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CHEVIOT AREA PARTNERSHIP TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 2021

Please find attached the Appendix in respect Item on the agenda for the above meeting

2.	**Feedback form Meeting on 25 November 2020 (Copy to follow.)** (Pages 3 - 6)	
4.	**Fit for 2021: Review of Area Partnership & Community Fund** (Pages 7 - 16) Recommendations proposed from Cheviot Area Partnership to be considered for public consultation. (to follow)	

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Cheviot
Area Partnership

Our Scottish Borders
Your community

MINUTES of Meeting of the CHEVIOT AREA PARTNERSHIP held remotely by Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 25 November 2020 at 6.30 pm.

Present:- Councillors S. Hamilton (Chairman), J. Brown, S. Mountford, S. Scott, T. Weatherston, R. Tatler together with 19 Representatives of Partner Organisations, Community Councils and Members of the Public.

Apologies: - Councillor Robson.

In attendance: - Service Director Neighbourhood Services, Communities and Partnerships Manager, Strategic Community Engagement Officer), Democratic Services Officer (F. Henderson).

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership held remotely via Microsoft teams, which included elected Members, guests attending within the meeting and those watching via the Live Stream. He outlined how the meeting would be conducted.

2.0 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

2.1 The minute of the meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership held on 29 January 2020 had been circulated and was noted.

3.0 OTHER INFORMATION AND NEWS FOR NOTING

The following information and news, as detailed on the agenda, was noted:

(a) Outstanding Community Fund Applications for 2019/20 - these had been dealt with as per the report that went to Council on 27 August 2020 which also contained the evaluation of Localities Bid Fund 1&2 and Participatory Budgeting. A summary paper had been circulated with the agenda.

(b) The Cheviot Community Fund for 2020/21 was now open - guidance and application form was on the Council's website: https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20076/community_grants_and_funding/261/community_fund

(c) Community Councils - grants were being paid as normal for 2020/21

(d) Festival Grant Scheme – commitments re pubic liability and insurance were being met for 2020

(e) Federation of Village Halls – grants were being paid as normal for 2020/21

(f) VE Celebration Fund – this fund was now closed and commitments re expenses were being met

(g) Cheviot Locality Plan & Action Plans - these plans were now published. They outlined the priorities of the Eildon area and could be the focus of a future Area Partnership meeting: https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1310/locality_plans

(h) Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Currently, there were no formal Participation Requests or formal Asset Transfer requests being considered within Cheviot.

4. FIT FOR 2024: REVIEW OF AREA PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY FUND AND ACTIONS FOR CHEVIOT AREA PARTNERSHIP

4.1 A summary of reports to Council, on 27 August 2020, on the Reviews of Area Partnerships and the Community Fund, had been circulated with the agenda. Mrs Craig gave a slide presentation which highlighted the main findings of the reviews and outlined the next steps. Based on the findings of the review some immediate changes had been made to the Community Fund from 1 September 2020. As part of the Council's response to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, and from the findings of the Scottish Community Development Centre report, Area Partnerships and communities could now make recommendations to Scottish Borders Council by the end of January 2021 about how they would like their Area Partnership and Community Fund to operate in the future. These recommendations would then go out for further public consultation that would take place in February 2021. At the end of the public consultation, a report would go to Council in March 2021.

4.2 The Chairman asked for views about how Cheviot Area Partnership could establish a way to review the findings and make recommendations at a local level for further public consultation in February 2021. He referred to the suggested questions which were included in the paper circulated, as an aid to developing these recommendations. A discussion followed about the most effective and fair way of engaging with groups and communities and how to collaborate in the provision of a list of recommendations. It was accepted that a variety of ways could be used to consult with people, even through the current restrictions, including by remote meetings, email and group telephone calls. It was agreed that a Working Group be established to draw together some initial thoughts to be reported back to the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership.

DECISION
AGREED that:-

(a) a short term Working Group consisting be established consisting of the following:-

Councillors S. Hamilton (Chairman)
Councillor E. Robson
John Taylor (Jedburgh Community Council)
Dean Weatherston (Kelso Community Council)
Charles Strang (St Boswells Community Council)
Susan Stewart (Yetholm Community Council)
Ian Rendall-Reid (Cheviot Youth)
Heather Batsch (The Bridge)
Colin McGrath (Community Council Network)

(b) **That a meeting of the Working Group be held prior to the next Meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership which was scheduled for 27 January 2021.**

5.0 **CHEVIOT COMMUNITY FUND 2020/21**

Assessments of four applications to the Cheviot Community Fund had been circulated, plus a summary of grant funding within Cheviot in 2020/21 and the source of that funding. The summary showed grant applications awarded, those under assessment and those to be considered by the Area Partnership. Also included were funding commitments to Community Councils, Village Halls and Local Festivals. Before consideration of the four pending applications, Ms Clare Malster outlined the process of assessment of applications to the Community Fund and the criteria used for that assessment. She advised that all applications to the Community Fund would be put forward to the Area Partnership for consideration, with officer assessment advising if the criteria had been met. She went on to give a summary of each of the following applications under consideration and confirmed that each met the Community Fund criteria.

5.1 **Lothian Hall Committee**

The application explained that Lothian Hall was a 120 year old traditionally built building and was owned and run by the local community. The Hall served a rural community with many of the users travelling in from outlying settlements and provided opportunities for individuals to maintain social connections with one another and help to combat social isolation. The local community had no shops or schools and therefore the hall was a key community asset for residents. The group hoped to a hold social event as soon as it was possible to do so to bring the community together again following the restrictions of the past year. Lothian Hall was a popular venue for local activities, particularly the informal fortnightly coffee mornings and monthly coffee evenings and hosted weekly meetings of the wood turners, local dog training group, regular surgeries for Elected Members, MP/MSP's and had operated as a polling station for elections prior to the COVID restrictions. Additionally the hall supported a range of seasonal events including a Christmas fayre, Easter gatherings and Kelso Civic week events and the introduction of gentle exercise classes was planned 2021. All events were open to all and very popular with all ages. Funding of £13,748 had been requested by the Lothian Hall Committee to install secondary glazing units to all 25 windows as the first step in improving the building thermal efficiency. In the longer term the Hall Committee would also upgrade the heating system which would improve the thermal fabric of the building and thus the comfort of users, ensuring that groups could continue to meet throughout the year whist utility costs were kept at an acceptable level and not passed on to hall users.

5.2 **Cheviot Youth**

Cheviot Youth were requesting financial support in the sum of £25,151 for the enhanced delivery of Stepping Stones mental health and well-being service in Cheviot, which aimed to improve the mental health and well-being of children and young people. Youth Borders co-ordinates a team of seven Project Workers to deliver Stepping Stones across the Borders. Cheviot Youth planned to increase the capacity of the Stepping Stones service in Cheviot to meet local need and had requested funding to pay 50% of the salary cost of the Lead Practitioner (£18,673) and 33% of the salary cost of a Practitioner who would be recruited early 2021. The Lead Practitioner's working hours would increase from 28 hours to 35 hours and the Practitioner would be employed for 16 hours per week (£5,086,). The Lead Practitioner would be responsible for the day to day running of the Stepping Stones service and help plan service development. The Practitioner would hold their own case load and

contribute to developmental work and provide supervision to a small number of Volunteer Practitioners. In addition, Cheviot Youth requested £1,392 for the cost of providing monthly in-house counselling sessions for Practitioners led by a qualified practitioner. Funding of £25,151 had been requested to enhance delivery of the Stepping Stones mental health and well-being service in Cheviot.

5.3 **Kalewater Community Company**

The group were given the opportunity to purchase a 3 acre field behind the Village Hall on the condition it was used for the benefit of the community. A community consultation was carried out along with open meetings and a survey of the community's suggestions. A recreation ground was identified as the communities chosen idea and plans were created for a children/toddlers play area, trim track, community garden, orchard and level playing field. These proposals were submitted to SBC planning department in 2018 and planning consent was given with the condition that an Archaeological study was to be undertaken. Quotes were obtained for this study and Clyde Archaeology was hired to carry out a Geophys. This work was carried out in September 2019 and a report was sent to SBC on their findings. SBC Planning Department now require the group to carry out further excavations and until this work was completed the group are unable to proceed with their proposals for the recreational area. Funding of £7,403.53 had been requested to allow Clyde Archaeology to be commissioned to carry out the next stage investigation of Morebattle Archaeological Site. The funding would cover a five-day evaluation of the site which would involve community engagement and training as well as school involvement on site. Clyde Archaeology would hire a mechanical excavator to open up 4 to 5 evaluation tranches across the linear features at the northern end of the site, closest to the village, plus a few 1m square test pits targeting other possible anomalies and two archaeologists would be on site at all times.

5.4 **Generations Working Together**

Generations Working Together (GWT) were looking to appoint a Development Officer who would plan and deliver a gardening project based at the Jedburgh Community Campus. The proposed project would be added to an existing post giving the part time officer additional hours. The group were also looking for £5,000 to erect and install a Polytunnel in the school grounds which would be warmer and dryer allowing the group to continue to work on this project throughout the year and costs that would support the running of this project, including volunteer expenses and outdoor clothing for participants. Covid-19 had had a negative impact on people's access to learning and had aided in people feeling isolated and disconnected. The need for an intergenerational outdoor space was also backed by the Scottish Government who encouraged people to meet outdoors where physical distancing measures can be safely applied. Young people participating in the RSPB wild challenge identified the need for an Intergenerational Garden to allow them to continue their learning and to create opportunities to learn and share skills and experiences with older people. A sub group of the community council previously had use of a greenhouse at the old Grammar school in Jedburgh and now no longer had access to this area and required a new base so that they are able to carry on their work.

5.5 Representatives for each project were present via Microsoft Teams and given the opportunity to answer questions presented by those present. There followed a lengthy discussion with regard to funding to be allocated. As a consensus could not be reached a vote was held as follows:-

Option 1 – Allocate 100% of funding requested to Kalewater Community Company and Lothian Hall and the remainder be paid to those on the Fast Track Pending list

Option 2 – Allocate 100% of funding requested to Kalewater Community Company and the remainder be allocated to Cheviot Youth

On a show of Hands

3 votes for Option 1
2 votes for Option 2

DECISION
DECIDED to award 100% of funding requested to Kalewater Community Company and Lothian Hall and the remainder be paid to those on the Fast Track Pending list.

6.0 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on **Wednesday, 27 January 2021 via Microsoft Teams.**

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

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Cheviot Area Partnership Working Group

Recommendations for the future evolution of the Cheviot Area Partnership and Cheviot Community Fund

AREA PARTNERSHIP

Do you want the Area Partnership to be a Council committee in the future or a community meeting?

Remain a Council Committee, to include Elected Members, Community Councils and 3rd Sector but only if all Committee Members had equal rights to include voting rights.

If unable to give all members equal voting rights then consider a separate entity.

What should be the role, remit and purpose of future Area Partnerships meetings?

Structure which focuses on strategic issues rather than very localised issues – which could be achieved by separating operational matters and more strategic matters.

Mechanisms for discussions on very localised issues can be identified.

If the meetings were not a Council committee, what would the governance model be, what will the membership look like, and who would Chair etc.

More emphasis on sharing responsibility for the role of Chair if a separate entity is required

More use of technology

Ensure people are not disenfranchised by holding them the same day and time – explore meeting on different days and times

A short meeting more frequently may be beneficial

Committee need to agree which items are placed on the Agenda

Presentations for discussion allotted 15 mins

All parties have a say on what goes on the agenda which could include a topic of interest

How do you want to progress the Cheviot Locality Plan & Action Plan?

The agreed identified priorities should be to be re-visited to ensure that place plans are reflected

What support do you think you would need to progress the development of Area Partnerships?

Support to develop Local Place Plans

Area Partnership must spend more time to look at and reflect on the SCDC report and address it.

Sustainability crisis needs to be built into Community Plan and Locality Plan

COMMUNITY FUND

The criteria, assessment and decision making arrangements for the Community Fund – do you want to change the criteria, decision making or consider convening a funding panel to assess applications

No change required to the criteria

Funding panel to include wide representation.

Voting to be expanded for when consensus not reached

Officers to do technical checks prior to a funding panel scoring the application and then presentation to the Area Partnership for a decision.

Funding for Festivals, Community Councils and Village Halls

Community Council grants should remain as is and be allocated from the Community Fund although these grants will be included in the Community Council Scheme Review.

Village Hall grants should remain as is and be allocated from the Community Fund.

Festival grants should remain as is and be allocated from the Community Fund.

Are there community projects from the Cheviot Locality Plan & Action Plan that could be funded from the Community Fund?

Need to discuss Locality Plan at Cheviot Area Partnership – no decision at present

Do you wish to undertake participatory budgeting at a local level using third parties and a sum from the Community Fund? – this could focus on a specific priority for Cheviot

Community Fund shouldn't be relied on for match funding as it could tie money up while other funding is being explored

Some funding could be devolved to community councils for local priorities

Funding must be used wisely which may mean making unpopular decisions