

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the TEVIOT
AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM held in the
LESSER HALL, HIGH STREET, HAWICK on
16 April 2013 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors G. Turnbull (Chairman), A. Cranston, Z. Elliot, S. Marshall,
D. Paterson.
Community Councillors C. Levell, R. Knight, I. Robson, M. Short.
Inspector C. Wood (Lothian and Borders Police).

Apologies:- Councillor R. Smith.

In Attendance:- Head of Corporate Policy, Democratic Services Officer (F. Walling).

Members of the Public:- 6

CHAIRMAN

1. In his welcome and introduction the Chairman advised that the business associated with Management of the Council's Road Asset would be considered at the next meeting, so item 5(b) was therefore withdrawn from the agenda.

MINUTE

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 19 February 2013.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute for signature by the Chairman.

3. With regard to paragraph 10(a) of the Minute of 19 February 2013 the Chairman explained that he would be inviting the Executive Member for Economic Development, and officers from that section, to a future meeting of the Forum to advise Members of current activities that may be of relevance to Hawick.

DECISION

NOTED.

WELFARE REFORM – IMPACT FOR THE BORDERS

4. Head of Corporate Policy, David Cressey, was in attendance to give a presentation to raise awareness of Welfare Reform Changes and the impact on clients, the Council and its partners. Mr Cressey was accompanied by other members of his team, Bruce Hastie and Gary Murdie, who were available to answer questions both in the meeting and at a confidential help desk set up to give assistance in response to individual enquiries. In addition to the presentation a briefing note was introduced which set out the main changes, the proposed timetable for the phased introduction of the changes, and frequently asked questions. Copies of the briefing notes and leaflets were available for members of the public to collect at the meeting. The presentation summarised the changes to benefits and for each change noted the impact in terms of numbers of cases affected and consequent reduction in benefit coming into the Borders. Also referred to were changes within the Council and its services to address and respond to the reforms. From April 2013 the Scottish Welfare Fund had been set up for a temporary period of two years. The Fund would be administered by local authorities who would each receive an agreed allocation from the Scottish Government. The fund would offer grants or in-kind support in the form of Community Care Grants and Crisis Grants. Also, from April 2013, Council Tax Benefit was abolished and replaced by a Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Mr Cressey went on to explain that Universal Credit (UC), a major feature of the Welfare Reform Act, would begin

to be rolled-out nationally from October 2013. The aim was to simplify the benefits system by bringing together several working age benefits into a single streamlined payment to help claimants and their families become more independent. It was anticipated that UC would “go live” in the Borders in February 2014 and that a related local Support Services Framework would be in place from October 2013.

5. In conclusion, the presentation described how organisations in the Borders were working in partnership to prepare for the changes and to provide support where required. The structure of the Scottish Borders Welfare Reform Programme was outlined which was headed by the Community Planning Joint Delivery Team. Following the presentation Mr Cressey and his team proceeded to answer questions. With regard to the requirement to submit applications for UC online, Members were pleased to hear officers confirm that Scottish Borders Council planned to set up facilities in public buildings and contact centres to help with on-line applications. However no additional funding was being provided from the Department of Work and Pensions to assist with this. Particular concern was expressed about the probable local impact of the under-occupancy issues, where there would be benefit reductions in cases where households had more bedrooms than they needed. In response to a question about the risk of abuse of the payment system arising from UC being paid to one member of the family Mr Cressey advised that there was a facility to change the person to whom payment was made if circumstances justified this. He added that the question of how vulnerable families would manage the payment changes was unknown at present but that it was anticipated that the requirement for all support services would increase. The Council had set up a new contract with the Citizens Advice Bureaux who would be providing a broad-ranged service to provide general support, with complicated cases being passed on to the Council's Welfare Benefits Officers. The Chairman thanked officers for their attendance.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

INTRODUCTION OF ONE-WAY OPERATION, D14-3, HORNSHOLE BRIDGE, NEAR HAWICK

6. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure presenting a proposal to introduce The Scottish Borders Council (Hornshole) (One-Way) Traffic Regulation Order 2013. Assistant Road User Manager, Robbie Yates, was in attendance to present the report. He explained that visibility to the right was severely restricted for drivers emerging onto the A698 (Hawick to Denholm) from the westernmost arm of the D14-3 at Hornshole. It was considered that the prohibition of vehicles using this link to access the A698 would reduce the risk of accidents occurring. The proposal was to prohibit the exit of vehicles via that link as per the plan included as Appendix A to the report and draft schedule included as Appendix B. Members recognised public concern about safety at this road junction and agreed with the proposal for a traffic regulation order to address this.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the introduction of the Traffic Regulation Order, to prohibit the movement of traffic from the north-east to the south-west of the westernmost arm of the D14-3 south of Hornshole Bridge, as per the plan and draft schedule attached to the report.

SB LOCAL SMALL SCHEMES

7. There was, tabled at the meeting, a spreadsheet updating Members on the position regarding Small Schemes approved within 2012/13. This indicated that the works connected with all but one scheme had been completed and that there had been no underspend of the budget available for Small Schemes within the Teviot and Liddesdale area for the financial year 2012/13. It was noted that clarification was awaited as to whether there was additional money available for use in 2013/14. However, with reference to paragraph 9(c) of the Minute of 19 February 2013 it was agreed that any additional

money available for Small Schemes would be divided 50:50 for use in the two Hawick wards.

DECISION

AGREED that any additional money available for Small Schemes in the Teviot and Liddesdale area be divided 50:50 for use in the two Hawick wards.

OPEN QUESTIONS

8. (a) A question was asked by Mr Hope, Chairman of the 2014 group, in connection with the 500th Anniversary of the Battle of Hornshole in 2014. There were plans to erect a life-sized monument outside Drumlanrig Tower. Mr Hope asked if it would be possible for the tall advertising board there to be re-sited to enable a clear view of the monument and to avoid the advertisement taking respect away from the commemorative structure. Members agreed in principle to the request, providing a suitable alternative location could be found for the advertising board. The Chairman asked Mr Hope to put his request in writing so that this could be investigated with officers.

DECISION

NOTED

- (b) A member of the public asked if Inspector Wood could give her views on how the single police force was operating, particularly in respect of the single call centre. Inspector Wood advised that it was the number 101 non emergency number that was new, rather than the call centre itself which had been operating for some time. She was not aware of any issues connected to its operation. She added that there were the same number of police officers on front-line policing as before the re-structure of the force. There were also set dates for senior officers to be involved in policing on the street.

DECISION

NOTED

- (c) Mr Tait advised that permission had been granted for the day of the Farmers Market in Hawick to be changed from a Friday to a Saturday and that this would be happening with immediate effect.

DECISION

NOTED

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

9. Mrs Short, from Hawick Community Council, reported that the apparent demise of the Hawick town twinning arrangement had been raised at a Community Council meeting. In consequence, a meeting had been set up to include all those interested and involved from the town in the hope that this could be revived. Mrs Short also advised that Hawick Community Council had looked at a date at the end of April to hold the Annual Spring Clean-up in the town. However there would be obvious advantages if Burnfoot Community Council and volunteers from other organisations could be involved on the same day. Members explained their intention to set up a date for the annual clean up but pointed out that, for equipment to be provided from Clean Up Scotland, more notice may be required. It was unanimously agreed that the best option would be for Community Councils and everyone to be involved on the same day. With more notice Inspector Wood indicated that she could also involve school eco-committees through the locality police officers. After further discussion it transpired that the most suitable date for the clean-up would be Sunday 19th May. The Chairman asked the representative from the press if the date could be advertised in the Hawick News.

DECISION

(a) NOTED the report

(b) AGREED that the Annual Spring Clean-up be held on Sunday 19th May with a 10 am start.

10. Mr Knight, from Burnfoot Community Council, reported that the Common Riding Concert would be held on 16 May and the Burnfoot Carnival on 13 July. He also advised that the Community Resilience Plan was being taken forward.
11. Mr Robson, from Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water, advised that Community Resilience Plans were being taken forward also by his Community Council. However, due to the area involved there would be three separate plans to cover the three valleys. The main topic for discussion at the recent meeting was the closure of Martin's Bridge and the management of the diversions that had been put in place. It had been suggested that there had been some abuse of the diversions and that some timber lorries were coming through. The Chairman offered to raise this with the Timber Transport Group and Inspector Wood agreed to request that officers give the areas some attention. Mr Robson added that work on the bridge appeared to be moving very slowly and he was concerned that the closure would extend beyond the proposed period.

DECISION

NOTED the reports.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12. Agreed that the next meeting be held on Tuesday 21 May 2013.

The meeting concluded at 8.10 pm

MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S ROADS ASSET – TEVIOT & LIDDESDALE AREA

Report by Director of Environment & Infrastructure

TEVIOT & LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM

21 MAY 2013

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report seeks approval for the proposed allocation of additional Capital funding identified to carry out resurfacing works in the Teviot & Liddesdale Area.**
- 1.2 The Council agreed on 28 March 2013 to consult with Area Forums over the allocation of an additional £1.14m of Capital funding for road surfacing works. ANNEX D of that report indicated those schemes which officers have identified as a priority, together with those previously identified by local members as priority areas.
- 1.3 Officers require the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum to make a decision on which schemes are included within the sum allocated to the Teviot & Liddesdale Area of £140,000. Where the Area Forum request an additional scheme to be included in the programme they will have to also make a decision on which scheme can be removed from ANNEX A.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum:-**
 - (a) **Agrees to the list as presented in ANNEX A, or**
 - (b) **Amend the list in ANNEX A to add schemes which members consider are of higher priority in terms of Area Forum requests, and subtract schemes which members consider are of lower priority in terms of Area Forum requests.**

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The report, 'Management of the Council's Roads Asset' to Council on 28 March 2013, provided:

- an assessment of the current state of the Council's roads asset,
- the approach taken to roads asset management
- a programme of revenue and capital road works for 2013/14 and a request for further funding.

3.2 The Roads Condition Indicator (RCI) is a critical indicator of how the carriageway element of the Roads asset is performing. The recent results for Scottish Borders Council show a worsening of road condition with around 40% of the network requiring investigation or maintenance treatment.

RCI is the sum of the Red and Amber classification, expressed as a percentage of the total length of carriageway. The recent RCI results for Scottish Borders Council are shown below. An increasing RCI equates to a worsening of condition of the road carriageway.

Road Condition Indicator (2 year average)				
	2008-10	2009-11	2010-12	2011-13
TOTAL	38.1%	39.2%	40.2%	41.7%
A	25.3%	25.7%	26.5%	28.9%
B	39.1%	38.1%	38.6%	38.1%
C	36.5%	38%	39.5%	37.7%
U/C	43.9%	46.2%	47.2%	57.3%

Source - SCOTS Web site 21 February 2013

This information, roads of Red and Amber classification, together with site specific surveys, is then used by road Asset Managers to prioritise the planned works programmes for the following year.

3.3 The base budgets available to manage the whole road network in 2013/14 are £3.81m Revenue and £2.180m Capital. As a result of recent severe weather and the need for remedial repairs, officers have reviewed the condition of roads asset, and concluded that additional resources were required. Members approved an addition of £2.072m to manage road assets in 2013/14.

3.4 The Council agreed on 28 March 2013 to consult with Area Forums over the allocation of an additional £1.14m of Capital funding for road surfacing works. ANNEX D of that report indicated those schemes which officers have identified, together with those previously identified by local members as priority areas.

- 3.5 This allocation of additional funds will deliver much needed improvement to the road network. The allocation of £140,000 to the Teviot & Liddesdale Area will allow for schemes to be brought forward in high profile areas at the same time as recognising the agreed priority assessment model used in promoting road treatment schemes detailed in ANNEX A. Investment will also look to stabilise the increasing trend in RCI.
- 3.6 Officers require the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum to make a decision on which schemes are included within the sum allocated to the Teviot & Liddesdale Area of £140,000. Where the Area Forum request an additional scheme to be included in the programme they will have to also make a decision on which scheme can be removed from ANNEX A.
- 3.7 Works will be scheduled to meet specific area needs, local timetables and to maximise the overall efficiency of the works programme.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

A budget of £140,000 is available for additional road resurfacing and surfacing works in the Teviot & Liddesdale Area in 2013/14.

ANNEX A lists the proposed programme identified by officers together with reserve schemes.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

There is a risk that if the additional allocation capital funding is not spent, the local area will not benefit from improvement in the overall condition of the road network

4.3 Equalities

The proposals within this report will not have an adverse impact on any of the equality groups - race, disability, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no significant affects anticipated on acting sustainably to the Council by doing or not doing what is proposed.

4.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects anticipated on carbon emissions to the Council by doing or not doing what is proposed.

4.6 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes which are required to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals in this report.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Head of Corporate Governance, the Head of Audit and Risk, the Head of Strategic Policy and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments will be reported at the meeting.

Approved by

Director of Environment and Infrastructure

Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Colin Ovens	Infrastructure Manager 01835 826635
David Richardson	Asset Manager 01835 826584

Background Papers: 'Management of the Council's Asset' to Council on 28 March 2013

Previous Minute Reference: None

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Jacqueline Whitelaw can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Jacqueline Whitelaw, Environment and Infrastructure, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA, Tel 01835 825431, Fax 01835 825071, email eitranslationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk.

ANNEX A

Programme of Additional Capital Works

Programme of Additional Capital Works - Teviot & Liddesdale Area

Location	Description	Estimate	
B6357 Greena Quarry	Carriageway Surfacing	£60,000	
DH110/3 Lower Mansfield Road, Hawick	Carriageway Surfacing	£50,000	
DH24/3 Braid Road, Hawick	Carriageway Surfacing	£30,000	
	TOTAL	£140,000	
Reserve			
B6357 Cleuch Head	Carriageway Surfacing	£50,000	
DH40/3 Church Lane, Hawick	Carriageway Surfacing	£20,000	
DH209/3 Wester Braid Road, Hawick	Carriageway Surfacing	£20,000	

SB LOCAL SMALL SCHEMES and CAPITAL & REVENUE WORKS

Report by Director of Environment & Infrastructure

TEVIOT & LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM

21 MAY 2013

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 **This report seeks approval for the proposed new SB Local small schemes from the Area Forum and to up-date the Forum on Roads Capital & Revenue works.**

1.2 The following schemes have been requested for consideration by the Teviot and Liddesdale members:- Install seat near Linden Crescent., install new footpath at Wilton Primary School, upgrade seating area at Bonchester Bridge War Memorial, white lining to define parking areas in Lanton Place, upgrade access road to Denholm Cemetery, and grass cutting at The Mote.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **I recommend that the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum consider and prioritise the following new SB Local small schemes for implementation:-**

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| (a) Install seating area adjacent to Linden Cresc., Hawick | £ 290 |
| (b) Install footpath at Wilton Primary School, Hawick | £ 580 |
| (c) Upgrade seating area at the War Memorial, Bonchester | £ 440 |
| (d) White lining of parking areas in Lanton Place, Hawick | £ 800 |
| (e) Upgrade access road to Denholm Cemetery | £3,240 |
| (f) Grass cutting, The Mote, Hawick | £ 400 |

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Elected Members, Community Councils and the public can request potential small schemes or work to be undertaken by the Neighbourhood squads by contacting the Neighbourhood Area Manager direct. Neighbourhood Operations is contactable via the new Scottish Borders Council telephone number 0300 100 1800, e-mail address – enquiries@scotborders.gov.uk or by writing to Environment and Infrastructure, Council HQ, Newtown St. Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA. The following schemes have been requested for consideration via these routes to enhance the Teviot & Liddesdale Area:-

- (a) Install access footpath & seat on old railway embankment adjacent to Linden Cresc., Hawick (£290). This is a joint scheme with Criminal Justice Team, material costs only. This request was received from local Ward Councillor.
- (b) Provision of gravel footpath in grounds to assist disabled access at Wilton Primary School, Hawick (£580). This is a joint scheme with Criminal Justice Team, material costs only. This request was received from local Ward Councillor.
- (c) Upgrade to seating area adjacent to the War Memorial at Bonchester Bridge (£440). This is a joint scheme with Criminal Justice Team, material costs only. This request was received from local Ward Councillor.
- (d) White Lining to define parking areas in Lanton Place, Hawick (£800). This request was received from local Ward Councillor.
- (e) Upgrade access road into Denholm Cemetery (£3,240). This request was received from local Ward Councillor.
- (f) Grass cutting to the top half of The Mote, Hawick (£400). This request was received from local Councillors.

3.2 Works will be scheduled to meet specific area needs, local timetables and to maximise the overall efficiency of the works programme.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

A budget of £34,702 is available through SB Local for small schemes in the Teviot and Liddesdale area in 2013/14. It has been agreed previously that this budget will be split equally between the Hawick & Hermitage and Hawick & Denholm Wards.

Appendix B list up-dates on Roads Capital & Revenue works.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

If the SB Local small schemes budget is not spent, the local area will not benefit from improvement works being carried out.

4.3 Equalities

The proposals within this report will not have an adverse impact on any of the equality groups - race, disability, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief.

4.4 **Acting Sustainably**

It is anticipated that there will be a variety of economic, social or environmental benefits arising from the proposed schemes in para 2.1.

4.5 **Carbon Management**

There are no significant effects anticipated on carbon emissions to the Council by doing or not doing what is proposed.

4.6 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes which are required to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals in this report.

5 **CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, Head of Corporate Governance, Head of Audit & Risk, Head of Strategic Policy and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the report.

Approved by

Director of Environment and Infrastructure

Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Alistair Finnie	Neighbourhood Area Manager (Teviot & Liddesdale) 01835 824000 Ext 6535

Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: None

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Asset Programme of Revenue and Capital Works - Teviot & Liddesdale Area 2013/14

APPENDIX B

Programme of Capital Works - Roads

Location	Description	Estimate	Final Cost	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
B6357 Longrow	Carriageway Surfacing	£95,000													
DH119/3 Myreslawgreen, Hawick	Carriageway Surfacing	£45,000													
Resurfacing for Surface Dressing 14/15	Carriageway Surfacing	£30,000													
A698 Emtelle	Surface Dressing	£9,500													
B6357 Easter Fodderlee	Surface Dressing	£7,700													
B6357 Piet's Nest	Surface Dressing	£16,200													
B6399 Langburnshiels	Surface Dressing	£33,700													
A698 Hawick - Spittle on Rule	Carriageway Patching	£7,000													
A6088 Hawick - Carterbar	Carriageway Patching	£8,000													
B6399 Hawick - Sandholm Bridge	Carriageway Patching	£20,000													
C24 Hermitage - Billhope	Carriageway Patching	£15,000													
B6357 Bonchester - Sandholm	Carriageway Patching	£15,000													
D16/3 Honneyburn	Carriageway Patching	£9,000													
Schemes to be Assessed and Prioritised	Walls & Structures	£25,000													
North Bridge Street, Hawick	Footway Works	£13,000													

TOTAL

£349,100

Programme of Revenue Works - Roads

Location	Description	Estimate	Final Cost	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
D24/3 Priesthaugh	Carriageway Patching	£25,000													
DH139/3 Rosebank Road, Hawick	Carriageway Patching	£7,500													
DH97/3 Loan, Hawick	Carriageway Patching	£5,000													
DH85/3 Kirkwynd, Hawick	Carriageway Patching	£3,500													
DH22/3 Burnflat Brae, Hawick	Carriageway Patching	£3,500													
DH47/3 Duke Street, Hawick	Carriageway Patching	£10,000													
B711 Borthaugh Cottages	Drainage Works	£7,000													
B6357 Wolflee	Drainage Works	£8,500													
Stirches Road, Hawick	Footway Works	£7,000													
St Ninians Road, Hawick	Footway Works	£4,500													
Oliver Crescent, Hawick	Footway Works	£6,000													
Guthrie Drive/Deloraine Court, Hawick	Footway Slurry Sealing	£5,500													
Various Location Teviot & Liddesdale	Jetpatching	£33,750													
Slitrig Crescent, Hawick	Rhino Patching	£2,800													
Stirches Road, Hawick	Rhino Patching	£2,800													
Weensland Road, Hawick	Rhino Patching	£4,200													
Howdenbank, Hawick	Rhino Patching	£2,800													
Hazelwood Road, Hawick	Rhino Patching	£4,200													
Trinity Street, Hawick	Rhino Patching	£2,800													
Hamilton Road, Hawick	Rhino Patching	£2,800													

TOTAL

£149,150

Asset Programme of Revenue and Capital Works - Teviot & Liddesdale Area 2013/14

APPENDIX B

Programme of Capital Works - Bridges

Location	Description	Estimate	Final Cost	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
B711 Martins Bridge	Masonry Repairs & Strengthen	£245,000													

TOTAL **£245,000**

Programme of Revenue Works - Bridges

Location	Description	Estimate	Final Cost	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
A698 Knowesouth Bridge	Deck Replacement	£100,000													
B6357 Wane Cleuch Bridge	Masonry Repairs/Replacement	£70,000													
D29/3 Bowanhill Bridge	Parapet Replacement	£30,000													

TOTAL **£200,000**

Programme of Capital Works - Street Lighting

Location	Description	Estimate	Final Cost	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Bothwell Court, Hawick	Street Lighting	£55,000													
Stirches Footpaths, Hawick	Street Lighting	£20,000													

TOTAL **£75,000**