Yr 1 underway)</b>	Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland (HEEPS) S Govt funds.	SBC (Housing Strategy)	Number home energy efficiency measures installed in the private sector, or number of referrals to the Home Energy Scotland hotline	by March 2016 (full programme by 2023)	In 2013/14 1,348 properties will receive insulation measures through Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland, funded by Scottish Govt, Energy Company Obligation and RSL contributions – total cost £5,306,999.
Berwickshire Housing Association (BHA) to develop 3 Turbine Wind Farm <b>(Underway)</b>		BHA, Projects Manager	Generate income to assist in funding new homes and provide community support		Grid connection issues being addressed, with connection potentially available by March 2015.
Develop local Energy Services Company (ESCO) for Berwickshire <b>(Underway)</b>	BHA staff resource	BHA, Projects Manager	Provide lower cost fuel to tenants and others	March 2014	Proposal for joint ESCO establishment with 7 other housing associations, positive initial feasibility study will lead to development of detailed business plan. Delivery of energy services to principally social rented properties.

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
Deliver programme of energy efficiency improvements to BHA properties including renewable energy technologies <b>(Underway)</b>	Energy Company Obligation /Renewable Heat Incentive/BHA funding	Berwickshire Housing Association Technical Services/utilities companies	Increase thermal efficiency of houses and reduce carbon emissions	March 2015	BHA is currently piloting a new form of thermal heat store to 6 properties that incorporates renewable technology. BHA is also providing or improving external wall insulation (EWI) and cavity wall insulation (CWI) to circa 160 houses with assistance from Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding. BHA is monitoring running costs of various renewable heating systems to identify the most suitable for off gas grid homes.
Further develop programme of energy advice for BHA tenants <b>(Underway)</b>		BHA Technical Services	Assist in reducing energy use	Ongoing and by March 2016	BHA issues guidelines on fuel efficiency on an annual basis. BHA also hold energy advice sessions with external bodies such as Home Energy Scotland (HES) and fuel suppliers. BHA encourage tenants to contact HES to arrange individual visits and assessments. Staff visits to tenants by arrangement to assess energy consumption and recommend energy reduction advice.
Ensure all Eildon Housing stock achieves energy standard contained within the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) and begin preparation for Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (E.S.H.H.) <b>(Underway)</b>	Eildon Housing funds/Energy Company Obligation funding	Eildon Housing	Identify shortfalls and develop implementation programme for achieving E.E.S.S.H. by 2020	Ongoing	Eildon Housing stock condition survey has been concluded, 49 properties failed to achieve the Sap rating required for SHQS. Measures are currently being undertaken to address this failing in 30 of these properties. The remaining properties are of non-traditional construction in mixed tenure blocks and review is currently underway to identify best options to ensure properties meet

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
					the required standard.
Ensure all Waverley Housing stock achieves energy standard contained within the SHQS and begin preparation for E.E.S.H.H. <b>(Underway)</b>	Waverley Housing funds/Energy Company Obligation funding	Waverley Housing		Nov 2014	Waverley Housing to update on progress
Complete options appraisal across Waverley Housing Association stock for retrofit of solar panels <b>(Underway)</b>	Waverley Housing staff resource	Waverley Housing		March 2014	Waverley Housing to update on progress
Scottish Borders Housing Association (SBHA) to provide Welfare Benefits and Financial Support advice	SBHA staff	SBHA' Welfare Benefits and Financial Support Services	Number of RSL Tenants who are supported or referred to services and level of income generated	Ongoing	SBHA supported 348 households and generated £218,000 in additional income for these Tenants in 2012-13 (£626 per household)

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
<b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b>					
Develop district heating scheme at Easter Langlee	Staff resource to secure investment	SBC (Environment and Infrastructure/ Economic Development/ Forward Planning /Chief Executives /)	Feasibility study/Option Appraisal in place to define the strategy for scheme implementation and growth.  This will include clarity on project funding	by Dec 2017	Awaiting the completion of the Easter Langlee Waste project, but also the strategy and customer base will have to be in place to allow the roll out of the project. Operational aspiration of 2020.

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
<p><b>Objective 2: To increase access to low carbon transport and communications opportunities</b> – to help reduce the need to travel and assist flexible and mobile working practices.</p>					
<p>Provide electric vehicle recharging points <b>(Underway)</b></p>	<p>SBC Staff Resource/S Govt support</p>	<p>SBC (Fleet Management)</p>	<p>Number of recharging points installed</p>	<p>16 points currently installed 4 planned 2013/14</p>	<p>Rapid charger to be installed at Hawick by end March 2014. Two further sites identified for Rapid chargers at Coldstream and Eyemouth require power supply upgrade by Scottish Power Energy network to be installed in 2014.</p> <p>Additional grant funding has been supplied to upgrade the existing rapid chargers at Newtown and Peebles to meet charging requirements for new generation vehicles</p>
<p>Development of strategy to deliver range of innovative, integrated, value for money transport options for Scottish Borders residents which will reduce the carbon footprint of individuals and the public sector. <b>(Underway)</b></p>	<p>Consultancy contract in place.</p>	<p>SBC (Chief Executives)</p>	<p>Development of agreed strategy to deliver low carbon transport options.</p>	<p>Initial proposals by end Dec 2013</p>	<p>Findings of Sustainable Transport Review and proposed way forward/recommendations were presented to Joint Delivery Team on 22nd January 2014.</p> <p>Recommendations are to:</p> <p>Establish a Transport Commissioning Board, and mandate transport data &amp; information sharing arrangements between partners.</p>

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
Delivery of Next Generation Broadband Programme <b>(Resources Committed)</b>	Scottish Government/Local Authority support	South of Scotland Alliance	90% + coverage	Delivery by 2016	The Superfast Broadband Programme is now underway. It will be delivered across Scotland through quarterly phases over the next four years. In the first phase, nearly 5,200 premises in Melrose and Selkirk will receive high speed technology for the first time, while 570 additional premises will be connected in Galashiels as a result of building upon its existing fibre broadband.

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
<b>Objective 3: To support communities to develop local energy generation schemes</b> – to develop a localised decentralised energy network, which provides secure, low carbon supply, generates income for the community and offers local employment opportunities.					
Work with Community Energy Scotland (CES) to increase number of community energy projects <b>(Underway)</b>	SBC staff resource	SBC (Chief Executives)	Increase in number of communities pursuing local energy generation projects	Ongoing	9 community projects being supported by CES, 2 hydro and 7 wind generation projects.

**Aim C. Adapting our infrastructure** - encourage a low carbon built environment that will reduce emissions, and is prepared for changing weather patterns including extreme weather events.

**Strategic Initiative** - Flood Risk Management

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
<p><b>Objective 1: To pursue developments which deliver low carbon buildings and sustainable places</b> – to access the opportunities presented by a holistic approach to reduce emissions and change behaviours and an area where there are both low carbon opportunities and challenges for businesses, investors and householders.</p>					
<p>SBC to lead delivery of Flood Risk Management Strategy scheme in Galashiels</p> <p><b>(Underway)</b></p>	<p>£2m Scottish Government funds committed</p>	<p>SBC (Environment &amp; Infrastructure)</p>	<p>Reduced flood risk in Galashiels</p>	<p>Completion end Aug 2014</p>	<p>£2.9 m Scottish Government committed</p> <p>Natural Flood Management measures completed in Gala Water catchment at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hangingshaws</li> <li>- Crookston</li> <li>- Airhouse</li> <li>- Halkburn</li> <li>- Stagehall</li> </ul> <p>Galashiels Flood Prevention Scheme works will all be completed by end of September 2014.</p>
<p>SBC to continue delivery of energy upgrade programme for its own buildings and streetlighting</p> <p><b>(Underway)</b></p>	<p>£335k (Buildings)</p> <p>£5.5m (Streetlighting 5yr</p>	<p>SBC (Environment &amp; Infrastructure/Chief Executives)</p>	<p>Improved energy efficiency within SBC estate</p>	<p>2013/14 (Buildings)</p> <p>2014/15 -</p>	<p>Programme of upgrades are on schedule with budget on target to spend allocation by end FY 2013-14. A further £335k has been allocated for FY 2014/15. Project is still on programme to begin replacing 13,500 luminaires on the 1st April 2014. Trials are currently being undertaken in various locations to</p>

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
	Programme)			2019/20 (Streetlighting)	identify the most suitable materials to be used to ensure the aims of the project are met.
SBC to implement Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on sustainable design and construction <b>(Underway)</b>	SBC staff resource	SBC (Planning & Regulatory Services)	Delivery of good design practice	Ongoing	Placemaking and Design SPG, produced in 2010 is key tool to support delivery of local sustainable developments. SBC Planning Peer Review Group is undertaking a review of implementation of this SPG to drive forward improved standards, including sustainable construction.
<b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b>					
SBC to lead delivery of Flood Risk Management Strategy schemes in Selkirk and Hawick	SBC staff resource to secure Scottish Government funding	SBC (Environment & Infrastructure)	Reduced flood risk in Selkirk and Hawick	Selkirk completion 2016/17  Hawick completion 2020/21	Bid submitted to Scottish Government for funding of Selkirk scheme (response expected March 2014)
Ensure inclusion of local heat networks through Local Development Plan	SBC staff resource	SBC (Forward Planning)	Prepare local strategy for installation of local schemes	by Mar 2014	The principle of heat mapping is reflected in the Local Development Plan. The potential for future use is dependent upon the output of work currently being undertaken by the Scottish Government.

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
<b>Objective 2: To adapt our buildings and infrastructure to climate change</b> - to ensure that the buildings and infrastructure of the Borders are prepared to meet the challenges of a changing climate					
<b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b>					
SBC to develop Adaptation Plan to climate proof SBC buildings and infrastructure against changing weather patterns and extreme weather events. SBC to offer support to local partners in adaptation planning.	SBC staff resource	SBC (Environment & Infrastructure Dept)/Adaptation Scotland	Adaptation plan produced. Improved ability to predict climate change impacts and plan/resource response	by 2015	SBC officers supported Adaptation Scotland in the development of national guidance on climate change adaptation for Local Authorities. SBC now in a position to establish Adaptation Programme for Council anticipated spring 2014.

**Aim D. Increasing Community Resilience** - Work with our communities to meet future challenges.

**Strategic Initiative** - Community Climate Resilience

Action	Resource	Who	3 Yr Target/Measures	Timescale/On Target	Progress
<p><b>Objective 1: To ensure communities are resilient to a changing climate</b> - to increase the resilience of our communities to withstand future challenges of altered weather patterns, extreme weather events, food security, transport issues and access to essential services.</p>					
<p><b>Project Pipeline – Resources Required</b></p>					
<p>Support development of community resilience action plans to include low carbon skills, transportation, essential supplies, medical needs, etc.</p>	<p>SBC &amp; partners staff resource</p>	<p>SBC (Chief Executives /Environment &amp; Infrastructure Dept) /NHS/Police Scotland</p>	<p>Extended resilience plan approved</p>	<p>by Mar 2014</p>	<p>As of January 2014 there are 22 'resilient communities', with their own plans, equipment and group of volunteers. A further 27 communities are progressing towards operational status. This work helps communities to respond to emergency situations. Officers are assessing the potential to include wider climate change resilience activity with this programme.</p>



SCOTTISH

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

# LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN FOR SCOTTISH BORDERS

2014-2017

Draft for Consultation

**Working together  
for a safer Scotland**

 Scottish  
Borders  
COUNCIL

## FOREWORD

Welcome to Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) local delivery plan for the Scottish Borders. I have the responsibility for preparing this plan, securing the agreement of the Local Authority to it and being held to account for the SFRS performance in the Scottish Borders. The plan, and indeed our strategies for service delivery are clearly aligned to the Community Planning Structure, as it is through building on our partnership activities that we will continue to contribute to the delivery of sustainable improvements in the safety of the communities we serve. This reflects our stated purpose as set out in the SFRS Strategic Plan.

We will continue to analyse both historical and predictive activity, and socio-demographic data and trends, to target resources to where they are most required and work to reduce inequalities across the area. It is our duty to consider the strategic priorities for SFRS in the context of local circumstances and we remain committed to delivering local solutions where the community requires the most assistance. Through working in partnership with organisations to gain a shared understanding of local issues we will work together to deliver solutions without duplication of effort to help to build strong, safe and resilient communities within the Scottish Borders.

I am committed to ensuring that our services are delivered with the dignity and respect of everyone in mind and with consideration of the rich diversity of communities across the Scottish Borders in supporting both community and firefighter safety.



**Peter Heath, Local Senior Officer  
Midlothian, East Lothian & Scottish Borders**

1	<i>Tweeddale West</i>
2	<i>Tweeddale East</i>
3	<i>Galashiels and District</i>
4	<i>Selkirkshire</i>
5	<i>Leaderdale and Melrose</i>
6	<i>Mid Berwickshire</i>
7	<i>East Berwickshire</i>
8	<i>Kelso and District</i>
9	<i>Jedburgh and District</i>
10	<i>Hawick and Denholm</i>
11	<i>Hawick and Hermitage</i>



## Council Ward Plan of Scottish Borders

## Contents

Introduction.....	4
Strategic Assessment.....	5
<i>Our values</i> .....	6
Local Assessment .....	7
Local Operational Assessment .....	8
Local Risk Profile.....	9
<b>PRIORITIES, ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES</b> .....	10
1. Reduction of dwelling fires.....	10
2. Reduction of fire casualties and fatalities.....	11
3. Reduction of deliberate fire setting (not including Dwellings) .....	12
4. Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions.....	13
5. Reduction of unwanted fire signals .....	14
Achieving Local Outcomes .....	15
Performance and Accountability .....	16
Local Scrutiny and Engagement.....	16
Low carbon Scotland: Meeting the emissions targets 2010 – 2022 .....	16
Review .....	17
Contact us .....	17
Local Plan priorities cross-referenced to key outcome sources; National, Local, SFRS and Equality Outcomes. ....	18
Glossary of Terms.....	19

## Introduction

This plan provides information on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS) priorities in relation to the Scottish Borders and how their contribution to community safety will be measured. The Community Planning Partnership arrangements that exist across the Scottish Borders are the overall framework within which the SFRS delivers its services to local communities. By working with others, we aim to strengthen our connection with local authorities and other partners to ensure we meet the aspirations of the communities we serve.

The SFRS strategic Plan 2013-2016 sets out the four key aims of the SFRS and supports the SFRS Framework. This local plan takes full account of the aims and performance measures contained within these documents and the wider priorities of the local authority Community Planning Partnership.

The direction is supported by National strategic objectives to make Scotland a wealthier & fairer, smarter, healthier, safer and stronger and greener place. Through a concordat between the Scottish Government and the Convention for Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the strategic objectives have been extended into single outcome agreements, which include indicators and targets that provide the framework for how local authorities and their community planning partners such as the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will deliver services.

In addition to the performance framework, compliance with legislation governing the SFRS, such as the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and the Fire and Rescue Service Framework for Scotland 2013 require the SFRS to deliver core services. These include, prevention and protection, enforcement of fire safety legislation, firefighting, fire investigation and rescue from a range of other hazardous situations.

A vast majority of respondents in the recent Scottish Borders household survey indicated that they satisfied with the service provided by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. They also felt they were provided with enough information to make them feel safe from fire in their own homes.

The Local Senior Officer leads a team of local managers whose job it is to work within local communities and ensure that the SFRS continues to deliver a high quality service and play its part in delivering better outcomes. They will contribute positively to improving outcomes and reduce inequalities across the Scottish Borders.

### ***The local fire and rescue plan is a plan setting out:***

- Priorities and objectives for SFRS in connection with the carrying out in the local authority's area of SFRS's functions,
- The reasons for selecting each of those priorities and objectives,
- How SFRS proposes to deliver those priorities and objectives,
- In so far as is reasonably practicable, outcomes by reference to which delivery of those priorities and objectives can be measured,
- How those priorities and objectives are expected to contribute to the delivery of any other relevant local outcomes which are identified by community planning,
- Such other matters relating to the carrying out of SFRS's functions in the local authority's area as SFRS thinks fit.

## Strategic Assessment

A strategic assessment for the SFRS's activities in Scotland established the type, frequency and impact of incidents that we attend. With this assessment in place the Local Senior Officer for the Scottish Borders can effectively identify key priority areas for the SFRS to target its resources at a local level.

### *National Assessment*

The Scottish Government within their National Performance Framework have identified 16 National Outcomes they wish to achieve. Through delivery of this Local Plan the SFRS in particular will contribute to the following Outcomes:

- **National Outcome 1:** We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.
- **National Outcome 4:** Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- **National Outcome 6:** We live longer healthier lives.
- **National Outcome 8:** We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
- **National Outcome 9:** We live our lives safe from crime disorder and danger.
- **National Outcome 12:** We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
- **National Outcome 15:** Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it.

The priorities for the SFRS have been laid out in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 with the following Strategic Aims defined within the Strategic Plan 2013-2016:

**Strategic Aim 1:** Improve safety of our communities and staff

**Strategic Aim 2:** More Equitable Access to Fire and Rescue Services

**Strategic Aim 3:** Improved outcomes through partnership

**Strategic Aim 4:** Develop a culture of continuous improvement

## Equality Assessment

On 30 April 2013, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service published its Equality Outcomes, in compliance with the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012. The SFRS Equality Outcomes are;

- Outcome 1:** People from all Scotland's community groups feel confident in contacting the Fire and Rescue Service for advice and information on relevant non-emergency issues.
- Outcome 2:** Disabled, LGBT, BME, older people and people from minority faiths are aware of the services provided by the SFRS, particularly how these can be adapted to meet their own individual needs.
- Outcome 3:** People from all Scotland's community groups feel safer in their homes and on our roads.
- Outcome 4:** Establish the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as an employer of choice for people across protected characteristics.
- Outcome 5:** Provide a positive and healthy workplace culture that welcomes, embraces and develops people from across all protected characteristics.
- Outcome 6:** People from across all communities are enabled to live lives free from hate crime, harassment and domestic abuse/violence.
- Outcome 7:** Gypsy Travellers and migrant workers are safer, better informed and confident in Scottish Fire and Rescue Service engagement.

## Our values

Our values framework sets out what we believe to be important in supporting how we deliver our services to the communities and support our own staff. At the core of this, is the safety of the communities we serve and we will do our utmost to enhance and support community safety and place a high value on the safety of our firefighters.



The communities of the Scottish Borders can rightly expect to receive a first class service from the SFRS grounded in our commitment to actively pursue our values in support of better outcomes.

## Local Assessment

The Fire Framework for Scotland 2013 and our own Strategic Plan 2014-2016 give us clear direction in to what areas to focus our resources to ensure we contribute to the safety and well-being of the people living and working in The Scottish Borders. The local assessment addresses issues relevant to the local area. Through analysis of data, partnership working and consultation, local improvement and demand reduction plans can be developed to ensure positive outcomes and results are achieved

The Scottish Borders Strategic Assessment identifies a number of social issues giving cause for concern in the Scottish Borders. These include an aging population, health issues relating to alcohol and smoking, increasing deprivation, increased home-related injuries and the continuing challenge of road related casualties. The Scottish Borders Strategic Assessment also identifies key pieces of work that are designed to introduce preventative measures with the aim of delivering better outcomes to the communities and reducing inequalities across the Scottish Borders.

The key priority areas in the Scottish Borders that are considered in the Local Assessment and those that action plans will be developed for are:

- Reduction of Dwelling Fires
- Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties
- Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
- Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions
- Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Within each of the priorities are a number of performance indicators that will be used to report and track performance against achieving the objectives. The performance indicators are listed in the following table along with an indicators of the previous year's performance.

1	<i>Tweeddale West</i>
2	<i>Tweeddale East</i>
3	<i>Galashiels and District</i>
4	<i>Selkirkshire</i>
5	<i>Leaderdale and Melrose</i>
6	<i>Mid Berwickshire</i>
7	<i>East Berwickshire</i>
8	<i>Kelso and District</i>
9	<i>Jedburgh and District</i>
10	<i>Hawick and Denholm</i>
11	<i>Hawick and Hermitage</i>



## Local Operational Assessment

The table below sets out the key reporting performance indicators that we have identified for the Scottish Borders and the trend over the previous four years. The numbers stated are the number of actual incidents or events.

Performance Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Trend
All deliberate dwelling fires	6	13	3	7	↑
All accidental dwelling fires	105	100	92	100	←
All fatal fire casualties	1	0	3	1	↓
Non-fatal fire casualties including Precautionary check ups	33	28	22	17	↓
All fatal accidental dwelling fires	0	0	0	0	←
Non-fatal accidental dwelling fires including precautionary check ups	26	19	13	14	←
All deliberate other building fires	8	9	5	2	↓
All deliberate vehicle fires	8	7	6	6	←
All accidental vehicle fires	40	30	36	34	↓
All deliberate 'other' primary fires	20	33	25	9	↓
All deliberate secondary fires	107	101	89	46	↓
Special service RTCs	95	84	77	86	↑
False alarms AFA	610	632	601	633	↑
False alarm good intent	294	301	248	255	←
False alarm malicious	35	12	25	26	←

Table: Four years data of actual incidents and events within the Scottish Borders.

The priorities identified for the Scottish Borders are influenced by the above data. Driving down risk and focusing on the areas where the level of incidents is not reducing is a key aspect of the decision in selection of priorities.

## Local Risk Profile

The Scottish Borders has a sizable and diverse community. It is estimated that 113,150 people now live across the area; this is projected to rise to almost 125,000 by 2035. Around 23,000 of the current population are over 65 and this is expected to increase to 39,000 over the next twenty years. Although being older is not a specific risk in its own right, risk is increased when age is combined with other factors, such as living alone, living in poverty and in isolation. Physical and mental health issues also contribute to an increase in risk.

Many people from underrepresented groups or vulnerable individuals can feel isolated within the communities due to a number of reasons, including language barriers and cultural differences. Isolation is not simply a matter of location, but also a matter of being engaged with the wider community. An individual can live surrounded by other people but still be isolated from others and services for any number of reasons. These people may be less likely to seek support from organisations and those around them.

The Scottish Borders Household Survey indicates that people living in the Scottish Borders think that it is a safe place to live with 97% saying they feel safe in their own home. By effectively working with partner agencies we can continue to engender this feeling of safety and well-being by promoting our services to all those who are vulnerable and help to reduce the impact of inequalities, particularly where fire has been used or is a risk factor.

The table below sets out the council wards and local fire stations and local station commander with contact details listed in the contacts section.

- 1 Tweeddale West
- 2 Tweeddale East
- 3 Galashiels and District
- 4 Selkirkshire
- 5 Leaderdale and Melrose
- 6 Mid Berwickshire
- 7 East Berwickshire
- 8 Kelso and District
- 9 Jedburgh and District
- 10 Hawick and Denholm
- 11 Hawick and Hermitage



Scottish Borders Group Manager		
Ward Area	Fire Stations	Station Commander
Selkirkshire	Selkirk	<b>Hawick &amp; Southern Borders</b>
Hawick and Denholm	Hawick	
Hawick and Hermitage	Hawick and Newcastleton	
Jedburgh and District	Jedburgh	
Kelso and District	Kelso	<b>Duns &amp; Eastern Borders</b>
Leaderdale and Melrose	Lauder	
Mid Berwickshire	Duns and Coldstream	
East Berwickshire	Eyemouth	<b>Galashiels &amp; Western Borders</b>
Galashiels and District	Galashiels	
Tweeddale East	Innerleithen	
Tweeddale West	Peebles and West Linton	

## **PRIORITIES, ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES**

### **1. Reduction of dwelling fires**

Dwelling fires across Scotland have steadily been declining over recent years. They are however still 30-35% higher in incidence than the remainder of the UK. Across the Scottish Borders, the number of fires in dwellings equates to 88 fires per 100,000 of population, which is 12% below the Scottish average.

Additional risk factors associated with the cause of fires in dwellings is the consumption of alcohol /drugs and smoking. House fires can have a significant negative impact on both individuals the community and wider public services. Working alongside our community planning partners, we will contribute towards improving home safety for those most at risk and the wider community.

#### **Aligns to:**

##### Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Aims:

- 1: Improve safety of our communities and staff
- 2: More equitable access to fire and rescue services
- 3: Improved outcomes through partnership
- 4: Develop a culture of continuous improvement.

##### Scottish Borders:

- Scottish Borders Single Outcome Agreement and aligned strategies.
- Agreement on Joint Working on Community Planning and Resourcing.
- Scottish Borders Older Peoples Joint Commissioning Strategy.
- Scottish Borders Strategic Assessment 2013.
- Scottish Border Household Survey 2013.
- Scottish Borders Community Safety Partnership Key themes.

#### **We will achieve it by:**

- Active participation in the Scottish Borders Community Planning arrangements and adopting a partnership approach to early intervention and risk reduction.
- Continue to deliver our Home Fire Safety Visit programme targeting those most at risk from fire.
- We will establish information sharing protocols with partners to help protect the most at risk in our communities. Key to success will be information sharing between health care, social work, housing and Police Scotland.
- Identifying opportunities for engagement with all members of our community to promote fire safety and good citizenship.

***We will contribute towards the Scottish target of a 10 % reduction, over a three-year rolling period.***

#### **In doing so we will add value by:**

- Continuing to help people to feel and be safe in the Scottish Borders.
- Continuing to promote confident & safe communities where residents feel positive about where they live.
- Contributing towards reducing the potential impact on the community and public services.

## 2. Reduction of fire casualties and fatalities

Fire related deaths and casualties in dwellings in Scotland have shown a significant reduction over the previous twenty years. Trends in fire casualties have shown that those at most risk include people living alone, with smoking and alcohol/drug consumption being contributory factors.

Within the Scottish Borders there were twelve fire related casualties in 2012 this is a 55% reduction since 2009. Although this is below the Scottish average there is still work to be done, working closer with key partners such as health and social care to ensure we develop a targeted approach to further reduce fire related injuries and deaths within the Scottish Borders.

### Aligns to:

#### Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Aims:

- 1: Improve safety of our communities and staff
- 2: More equitable access to fire and rescue services
- 3: Improved outcomes through partnership
- 4: Develop a culture of continuous improvement.

#### Scottish Borders:

- Scottish Borders Single Outcome Agreement and aligned strategies.
- Agreement on Joint Working on Community Planning and Resourcing.
- Scottish Borders Older Peoples Joint Commissioning Strategy.
- Scottish Borders Strategic Assessment 2013.
- Scottish Border Household Survey 2013.
- Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership Key themes.

### We will achieve it by:

- Active participation in the Scottish Borders Community Planning arrangements and adopting a partnership approach to early intervention and risk reduction.
- Continue to deliver our Home Fire Safety Visit programme targeting those most at risk from fire.
- We will establish information sharing protocols with all partners to help protect the most at risk in our communities.
- Identifying opportunities for engagement with all members of our community to promote fire safety and good citizenship.
- Promoting the offer of Free Home Fire Safety Visits to all residents within the Scottish Borders and in particular those most at risk in our community through targeted referrals from partner agencies.

***We will contribute towards the Scottish target of a 5 % reduction, over a three-year rolling period in relation to fire casualties and fatalities.***

### In doing so we will also add value by:

- Continuing to help people to feel and be safe in the Scottish Borders.
- Continuing to promote confident and safe communities where residents feel positive about where they live.
- Contributing towards reducing the potential impact on the community and public services.

### 3. Reduction of deliberate fire setting (not including Dwellings)

Deliberate fire setting is a problem for our communities. In the Scottish Borders, the number of deliberately set fires is well below the Scottish average. Although deliberately set fires accounts for an average of 4% of all vandalism crimes in the Scottish Borders deliberate fire setting still remains an issue that we will work to continue to reduce in the Scottish Borders. There is a link between deliberately set Secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour and thus makes it an important priority for action.

#### **Aligns to:**

##### Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Aims:

- 1: Improve safety of our communities and staff
- 2: More equitable access to fire and rescue services
- 3: Improved outcomes through partnership
- 4: Develop a culture of continuous improvement.

##### Scottish Borders:

- Scottish Borders Single Outcome Agreement and aligned strategies.
- Agreement on Joint Working on Community Planning and Resourcing.
- Scottish Borders Strategic Assessment 2013
- Scottish Border Household Survey 2013
- Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership Key themes

#### **We will achieve it by:**

- Engaging in a multi-agency approach to tackling deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour by the targeting of resources to those areas of need.
- Continuing in our contribution to the local Anti-Social Behaviour reduction plans and promoting positive outcomes.

***Our target against the 3-year average is to continually reduce the number of deliberately set fires.***

#### **In doing so we will also add value by:**

- Reducing the adverse effects and negative impacts which deliberate fire setting has on peoples' lives within the Scottish Borders
- Working with partners to reduce anti-social behaviour through education, engagement and activities.

## 4. Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions

The SFRS have a crucial role to play in contributing and supporting a reduction in road traffic collisions through working with community planning partners.

Road casualty figures in Scotland have reduced significantly over the previous twenty years however, road casualty figures for Scotland show that we cannot lose sight of the work that remains to be done to make our roads safer. From evidence, it has been identified that young drivers and rural road driving are areas of specific risk within the Scottish Borders. We will target our education and awareness campaigns on these areas.

### **Aligns to:**

#### Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Aims:

- 1: Improve safety of our communities and staff
- 2: More equitable access to fire and rescue services
- 3: Improved outcomes through partnership
- 4: Develop a culture of continuous improvement.

#### Scottish Borders:

- Scottish Borders Single Outcome Agreement and aligned strategies.
- Agreement on Joint Working on Community Planning and Resourcing.
- Scottish Borders Strategic Assessment 2013.
- Scottish Borders Road Safety Working Group
- Go Safe, Scotland's Road Safety Framework for 2020.

### **We will achieve it by:**

- Education and awareness aimed at high-risk groups within our communities.
- Working with our partners within the Scottish Borders to identify risks and, through this collaboration, identify ways to promote safer driving and make our roads safer.

***Our target against the 3-year average is to continually reduce the number of road traffic collisions on the roads in the Scottish Borders.***

### **In doing so we will also add value by:**

- Encouraging young drivers and other groups to be responsible road users through active engagement and education.
- Contributing towards reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on roads in the Scottish Borders.

## 5. Reduction of unwanted fire signals

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are those occasions when there is no fire but an automated fire alarm system activates and Fire and Rescue Service resources are mobilised. Throughout Scotland, the number of UFAS calls remains stubbornly high. In the Scottish Borders the Fire and Rescue Service attend over 900 UFAS calls each year. This figure has remained at an unacceptable high level for several years and accounts for over 65% of our emergency response activity across the Scottish Borders.

### **Aligns to:**

#### Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Aims:

- 3: Improved outcomes through partnership
- 4: Develop a culture of continuous improvement.

#### Scottish Borders:

- Scottish Borders Single Outcome Agreement and aligned strategies.
- Agreement on Joint Working on Community Planning and Resourcing.
- Scottish Borders Strategic Assessment 2013.

### **We will achieve it by:**

- Working with the business and commercial sector at a local level to provide advice and guidance in the reduction of unwanted fire alarm signals.
- An enforcement and audit schedule of premises to ensure compliance with legislation.

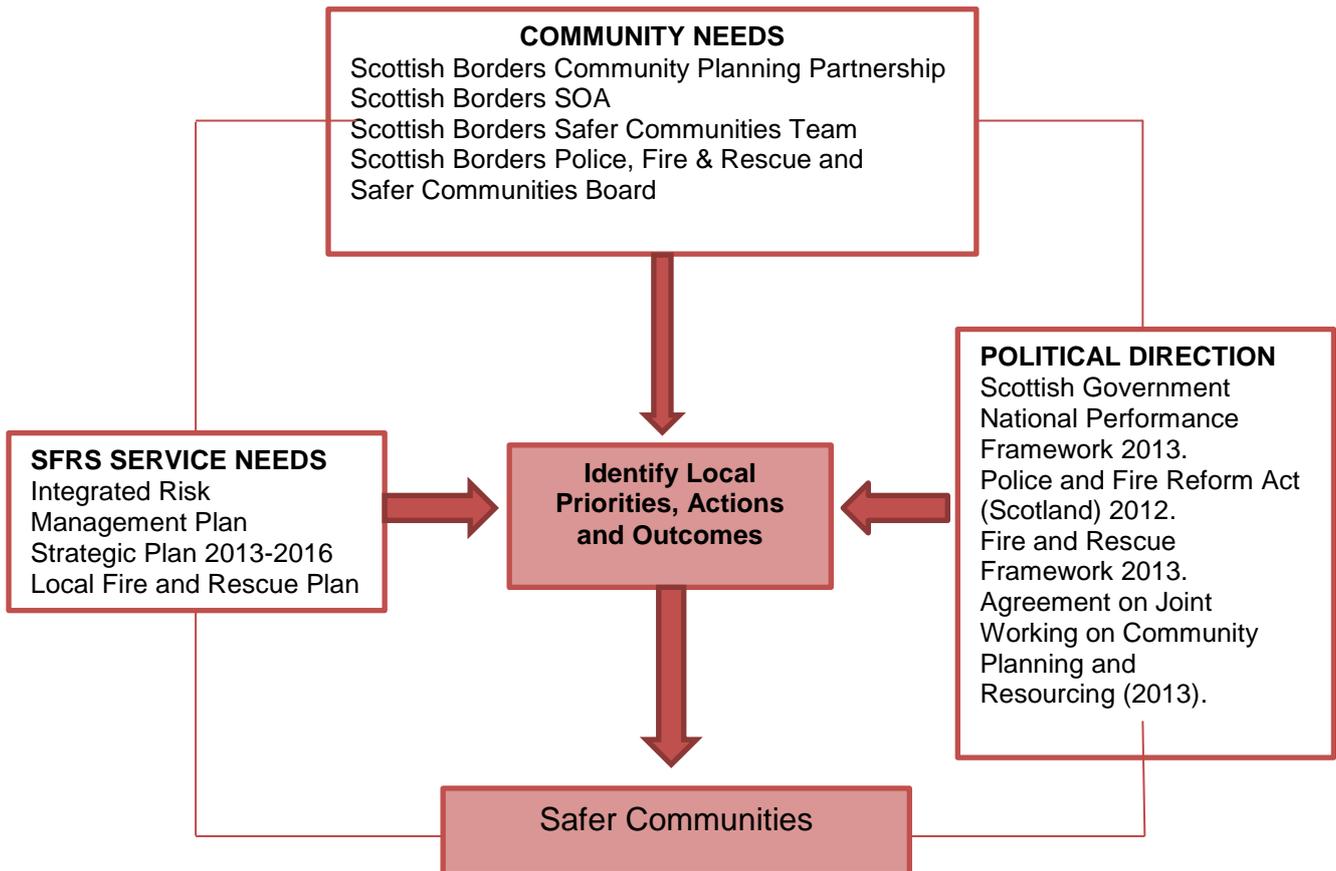
***Our target against the 3-year average is to contribute towards a continued reduction in UFAS within Scottish Borders.***

### **In doing so we will also add value by:**

- Reducing time and money lost to local businesses through the provision of advice and guidance.
- Realising efficiency savings by reducing the number of UFAS calls.
- Contributing towards making our roads safer by reducing fire engine movements.
- Contributing towards reducing our carbon footprint through fewer emergency responses.

## Achieving Local Outcomes

Local risks were identified following considerations of political direction set by the Scottish Government, community needs identified through consultation and the operational resources and capacity of the SFRS. Following a process of identifying local risks within the Scottish Borders, priority actions to address them and expected outcomes have been set within this plan.



### Outcomes

Across the Scottish Borders, local scrutiny of the performance of the Fire and Rescue Service takes place at the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board on a quarterly basis. As part of the Community Planning arrangements across the area this ensures that in addition to the locally elected members, other key statutory and non-statutory partners have the opportunity to engage in the process of scrutiny.

Robust scrutiny of performance is essential in ensuring that the SFRS is delivering and contributing to improved outcomes for communities and ensuring that the SFRS plays its full part in contributing to successful delivery of the Scottish Borders Single Outcome Agreement. As a full and active partner in the local community planning arrangements, we will contribute positively to a safer Scotland.

## **Performance and Accountability**

The Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013 and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan sets out a performance framework enabling the SFRS and Local Senior Officer to monitor, manage and report performance. This is used to identify areas where resources may need to be directed to enable improved performance against the priorities set out in this plan.

We are committed to ensuring that information on how we are performing in the Scottish Borders is available to the public, local elected members, council officials and any others who may wish to access this information.

## **Local Scrutiny and Engagement**

The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 supports a framework for local scrutiny and engagement arrangements between local authorities and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

In the Scottish Borders, local scrutiny of the performance of the Fire and Rescue Service takes place at the Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board on a quarterly basis. As part of the community planning arrangements this ensures that in addition to the locally elected members, other key statutory and non-statutory partners have the opportunity to engage in the process of scrutiny.

Robust scrutiny of performance is essential in ensuring that the SFRS is delivering and contributing to improved outcomes for communities and ensuring that the SFRS plays its full part in contributing to successful delivery of Scottish Borders Single Outcome Agreement. As a full and active partner in the local community planning arrangements, we will contribute positively to a safer Scotland.

## **Low carbon Scotland: Meeting the emissions targets 2010 – 2022**

The Scottish Government has set out ambitious targets for reducing emissions by 43% by 2020 across Scotland and in doing so making the most efficient use of energy. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and subsequent policies and proposals for how this might be achieved set out clearly the need for all public bodies to contribute to achieving the targets. We will underpin our activity with a concerted effort to examine and seek opportunities to reduce our emissions and identify opportunities to work in partnership to maximise this potential. We will work to support delivery of the outcomes of the Scottish Borders Low Carbon Strategy and Action Plan and in doing so aim to lessen the impact of delivering services on the environment.

## Review

To ensure this Local Plan remains flexible to emerging local or national priorities a review may be carried out at any time but will be reviewed at least once in its life time. A review may also be carried out if the Scottish Minister directs it or if a new Strategic Plan is approved. Following a review the Local Senior Officer may revise the Plan.

## Contact us

Local Contacts	By post	By phone
Local Senior Officer Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	143 Croft Street Galashiels TD1 3BS	01896 758326
Scottish Borders Group Manager	143 Croft Street Galashiels TD1 3BS	01896 758326
Station Commander, Galashiels and Western Borders	Galashiels Fire Station 143 Croft Street Galashiels TD1 3BS	01896 758326
Station Commander, Hawick and Southern Borders	Hawick Fire Station Howdenbank Hawick TD9 7JT	01450 372212
Station Commander, Duns and Eastern Borders	Duns Fire Station Newtown Street Duns TD11 3AU	01361 884504
Community Safety Enquiries Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	143 Croft Street Galashiels TD1 3BS	01896 758326
<b>To book a FREE Home Fire Safety Visit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call free on 0800 0731 999</li> <li>• Text the word 'check' to 61611 or</li> <li>• Online at <a href="http://www.firescotland.gov.uk">www.firescotland.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>	
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service East Hub Office	Main Street, Maddiston, Falkirk FK2 0LG	01324 710220
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service HQ	5 Whitefriars Crescent Perth PH2 0PA	01738 475260

If you have something to tell us, no matter how important or trivial it may seem, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

## Local Plan priorities cross-referenced to key outcome sources; National, Local, SFRS and Equality Outcomes.

SFRS Local Plan Priorities	Outcome Measures	Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership SOA and aligned strategies	SFRS Strategic Aims	National Outcomes	SFRS Equality Outcomes
Reduction of dwelling fires	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All deliberate dwelling fires</li> <li>All accidental dwelling fires</li> </ol>	Resilient Communities; Place and whole town plans; Safer communities; Accident Prevention Schemes;; Violence against Women; Older peoples Joint commissioning strategy; Enhanced home fire safety programme; Local housing strategy	1, 2, 3, 4	6, 9, 11, 12	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
Reduction of fire casualties and fatalities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All fatal fire casualties</li> <li>Non-fatal fire casualties including precautionary check ups</li> <li>All fatal accidental dwelling fires</li> <li>Non-fatal accidental dwelling fires including precautionary check ups</li> </ol>	Resilient Communities; Place and whole town plans; Safer communities; Accident Prevention Schemes; Violence against Women; Older peoples Joint commissioning strategy; Enhanced home fire safety programme	1, 2, 3, 4	6, 9, 11, 12, 15	3, 6, 7
Reduction in deliberate fire setting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All deliberate other building fires</li> <li>All deliberate vehicle fires</li> <li>All deliberate 'other' primary fires</li> <li>All deliberate secondary fires</li> </ol>	Resilient Communities; Place and whole town plans; Safer communities; SB Wardens	1, 2, 3, 4	4, 9, 11, 12	3, 6, 7
Reduction in road traffic collisions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Service RTC</li> <li>All accidental vehicle fires</li> </ol>	Road Safety;	1, 2, 3, 4	4, 6, 9, 15	2, 3, 7
Reduction in unwanted fire signals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>False Alarms AFAs</li> <li>False alarm good intent</li> <li>False alarm malicious</li> </ol>	Place and whole town plans; Safer communities; Older peoples Joint commissioning strategy; Borders Care and repair	3, 4	1, 6, 8, 9, 12	1

## Glossary of Terms

**Accidental:** Caused by accident or carelessness. Includes fires which accidentally get out of control.

**Casualty:** consists of persons requiring medical treatment beyond first aid given at the scene of the incident, those sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor for a check-up or observation (whether or not they actually do). People sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor as a precaution, having no obvious injury, are recorded as 'precautionary check-ups'. Casualty figures do not include fatalities.

**Community Planning:** The purpose of community planning is to get public services working together with each other and with communities and the third and private sectors to make the most effective use of their collective resources to deliver better outcomes for communities.

**Deliberate:** Covers fires where deliberate ignition is suspected

**False Automatic Fire Alarm:** is defined as an event in which the Fire and Rescue Service believes they are called to a reportable fire and then find there is no such incident. These can be Malicious, of Good Intent or caused by Apparatus. The False Fire Alarms recorded for our indicator are those caused by Apparatus, as these constitute a significant majority of False Fire Alarm incidents.

**Fatality:** a casualty whose death is attributed to a fire is counted as a fatality even if the death occurred later. Fatalities associated with Other Incidents can include attendance to assist Police or Ambulance colleagues when a person has been found who has committed suicide, for example. Often there is little we can do as a Service to influence this particular figure.

**Primary Fires:** includes all fires in buildings, vehicles and most outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fire attended by five or more pumping appliances.

**Secondary Fires:** These cover the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or if five or more appliances attend. They include fires in derelict buildings but not chimney fires.

**Single Outcome Agreement:** The Single Outcome Agreement sets out how the Community Planning Partnership will work together to deliver agreed national and local outcomes and be held accountable for their delivery



[www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk)

**Scottish Border Community Planning Joint Delivery Team**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2013**

**2:00- 4:00pm**

**Committee Room 1, SBC**

**Present:**

**SBC:** Tracey Logan, Chief Executive (chair)  
Rob Dickson, Director of Environment & Infrastructure  
Glenn Rodger, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning  
Eric Bajjal, Joint Director of Public Health  
David Cressey, Head of Strategic Policy  
David Robertson, Chief Financial Officer  
Stella Everingham, Acting Director of Social Work

**Partners:** David Rennie, Stakeholder and Partnerships, Scottish Enterprise  
John Mallin, Group Commander (Borders Area), Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Margaret Ross, Chief Executive, Waverly Housing  
Nile Istephan, Chief Executive, Eildon Housing Association  
Julia Mulloy, Chief Executive, SBHA  
Pete Smith, Director of Finance and Resources, Borders College  
Helen Forsyth, Chief Executive, Berwickshire Housing Association  
Morag Walker, Executive Officer, The Bridge  
Maggie Teirney, Scottish Government

**In Attendance:** SBC: Douglas Scott, Shona Smith, Sarah Watters (Strategic Policy Unit)

**Apologies:** Jenny Wilkinson, Clerk to the Council, SBC  
Andrew Lowe, Director of Social Work Services, SBC  
Liz McIntyre, Principal, Borders College  
Calum Campbell, Chief Executive, NHS Borders  
Andy Clark, Local Police Commander (Scottish Borders), Police Scotland  
Elaine Torrance, Joint Programme Director for Health and Social Care Integration  
Barbara Allison, Location Director, Scottish Government

**Summary of Discussion**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

TL welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies (above). Introductions were done.

**2. Minute of last meeting and matters arising including 'Outstanding Action' sheet**

Approved as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising (not covered on the agenda):

- Item 2: Partner Corporate plans now linked from Community Planning section of SBC website- BHA and SBHA to follow
- Item 3: DC provided an update on our approach to a Reducing Inequalities strategy, to be led by SBC on behalf of the CPP. An initial scoping meeting will take place today after this meeting, and a plan for the work will be brought back here in January. Theme leads are currently examining their work programmes to ensure that work is addressing the priorities in the SOA effectively. In relation to Early Intervention and Prevention, it was proposed that Calum Campbell be asked to chair this theme moving forward, as Andrew Lowe is off long term.

- Item 4: Community planning mapping- as limited progress has been made on this, it was suggested that we meet one hour before our next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January to discuss and finalise the maps- AGREED
- Item 5: Household Survey- DC said that work is ongoing within SBC to produce a report that ensures that Council Department and partners are addressing the key issues to emerge from the survey e.g. roads and poverty
- Item 6: Low Carbon Economic Strategy approved at Council . Necessary now to ensure that the action plan includes details on our future investment plans, partner proposals, future training provision, and reflects joint thinking etc. This will be overseen by Economy and Infrastructure.
- Item 7: Borderlands update- DS informed the group that the first meeting between Councils, led by Civil Servants, will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> November.
- Item 9: Transport PID had been circulated- on agenda (Item 3)

#### **ACTION**

- **SBHA and BHA to send links to corporate plans to SW once available**
- **TL/DC to approach Calum Campbell re: chairing of Early intervention and Prevention**
- **SW to send meeting request to all re: extended meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 to do mapping work**
- **DC to ensure that an update on Household Survey is on future agenda**

#### **3. Sustainable Transport Review- update from Rob Dickson**



G:\Business  
Improvement\Strateg

RD spoke to an update that presented the consultant's (iMPower) key findings, which presents some real challenges to our CPP, although there was agreement that we all want to deliver a better service at lower cost. There is now the need for a round table discussion with partners and the initial baseline information will be available pre-Christmas to inform this discussion.

DC stressed the importance of this issue in the context of the household survey and in context of welfare reform. Partners were impressed with the questions asked by the consultant, making them think about a variety of issues. MW asked about whether or not the Borders Community Transport Network had been consulted as there are potentially major implications for the third sector- RD thought they had but would check. GR asked about what type of model was coming forward and RD said it was a bit early to say but it would probably involve scaling up one or more of our current models, ensuring lower cost and greater flexibility.

JM asked about procurement and the scope for joint initiatives as part of the project as SBHA was about to start a procurement exercise for fleet. RD said that for core standard vehicles, Scotland Excel was still an effective framework but that it would be good to all share our intentions for the coming financial year to see where there was scope for joint procurement. DRobertson added that he would be happy to share SBC's evaluation model, which pointed to purchase as the current better option for SBC as opposed to leasing.

TL asked that a partner meeting be planned for before Christmas if possible or certainly before our next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014, in order to progress with this work as quickly as possible.

#### **ACTION**

- **RD to progress work with the consultant, checking that the community transport network had been involved to date.**

#### 4. LEADER funding going forward



G:\Business  
Improvement\Strateg

Sam Smith, SBC Economic Development, made a presentation (attached). We now have a bit of time before the submission date in March for the 2014-20 programme so need to ensure that **a)** Scottish Borders programme is fully integrated into community planning (as is the desire of the Scottish Government), **b)** links are made to key local strategies e.g. Economy Strategy, Low Carbon Economic Strategy, SOA etc and **c)** we ensure that we have the most appropriate decision making structure in place for our current context. Currently, “A Working Countryside” is the decision making group but in the context of the new SOA, it is time to revisit this.

Sam said that projects within the new programme must have socio-economic benefit and can link to employment, training etc, and can be used to take risks and try new approaches to improving outcomes. MT said that this is important, to ensure learning from “good” and “bad” failure. TL asked that the Economy and Infrastructure theme co-ordinates the Borders CPP submission and ensure appropriate governance for the new programme, integrated fully within the CPP and gaining maximum socio-economic benefit for the Borders.

#### **ACTION**

- **RD to progress strategy and business plan through Economy and Infrastructure and report back on the governance of Leader to this group before the submission of a Local Development Strategy and Business Plan for the Borders Leader Programme in March 2014**

#### 5. Partner Updates

##### Fire and Rescue

JM gave an update from Fire and Rescue, who will have a draft local plan ready in December for consultation, and would like all CPP partners to be involved, and to have a discussion at our next meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January. A report on the approach Fire and Rescue are taking to their local plans will be taken to the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board next Friday (15<sup>th</sup> Nov). He also discussed national statistics and the reduction in dwelling fires due to preventative work, and the more targeted approach that is now being explored in conjunction with the Early Intervention and Prevention theme on working with older people. HF said that the RSLs are keen to be involved, as part of a more strategic approach to this type of partnership work. Fire & Rescue is looking to extend its remit of the service, and to start taking a broader approach and looking at e.g. falls prevention, suicide prevention etc. He asked for approval from this group for this approach - AGREED.

GR said that their work could also link strongly to Resilient Communities and DS said that good progress is being made with this, with ongoing training exercises being run and that the remit could indeed be extended.

##### Third Sector

MW said that following the third sector CPP event in May, they have been examining how the third sector is represented across the CPP when there are limited resource. They are looking to develop a programme that mirrors themes in the CPP and become a 2 way process, with partners coming along to 3<sup>rd</sup> sector meetings too. AGREED to endorse this approach. SE added that we also need to engage the larger national voluntary organisation working locally, for example within children’s services. She also suggested that volunteers could be used as part of the governance and accountability arrangements.

##### Borders College

PS said that the College was currently running an Employers Skills Assessment workshop and that the outputs would feed into the next Regional College Outcome Agreement for 2014-2017. This would go to Economy and Infrastructure for consultation.

### Scottish Enterprise

DR said that they produce a Local Activity Report which provides a snapshot and that it would be useful to share with the JDT, not just partners on Economy and Infrastructure- AGREED

### Early Years

GR informed the group that an Early Years Leadership Group has been established, at a high level, that is stronger than the CYPPP leadership so the current structures are currently being reviewed, bring groups together, mapping the governance routes etc, and this needs to link to the Improvement Plan mapping

### **ACTION**

- **JM to consult with partners on draft Fire Plan and bring to next meeting**
- **DR to circulate Scottish Enterprise Local Activity Report**
- **MW to present outputs of Third Sector Structure at next meeting**

### **6. Discussion on Scottish Gvt / Cosla Agreement on Joint Working on Community Planning and Resourcing**



G:\Business  
Improvement\Strateg

TL said that the actual statement had been circulated at our last meeting. Scottish Gvt is now asking for CPP responses to the statement but she explained that this is not a one step process and can't just be about our high level budgets. We all have to deliver our budgets within constraints, political or otherwise. Setting high level budgets is a strict, constrained process, which can't be discussed until we are ready to share. We need to start at the next level down and do some work on the way that money is spent at a programme and project level, the transport project being a good example. We can then go into next year with a set of proposals for politicians, and for our respective boards. LM added that we need to share our long term investment arrangements.

SW tabled a short discussion paper that presented our current position against the key points within the Joint Statement



G:\Business  
Improvement\Strateg

DR said that it would be an iterative process. From Scottish Enterprise's perspective, it would be helpful to share governance and prioritisation arrangement, in order that we might align activity better, share national policies and gain a better understanding of each other. GR said that we are currently reviewing children's service, where there are ring fenced budgets. Until now we have never really got underneath the bigger budgets, and put the resources we all have on the table, in order that we can redirect things towards early intervention. There are some difficult discussions ahead but we can't let that be a barrier.

There won't be one solution- different at different levels e.g. at Integration of Health and Social Care level, and then a project level e.g. integrated transport. TL said that we need to get to a position where we make recommendations to the Board on the joint use of resources.

EB mentioned that Dundee has used the Integrated Resource Framework approach, directed towards a specific cohort/client group. DR said that we need conversation perhaps beyond IRF and get into a discussion on the challenges we all face. SBC had started this last year at Area Forums. He has also started collecting resource information on the CPP themes with NHS and will follow this up with other partners.

## **ACTION**

- **DR to progress Joint Resource discussions with partners**
- **SW to amend the discussion paper and circulate to partners, before using it as our submission to the Scottish Government on how we are responding to the statement as a partnership**

## **7. Hubco consultation draft Strategic Delivery Plan 2013**

SG spoke to the paper that had been distributed. Hubco has a duty to consult CPPs on their strategic delivery plan and as a CPP, we need to agree the Borders projects. SBC Head of Estates and Property has started to use the template to answer the consultation questions and has suggested that we submit a CPP response. He will liaise with key people within, in particular, NHS Borders, Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS), and Police and then the response will be shared with the Joint Delivery team before the submission date of the 5<sup>th</sup> December.

## **ACTION**

- **SW to inform SBC Head of Estates and Property that this approach is approved, and then to circulate to partners later in November for approval**

## **8. AOCB**

The Improvement Service is offering to do work with CPPs on self assessment (<http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/news-and-features/news/is-supporting-self-assessment-in-community-planning-partnerships/>), and 80% of CPPs have responded to say they would like to take this up, but in light of the fact that we have been through an audit recently, and have an Improvement Plan, TL suggested that we ask Colin Mair to provide some more specific assistance to, for example, help with data for our Reducing Inequalities strategy, similar to help they gave to Midlothian

## **ACTION**

- **TL to contact Colin Mair, Improvement Service to discuss how they can best assist us.**

## **9. Next meeting: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014, 2-4pm:**

- **calendar of meetings attached (note that themes to add meeting dates once arranged)**



G:\Business  
Improvement\Strateg