

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

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells on 13 February 2014 at 2.00 p.m.

-----

Present:- Councillor D. Parker (Chairman), S. Bell, C. Bhatia, J. Brown.  
Chief Inspector A. Clark (Police Scotland), Ms H. Cuckow (Eildon Housing Association), Mr P. Heath (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service), Mrs M. Hume (3<sup>rd</sup> Sector) Mr A. Jackimciw (Borders College), Mr R. Licence (SBHA) Mr Lindley (BHA) Mr A. McKinnon (Scottish Enterprise), Dr D. Steele (NHS Board), Mrs R. Stenhouse (Waverley Housing).

Apologies:- Councillors M. Cook, G. Edgar (SESTRANS); Mr C. Campbell, Chief Superintendent J. McDiarmid, Mr J. Raine.

In Attendance:- Dr E. Baijal (Joint Director of Public Health), Mr D. Cressey (SBC Service Director of Strategy & Policy), Mr C. Easton, Ms S. Everingham (Acting Director of Social Work), Mr R. Dickson (SBC Director of Environment & Infrastructure), Ms T. Logan (SBC Chief Executive), Mr. B. McGrath (SBC Head of Economic Development & Environment), Mr S. Smith, Clerk to Council, Democratic Services Officer (J. Turnbull).

Also in Attendance: Ms B. Allison and Ms P. Travers, Scottish Government.

-----

**MINUTE**

1. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 1 October 2013.

**DECISION**

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

**RE-ALIGNMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY TEAMS TO THE 3 SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT PRIORITIES**

2. Mr D. Cressey, the SBC Service Director of Strategy and Policy, gave a presentation on the Re-Alignment of Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Delivery Teams to the three Single Outcome Agreement Priorities. The CPP Post Audit Action Plan had identified five improvement areas:-
  - Strategic Direction and Leadership
  - Performance Management
  - Use of Resources
  - Community Engagement
  - Governance and Accountability.
3. The presentation focused on Governance and Accountability and the need to agree a model which would align the CPP's governance structure to the SOA (Single Outcome Agreement) priorities: maximising the economy; low carbon agenda and reducing inequalities. The CPP was currently supported by 3 Groups: Economy and Infrastructure Delivery Group (chaired by Rob Dickson), Early Intervention and Prevention Delivery

Group (chaired by Eric Baijal), and the Place and Community Delivery Group (chaired by Glenn Rodger). Members discussed the proposal to move to 3 new Groups to support the CPP priorities: Economy and Low Carbon; Reducing Inequalities, and Public Sector Reform. This would involve integrating the Economic Strategy and Low Carbon Strategy Action Plans. In addition, owing to external pressures, it was proposed that the Public Sector Reform Group would produce a Public Sector Reform Programme and Action Plan. The Strategic Board discussed the proposal and agreed to the consolidation of the groups aligned to the three priorities. However, concerns were expressed that the addition of the Public Sector Reform Programme did not correlate with the existing Groups and further information was required. It was also felt that a public sector theme group did not reflect the wider public service provided by the community planning partners. It was felt that it would be helpful to have a presentation on Public Service reform at the next meeting.

#### **DECISION**

##### **AGREED:-**

- (a) to the formation of the Economy & Low Carbon Group and the Reducing Inequalities Group; and**
- (b) that the SBC Service Director of Strategy and Policy would report back at the next meeting with further details on the work of a Public Service Reform Group.**

#### **SCOTTISH BORDERS ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2023 – ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

- 4. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of 13 June 2013, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Executive updating the Board on progress against the actions set out in the Scottish Borders Economic Strategy 2013 which had been agreed in June 2013. The Economic Strategy set out the vision, strategic aims and objectives that would provide the focus to ensure sustainable economic growth for the Scottish Borders. The associated Action Plan, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, set out how the Community Planning Partnership would deliver the outcomes identified in the Economic Strategy.
- 5. Mr B. McGrath, SBC Head of Economic Development, reported that some positive progress had been made in delivering the actions set out in the Action Plan, but some areas of activity required additional partner focus, or in some instances, additional resources. This was the first step in providing the Board with an overview of performance, with the next step being the performance indicators. The intention was to review the Action Plan and monitor progress, include the SOA outcomes, and bring a report to the Board in summer. The Action Plan set out the actions which had resources (shaded grey) and were part of the planned activity. The untinted rows on the Plan showed where resources still had to be identified. The red/amber/green marking highlighted the status of the action. The Board noted that progress had been made with the Superfast Broadband project and Homecoming 2014. Update reports were requested on the Textiles Initiative, Innerleithen Aim Up Bike Park project, and learning/skills opportunities/apprenticeships, etc for young people. The Board discussed the Eyemouth Seafood Technology Park action. The Eyemouth community met on a voluntary basis and needed to be kept informed of the progress being made. The Rollout of NGA to broadband in South of Scotland had been raised at the December meeting of the South of Scotland Forum with John Swinney in attendance. Four masts had been designated for the Borders and Mr Swinney had written to the Government on the Council's behalf requesting further details. Regarding the development of the Scottish Borders Textiles Enterprise Initiative, it was important that textile companies were consulted, their priorities being how to expand markets overseas.

#### **DECISION:**

- (a) NOTED the positive progress made in relation to the Economic Strategy Action Plan.**

**(b) AGREED to request update reports to future meetings on:-**

- (i) the Scottish Borders Textiles Enterprise Initiative;**
- (ii) the Innerleithen Aim Up Bike Park;**
- (iii) improving access to learning as well as apprenticeships, internships etc. for young people.**

**SCOTTISH BORDERS LOW CARBON ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2023 – ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

7. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Executive updating the Board on progress against the actions set out in the Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023 which was agreed in October 2013. The Scottish Borders Low Carbon Economic Strategy 2023 set out a series of strategic aims and initiatives which formed the first steps in the transition towards a low carbon economy for the Scottish Borders. The strategic aims and objectives were aligned to the priorities identified by the Community Planning Partnership and Single Outcome Agreement. Good progress had been made in delivering the actions set out in the Action Plan (Appendix 1) to the report, but some areas of activity required additional partner focus, and in some instances, significant additional resources. It was noted that good progress had been made with the delivery of the 'Business Gateway Plus' services to offer low carbon advice to local businesses to increase efficiency. Additional Business Gateway Plus advisors were in post and would offer specific key sector support to local businesses. In response to a question, Mr McGrath would check whether RSLs were involved in heat mapping.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the positive progress made in relation to the Low Carbon Economic Strategy Action Plan.**

**REDUCING INEQUALITIES STRATEGY**

8. The Joint Director of Public Health gave a verbal update on the Reducing Inequalities Strategy. Productive discussions had taken place and had identified five main aims: Income, Employment, Attainment, Health and Wellbeing, and Crime. A written report would be provided for the next meeting of the Strategic Board.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to receive a report on the Reducing Inequalities Strategy at the next meeting of the Strategic Board.**

**SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE**

9. Mr A. McKinnon, Regional Director of the South of Scotland - Scottish Enterprise, gave a presentation on Scottish Enterprise priorities and planning assumptions for 2014/15 and beyond. Scottish Enterprise was the Scottish Government's economic development agency tasked with economic additionality. It had a £300m annual budget, 1,000 staff and worked with 28 international offices in 16 countries. Its projections for the next 10 years would lead to the cumulative impact of £5bn - £7.5bn GVA. Scottish Enterprise stimulated economic growth and supported Scottish companies to compete by attracting new investment. It had five strategic priorities: Renewables, growth companies, internationalisation, innovation and the transition to a low carbon economy. Scottish Enterprise's focus for the next three years would be on: leadership, market innovation, access to finance, international trade and investment, building competitiveness and growth, increased exploitation of digital technology, and greater access and awareness of the support they offered.
10. Mr McKinnon reported that the Scottish Borders contribution to the economy was rising from 1% in 2001 to 1.4% in 2014. The employment rate was above the Scottish average and youth unemployment below. There was a large number of small businesses; however there was a structural gap in terms of medium sized businesses. Future opportunities for the Scottish Borders including exploiting the economic opportunities arising from the railway and

increasing the number of companies with growth potential. Account management was not about money, but about the natural cycle of a company having aspiration, ambition and the opportunity to do something. Normally this would take about 2-3 years but could be longer or shorter. It could reach a point where Scottish Enterprise was not able to add value to a company. The criteria was that the company had to have ambition, capacity and ability and was going to add to the economy rather than displace an existing company. Scottish Enterprise did not help one company to the detriment of others locally. The Chairman thanked Mr McKinnon for the informative presentation.

**DECISION:**  
**NOTED the presentation.**

**MAXIMISING THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES (INCLUDING PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES) OF THE BORDERS RAILWAY**

11. Members of the Strategic Board divided into smaller break out groups to consider the following: What positive impacts would the Borders Railway have for your customers and clients; What positive impacts would the Borders Railway have on your organisation; Were there specific problems or challenges that the Railway might produce for your organisation; What would your organisation do to help delivery and secure the benefits of the Railway. The groups then reported back to the meeting:-
- (a) Positive Impacts on customers and clients.
- Easier access to the Borders College and NHS Borders for patients and students.
  - Police – open up experiences for staff working elsewhere.
  - Towns will benefit from the railway.
  - Attract new business to the Scottish Borders.
  - Lifestyle improvement.
- (b) Positive Impacts on your organisation
- NHS Borders will attract staff from out with the area.
  - Students - easier access to Edinburgh for studying.
  - Borders College - opportunity for increasing courses.
  - Attract new businesses to the area.
  - RSL providing housing.
  - Summer activities at College campus.
  - Office development linked to broadband.
  - Increased investment In Galashiels, making Galashies more attractive.
  - Ripple effect in other towns.
- (c) Specific Problems
- Ensuring that areas were crime free.
  - Tourists had to have positive experience.
  - RSLs need to know the train fares for tenants.
  - Will trains accommodate cyclists?
  - Rental charges.
- (d) What would your organisation do to help deliver and secure the benefits of the Railway
- Offer incentives for staff to utilise trains.
  - Improve cycling lanes.
  - Improve connectivity.
  - Development transport hubs.

Councillor Parker thanked the Board members for their input.

**DECISION**

**NOTED** that this information would be fed back into the relevant CPP support Groups.

**DRAFT LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN FOR THE SCOTTISH BORDERS 2014/17**

12. There had been circulated a copy of the Draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan for information.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

**JOINT DELIVERY TEAM**

13. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting of the Joint Delivery Team held on 6 November 2013.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

*The meeting concluded at 3.40 pm*