

**Please find attached the Public Minutes in respect of
Item No. 6 on the agenda for the above meeting**

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| 6. | <p>Committee Minutes (Pages 3 - 54)</p> <p>Consider Minutes of the following Committees:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) William Hill Trust 23 August 2022 (b) Hawick Common Good Fund 25 August 2022 (c) Berwickshire Area Partnership 1 September 2022 (d) Community Planning Strategic Board 8 September 2022 (e) Eildon Area Partnership 8 September 2022 (f) Audit 12 September 2022 (g) Hawick Common Good Fund 12 September 2022 (h) Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership 13 September 2022 (i) Chambers Institution Trust 14 September 2022 (j) Cheviot Area Partnership 28 September 2022 (k) Cheviot Area Partnership 10 October 2022 <p>(Copies attached.)</p> | 5 mins |
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|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) | William Hill Trust | 23 August 2022 |
| (b) | Hawick Common Good Fund | 25 August 2022 |
| (c) | Berwickshire Area Partnership | 1 September 2022 |
| (d) | Community Planning Strategic Board | 8 September 2022 |
| (e) | Eildon Area Partnership | 8 September 2022 |
| (f) | Audit | 12 September 2022 |
| (g) | Hawick Common Good Fund | 12 September 2022 |
| (h) | Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership | 13 September 2022 |
| (i) | Chambers Institution Trust | 14 September 2022 |
| (j) | Cheviot Area Partnership | 28 September 2022 |
| (k) | Cheviot Area Partnership | 10 October 2022 |

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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL WILLIAM HILL TRUST SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Meeting of the WILLIAM HILL TRUST SUB-COMMITTEE held in via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 23 August 2022 at 1.30 pm

Present:- Councillors J. Linehan, D. Parker, J. PatonDay; and Mr S. Harris (Melrose and District CC).

In Attendance:- Principal Solicitor, Pension and Investment Manager, Democratic Services Officer (W. Mohieddeen).

1. **MINUTE**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 29 June 2022.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute for signature by the Chairman.

2. **MONITORING REPORT FOR 3 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2022**

There had been circulated copies of a report by Acting Chief Executive that provided the details of the income and expenditure for the William Hill Trust Fund for the three months to 30 June 2022, a full year projected out-turn for 2022/23, and projected balance sheet values as at 31 March 2023. Appendix 1 of the report provided the projected income and expenditure position for 2022-23 which showed a projected surplus of £12,868 for the year. Appendix 2 of the report provided a projected balance sheet value as at 31 March 2023 which showed a projected increase in reserves of £12,868. Appendix 3 of the report showed the value of the Aegon Asset Management Investment Fund to 30 June 2022.

DECISION

AGREED

- (a) **To note the projected income and expenditure for 2022/23 in Appendix 1 of the report;**
- (b) **To note the projected balance sheet value as at 31 March 2023 in Appendix 2 of the report; and,**
- (c) **To note the current position of the Aegon Asset Management Investment Fund in Appendix 3 of the report.**

The meeting concluded at 1.35 pm.

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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL HAWICK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Meeting of the HAWICK
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE
held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 25
August 2022 at 10.00 am

- Present:- Councillors C. Ramage (Chairman), J. Cox, W. McAteer, N. Richards, A. Smart; Mr J. Campbell (Hawick CC) and Mr W. Fletcher (Burnfoot CC).
- Apologies:- Councillors S. Marshall.
- In Attendance:- Chief Legal Officer, Pension and Investment Manager, Estates Strategy Manager, Property Officer (S. Drummond), and Democratic Services Officer (W. Mohieddeen).

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair started the meeting and welcomed Mr Steven Drummond, Property Officer to the Sub-Committee. The Chair advised that the public business in this meeting was being livestreamed for public view and also recorded. By participating in the meeting, attendees have given consent for this. The recording would be available through the link to the event livestream on the Council website for public viewing for 180 days afterwards. The recording would then be automatically deleted after this time. Everyone was reminded that the Council did not allow any other recording of the meeting than this one.

1. MINUTE

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 7 June 2022 and the Minute of the Special Meeting held on 27 July 2022.

DECISION

AGREED

- (a) To approve the Minute of the Meeting held on 7 June 2022 for signature by the Chair; and,**
- (b) To approve the Special Minute of the Meeting held on 27 July 2022 for signature by the Chair.**

2. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – FUTURE HAWICK

There had been circulated copies of an application for financial assistance from Future Hawick for £5,000 for assistance with wage costs for Hawick Welcome Hosts for the last five weeks of the project. The Chair invited Derick Tait, Treasurer of Future Hawick to present the application and answered questions from Members. Mr Tait advised that the Welcome Hosts project had gone well and that they were approaching 3,000 visitors welcomed to the town and there had been over 400 campervans since starting. Future Hawick had opened a visitor information centre which had been received positively in attracting visitors and people local to Hawick. Six hosts had been employed and assistance was sought for funding the hosts for the last four weeks of the season. In response to questions from Members, Mr Tait advised that a report on the Welcome Hosts would be compiled following the conclusion of the project and that funding sources were normally sought however circumstances had led the group to apply to the common good fund.

DECISION

AGREED to award Future Hawick a grant of £5,000 for assistance with wage costs for Hawick Welcome Hosts.

3. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – HAWICK HONORARY PROVOST’S COUNCIL

There had been circulated copies of an application for financial assistance from Hawick Honorary Provost’s Council (HHPC) for £2,500 to support the carrying out of civic duties in Hawick included the funding of outside catering and presents for those being recognised for what they have achieved or contributed to their community. As Councillors Cox, Ramage, Richards, McAteer were members of the Hawick Honorary Provost’s Council, quorum would not be achieved after Members declared their interest. It was therefore noted that the application would be referred to Scottish Borders Council for a decision to be made. In response to questions from Councillor Smart, Councillor McAteer advised that awards conveyed by the Hawick Honorary Provost’s Council were typically a medal or glass figure with an engraving to recognise those that make a contribution to the community. The HHPC also would participate in the Colour Bussing during Hawick Common Riding and would provide catering for the Ex-Service parade. Further activities included welcoming of groups from other countries. It was advised that funding was applied for from the Hawick Common Good Fund Sub-Committee as the HHPC for activities that supported the people of Hawick and that there were no plans for other fundraising.

4. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – HAWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND HAWICK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

There had been circulated an application for financial from Hawick Community Council and Hawick Archaeological Society for £5,000 for a commemorative plaque and educational materials to mark the anniversary of a speech by American former slave, social reformer and abolitionist Frederick Douglass in Myrselawgreen, Hawick. The Chair invited Evelyn Jackson of Hawick Archaeological Society to present the application. Members expressed support for the application and noted the educational aspect of the activities and the appropriateness of the plaque to commemorate the speech Frederick Douglass gave.

DECISION

AGREED to award a grant of £5,000 to Hawick Archaeological Society and Hawick Community Council.

5. HIRE OF HAWICK COMMON HAUGH MOTORHOME PARKING AREA

A request had been made to the Hawick Common Good Fund Sub-Committee for exclusive use of the Hawick Common Haugh motorhome parking area on 29 December 2022 – 2 January 2023 and 24 March 2023 – 28 March 2023 by the Motorhome Fun Club. The Chair invited Derick Tait to present on behalf of the group their request for exclusive use of the area. Mr Tait advised the Motorhome Fun Club were a group of campervanners from the Central Belt that were regular visitors to Hawick, visiting two or three times per year, numbering between 15 to 20 campervans per visit, and that they were requesting exclusive use of the motorhome parking area and were prepared to pay for the section being reserved to their group. The Chair advised that Kenny Stuart funfairs usually apply for use of the Common Haugh during the March dates. In response to questions from Members, the Estates Strategy Manager advised that there may be some logistics considerations of cordoning the motorhome area during the Christmas holiday when some officers may not be available and that the Kenny Stuart funfair usually occupies over one third of the Common Haugh and that they normally operate until 10.00 pm each day. The Estates Strategy Manager advised that normally spaces wouldn’t have a cost and that charges would cover the cost of the service of cordoning the area as the Car Park Order stated that there was no car park levy. Mr Tait advised that the group normally all paid £10 elsewhere to cover

services including placing barriers in sites they occupy. The Estates Strategy Manager advised it would be appropriate to raise a nominal charge to cover the costs associated with services for cordoning the motorhome parking area. Mr Tait clarified that the group paid £10 per campervan elsewhere which the Estates Strategy Manager indicated could cover arrangements that would need to be made without costs to the Council.

DECISION

AGREED to:

- (a) Make arrangements for the Motorhome Fun Club to have exclusive, cordoned-off use of the motorhome parking area of the Common Haugh on 29 December 2022 – 2 January 2023 and 24 March 2023 – 28 March 2023; and,**
- (b) To raise a charge at the value of £10 per motorhome to cover the costs associated with cordoning the motorhome parking area for use by the Motorhome Fun Club.**

6. MONITORING REPORT FOR 3 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2022

There had been circulated copies of a report by Acting Chief Executive that provided details of the income and expenditure for the Hawick Common Good Fund for the three months to 30 June 2022, a full year projected out-turn for 2022-23, and projected balance sheet values as at 31 March 2023. Appendix 1 of the report provided the projected income and expenditure position for 2022-23 which showed a projected surplus of £85,459 for the year. Appendix 2 provided a projected balance sheet value as at 31 March 2023 which showed a projected increase in reserves of £21,118. Appendix 3a of the report provided a breakdown of the property portfolio which showed projected rental income and projected net return for 2022-23 and actual property income to 30 June 2022. Appendix 3b of the report provided a breakdown of the property portfolio which showed projected property expenditure for 2022-23 and actual property expenditure to 30 June 2022. Appendix 4 of the report provided a breakdown of the property portfolio which showed projected property valuations at 31 March 2023. Appendix 5 of the report showed the value of the Aegon Asset Management Investment Fund to 30 June 2022.

DECISION

- (a) AGREED the projected income and expenditure for 2022/23 in Appendix 1 of the report as the revised budget for 2022/23;**
- (b) NOTED**
 - (i) the projected balance sheet value as at 31 March 2023 in Appendix 2 of the report;**
 - (ii) to note the summary of the property portfolio in Appendices 3 and 4 of the report; and,**
 - (iii) the current position of the Aegon Asset Management Investment Fund in Appendix 5 of the report.**

URGENT BUSINESS

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 make an early decision or to keep Members informed.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillors Ramage and McAteer, and Mr William Fletcher, declared an interest in the following item of business in terms of Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct and left the Chamber during the discussion. Councillor Cox assumed the Chair.

7. CORRESPONDENCE FROM HAWICK COMMON RIDING COMMITTEE

There had been circulated copies of a letter from Hawick Common Riding Committee that expressed concern at the condition of the buildings at Hawick Moor and requested to initiate discussion on addressing their concerns. The Chief Legal Officer advised that the Estates Strategy Manager brings a report to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee to discuss the content raised in the letter.

DECISION

AGREED to request a report be brought to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee advising on the contents of the letter received from Hawick Common Riding Committee.

8. PRIVATE BUSINESS

DECISION

AGREED under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the business detailed in the Appendix to this Minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 2 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

9. MINUTE

Members considered the Private Section of the Minute of the Meeting held on 7 June 2022 and the Private Section of the Special Meeting held on 27 July 2022.

10. COMMON HAUGH SLUICE

Members considered an update from the Estates Strategy Manager on the Common Haugh Sluice.

11. VOLUNTEER PARK STAND

Members considered an update from the Estates Strategy Manager on the Volunteer Park Stand.

12. PROPERTY UPDATE

Members considered an update on Common Good property from the Estates Strategy Manager and the Property Officer.

The meeting concluded at 5.40 pm.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL BERWICKSHIRE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES of Meeting of the
BERWICKSHIRE AREA PARTNERSHIP
held in Reston Village Hall, Ladeside,
Reston, TD14 5JW on Thursday, 1
September 2022 at 6.45 pm

Present:- Councillors J. Anderson (Chair), C. Hamilton, A. Orr and D. Moffat

Other organisations attendees: Mr J. Aitchison (Eyemouth Community Council), Ms J. Amaral (BAVS); Ms A. Campbell, Mr I. Dickson, and Ms W. Myers (Coldstream and District CC), Ms M. Douglas (Greenlaw and Hume CC), Mr K. Dickinson (Gavinton, Fogo & Polwarth CC); Ms K. Duncan, Ms P. Hood, Mr K. Pattison and Ms J. Sutton (Cove and Cockburnspath CC); Mr B. Forrest and Mr L. Inglis (Reston and Auchencrow CC); Ms R. Goldie (Coldingham CC); Ms L. Lavelle and Ms J. Moulin (Coldingham PS Parents Council); Ms K. Lymer (Ayton PFA), Mr A. Manley (Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton CC), Mr A. Mitchell (Duns CC), Mr B. Neill (St Abbs CC), Ms R. Parker (The Frangipane Bakery) and Mr G. Pearson (Leitholm, Eccles and Birgham CC).

Apologies:- Councillors J. Greenwell and M. Rowley

In Attendance:- Community Co-ordinator (G. Jardine), Community Engagement Officer (J. Purves), Quality Improvement Officer (C. Didcock), Democratic Services Officer (W. Mohieddeen).

1. **WELCOME AND MEETING PROTOCOLS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership and to Reston Village Hall.

2. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING OF 9 JUNE 2022**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 9 June 2022. The Chair provided feedback which included a desire from attendees for there to be more community presentations and a greater diversity of people attending meetings.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute of the Meeting held on 9 June 2022 for signature by the Chair.

3. **PLACE MAKING**

3.1 The Chair invited Keith Dickinson, chair of the Berwickshire Place Making Working Group to update the Area Partnership on the activities of Place Making in Berwickshire. Mr Dickinson reminded attendees that the aspiration of Place Making was to be community-led. After the first working group meeting, a survey was sent to community groups and to community councils asking about the internet. Initially, the Working Group prioritised support for communities and had since decided to change that approach to having an 'open-door policy' allowing opportunities for any grouping that wanted to be involved in Place Making. Eleven expressions of interest in Place Making had been received and it was apparent that groups could be clustered where they originated from the same

community.

- 3.2 During discussion of the update, Ms Amaral of BAVS advised that Prosperity Fund had funding available for interested communities and that BAVS were delivering three sessions for community engagement in locations throughout Berwickshire. Ms Campbell of Coldstream Community Council advised that the Place Standard Tool was being used to develop Place Making work in Coldstream. Mr Dickinson summarised the discussion by advising that there was a locality plan for Berwickshire and the aim of Place Making was to explore with communities what they believed to be important and that would be the beginning of developing a new community-led locality plan.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

4. SBC EDUCATION NURTURE POLICY

- 4.1 The Chair introduced Carolyn Didcock, SBC Quality Improvement Officer, to deliver a presentation on Nurture in schools in the Scottish Borders. Ms Didcock advised that Nurture could be summarised as a 'firm but fair' approach to managing behaviour of children in schools. The process of introducing Nurture in SBC schools took around 18 months and started during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. A Nurture steering group was established and drew information from other local authorities that used Nurture including Glasgow City Council, South Ayrshire Council, Fife Council and East Lothian Council. Creativity was required for the rollout of Nurture so explainer videos were uploaded to the SBC YouTube account.
- 4.2 Ms Didcock summarised what the Nurture policy entailed and advised that the policy highlighted the importance of positive relationships with children from early years to S6 to equip children with suitable social, emotional and wellbeing skills. Research had shown that Nurture helped school children to better at school and helped in reducing mental health problems in children. The treatment of children through Nurture was not permissive and light touch, instead behavioural boundaries and expectations were clear and enforced. However, Nurture encouraged listening and talking to children about their behaviour.
- 4.3 Ms Didcock advised that lockdown had seen an increase in distressed behaviour. Behaviour of S1 children were found to be difficult to manage and that there had been a targeted approach to nurturing to manage this. The roll out of Nurture throughout secondary schools had resulted in some data-evidenced improvements in children's behaviour. Ms Didcock assured that behaviours of children would have consequences but it was to be proportionate to the behaviour, and furthermore action could be taken including speaking to parents about the child's behaviour and assessing why negative behaviour was happening in school.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

5. COMMUNITY PRESENTATION - COCKBURNSPATH AND COVE

The Chair invited Jennie Sutton, Community Development Facilitator for Cockburnspath and Cove to present on Place Making engagement activities that had taken place in the Cockburnspath and Cove community. Ms Sutton advised that engagement had been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown and that creative and pragmatic thinking was required. Ms Sutton presented materials used in community engagement including maps of Cockburnspath and Cove where residents were invited to place small flags on the map indicating ideas for community improvement, a tool which had been drawn from the Planning for Real toolkit. This had been presented as an example of community engagement that had to cease due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. A

Cockburnspath resident who ran a digital mapping business volunteered to provide support and created a bespoke, interactive map platform called the Village Poll. All residents from the age of 14 were invited to engage with the new platform which was compatible for mobile phone, tablet and laptop devices. For those not IT-literate or in digital poverty, a mobile kiosk for all polls was available at the post office, and hard copy questionnaires were also available. Village Poll was launched in May 2021 and concluded after four polls were ran covering leisure and tourism, transport, services and amenities, and crime and safety. A further poll was run based on feedback and questions from the first three polls to demonstrate that the community was being listened to during the process. The process developed a 100-page community action plan collated from quantitative and qualitative information. Some elements of the community action plan had already happened including a new ATM for the community shop and a new, funded EV charger. In response to questions from attendees, Ms Sutton advised that around 250 responses were received from approximately 400 households. Volunteers helped to distribute hard-copies of the questionnaire to those that required them.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

6. RESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL LARDER PROJECT

6.1 The Chair introduced Logan Inglis to deliver a presentation on the Reston Community Larder. Mr Inglis advised that the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown had affected people using shops and that elderly people were particularly vulnerable. The Larder was formed in April 2020 and had been operating out of foyers and converted rooms before a purpose-built facility was built funded by grant awards which enabled the purchase of two fridges and one freezer. The Larder recruited the support of a health and safety officer to ensure compliance with relevant regulations. The resilience group was operated through the community council which helped to ensure the group was properly constituted, insured and followed a code of practice, also enabling the Larder to secure food hygiene and first aid training. The Larder worked with Neighbourly, Fareshare, Fareshare-Go and Eildon Housing Association to secure food collections from Tesco, Aldi, Marks and Spencer and Morrisons. The Larder operated with a clear ethos of preventing people going hungry and to prevent waste food going to landfill. Food that could not be distributed was sent to compost by the Larder. In its operation, the Larder found that it could engage with people in the community by having volunteers available to talk to people in the community when they visited. This included signposting visitors to agencies like BAVS, Scottish Borders Council and Berwickshire Housing Association. Using information provided by Larder users, it was assessed that in July 2021 there were 429 visitors feeding approximately 1200 people, and in June 2022 there were 368 people feeding approximately 1300 people. Behaviours were assessed in that people were visiting the Larder more to cook meals after initially receiving items like cake, and there was further concern that the need for the Larder was not dissipating.

6.2 In response to questions from attendees, Mr Inglis advised that collections from supermarkets were changing due to changes in their practices such as differences in the way use-by and best before dates were being displayed. With regards to community larders across Berwickshire working together, it was found that people were visiting several community larders and that there was a case where individuals weren't visiting as they were no longer able to afford fuel for their car. It was also found that people were attempting to travel to community larders of other towns to avoid stigma and embarrassment of having to collect food from the town they were based in. Concern was expressed by the Larder on the impact of rising living costs and the volume of available food for collection. Supper clubs had been raised as an idea for larders to support making their food more accessible in the community.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

7. BERWICKSHIRE FUNDING TABLE 2022-23

There had been circulated copies of the Berwickshire Funding Table which showed available funding for funds in the Berwickshire area. The Neighbourhood Support Fund began with £99,997.19 for 2022-23. The Funding Table showed that if all applications to the Neighbourhood Support Fund at the meeting were successful then there would be funds of £14,341.55 remaining. The Community Co-ordinator advised that the Welfare Fund contained funds of £8,180.76 which could be used to alleviate the impact of fuel poverty.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND

8.1 There had been circulated copies of a report by the Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund Assessment Panel which detailed recommendations for 18 applications for funding. The Chair invited Keith Dickinson, chair of the Assessment Panel, to present the report. Mr Dickinson advised attendees that the decision that the Area Partnership should make was to content itself that the fund assessment process was rigorous. The Assessment Panel recruited two new members; Kathy Huffman and Jim Hettrick, and there were now two vacancies. Mr Dickinson advised that he felt that the Assessment Panel having delegated powers to grant awards would make the funding process quicker, and that he wished to publish dates of the application process a year in advance with three yearly rounds of funding, and to be able to grant funding within two weeks instead of six weeks. The Berwickshire Area Partnership recommendation from the meeting held on 4 March 2021 that sub-committee of the Berwickshire Area Partnership with delegated powers to grant awards was to go to Scottish Borders Council for approval. Mr Dickinson advised that there should be a distinction made on members having a declared interest and having a conflict of interest in an application for funding. Mr Dickinson summarised the blind marking process of the Assessment Panel.

8.2 In response to a question from Mr Inglis on the summary of decisions made by the Assessment Panel where it was stated that more information was required however not enough information was provided as to why applications were recommended for rejection, Mr Dickinson reiterated that the Berwickshire Area Partnership agreed that the Assessment Panel was to make recommendations and it was for the Berwickshire Area Partnership to approve the process in which the recommendations were made. The Chair further advised that further detail could not be provided in the document so as to remain GDPR compliant and that a further update would be brought to the next meeting. Mr Dickinson advised any applicant would be welcome to request further feedback from the panel on its recommendations.

DECISION

AGREED to:

- (a) **Approve the recommendations for awards detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and,**
- (b) **Provide further detail on the assessment panel recommendation with regards to the application from Ayton Heritage at the next meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership.**

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The Chair advised that additional information was included in the agenda pack which contained information on current consultations and links to useful information and highlighted information on Pingo and the NHS Borders Money Worries application.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

10. **NEXT MEETING OF THE BERWICKSHIRE AREA PARTNERSHIP**

The Chair advised that the next meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership was on 1 December 2022 and the agenda would be issued on 17 November 2022.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

11.1 **NHS updates**

A request was received for the NHS to attend the next meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership and for information to be heard on NHS dentist availability in Berwickshire.

11.2 **BAVS**

Ms Amaral advised attendees of opportunities to with regards to the Children, Young People, Families and Adult Learning Third Sector Fund and with support delivered through BAVS for funding applications writing.

11.3 **Cost of energy**

In response to a question from Mr Pearson about how the Berwickshire Area Partnership could address the rising cost of energy and the possibility of warm banks, the Community Co-ordinator advised that a community partners meeting could be convened to discuss the issue.

12. **MEETING EVALUATION**

The Chair requested that attendees submit their thoughts on the meeting so that their views could be considered for future meetings.

The meeting concluded at 8.46 pm.

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Date: 8 September 2022, 2.00 pm.

Location: Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Councillor C. Cochrane (Chair), Ms. A. Hall, Ms B. Francis, Ms C. Paton, Mr D. Dunlop (TSI), Mr R. Davidson, Mr S. Fletcher, Ms J. Grant (Borders College), Cllr J. Greenwell, Mrs K. Hamilton (NHS Borders), Cllr S. Hamilton, Mr R. Hill (RSLs), Mr K. Langley (Scottish Fire & Rescue), Mr C. McGrath (SBCCN), Mr R. Noble, Cllr E. Thornton-Nicol.

Also in attendance: Director Resilient Communities, Director Social Work and Practice, Strategic Planning and Policy Manager, Participation Officer, Communities and Partnership Manager, Democratic Services Officer (W. Mohieddeen) (all SBC).

MINUTE AND ACTION POINTS

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Due to technical issues experienced by Cllr Cochrane, Cllr Hamilton assumed the Chair and welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Cllr Jardine.

2. MINUTE

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 16 June 2022 and associated action tracker. With reference to paragraph 3.2 of the Minute, Mr McGrath asked that the Community Planning Partnership (CCP) being more visible be discussed in the meeting and, reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute, that consideration be given to renaming the Third Sector Interface.

DECISION

AGREED:

(a) to approve the Minute for signature by the Chair; and,

(b) to approve the action tracker.

3. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP TASK GROUP – IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE INCLUDING WORK PLAN

3.1 With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of 16 June 2022, copies of an update paper on the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Task Group Improvement Plan had been circulated. SBC Director Resilient Communities, Mrs Jenni Craig, gave a presentation on an update on the Improvement Plan, highlighting its key points:

- The Community Planning Strategic Board agreed the CPP Improvement Plan on 3 March 2022 with three main areas of action: prioritise, governance and performance, and it was agreed a CPP Task Group be formed to progress the plan.
- The Task Group had met to look to refresh the Community Plan (LOIP) to account for significant changes in the operating landscape as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic including a rapid review of the existing community plan and reduce it to a few key, manageable priorities, a strong community engagement piece needed with communities and for a clear framework for discussion for community engagement.
- The Strategic Board had agreed four themes on 16 June 2022: enough money to live on; access to work, learning and training; enjoying good health and wellbeing; a good place to grow up, live in and enjoy a full life. The Task Group was asked to draft a work plan with key priorities and what actions needed to be taken to achieve positive outcomes for communities in the Borders.
- The Task Group noted that a further report on a CPP governance structure and performance framework which reflected the Work Plan should also be considered by the Joint Programme Board in August 2022 and onwards for approval to the Strategic Board in September 2022; that in parallel to the Work Plan, a full review of the Community Plan would be undertaken in 2023-24; and that this could require formal agreement of individual partners through their own governance arrangements.
- The Task Group met on 5 July, 2 August and 6 September to consider key priorities, the public consultation and what actions needed to be taken. While the public consultation was not significant in numbers, it gave early indication of what was important to communities: making sure everyone had enough money to live on; feeling well – both physical and mentally; and increasing the range and availability of sustainable transport/creating better employment opportunities. This was in alignment to the four themes that the Strategic Board had agreed, but it was recognised that further community engagement would be required in order to ensure a 'bottom up' approach when refreshing the Community Plan.
- The themes and leads for each were discussed and the Task Group agreed that they would be: Theme 1 – Enough Money to Live On, a focus on the current cost of living crisis and community wealth building, lead – Scottish Borders Council; Theme 2 – Access to Work, Learning and Training, sharing data more effectively to identify gaps in education, employment and training, lead – to be confirmed, lead - Skills Development Scotland/Scottish Borders Council; Theme 3 – Enjoying Good Health and Wellbeing, a commitment to health in all policies was proposed, with partners acting as champions to reduce health inequalities, lead – Public Health; Theme 4 – A Good Place to Grow Up, Live in and Enjoy a Full Life, a commitment to the Climate change Route Map, increasing the range of sustainable and greener transport, supporting Place Making and enhancing referral pathways to support early intervention and prevention, lead – Police Scotland.
- 12-month CPP Work Plan – the short-life Work Plan enabled work to be undertaken in a timely manner in relation to the actions within it. The Work Plan gave an opportunity to respond to emerging issues in a more flexible and efficient way. It also allowed other work that was taking place in parallel to be taken into consideration, including The Promise, Place Making and the creation of local Place Plans, IJB Health Needs Assessment and Review of Area Partnerships. Furthermore, the Work Plan gave an opportunity for medium to longer-term requirements to be developed for the refreshment of the Community Plan.
- Next steps for the CPP Task Group – the Task Group would continue to meet on a monthly basis to progress the CPP Improvement Plan: Item 1 – progressing the actions within the Work Plan (a timetable which set out required project resources, key actions, strategic assessments, community engagement and milestones to enable the refresh of the CPP Community Plan); Item 2 – CPP Governance and Structure including the delivery landscape and the relationship of Area Partnerships

to the Community Planning Partnership; Item 3 – CPP Performance Framework including standard reporting mechanisms for the four themes.

CHAIR

Councillor Cochrane joined the meeting at 2.30 pm and assumed the Chair.

- 3.2 In discussion of the contents of the report, Ms Karen Hamilton advised that Dr Sohail Bhatti had been appointed Public Health Director at NHS Borders and may be involved in public health-related work in the Work Plan. Community empowerment in decision-making was considered as a possible theme and would be reflected upon as part of the governance theme.

DECISION

- (a) **AGREED the draft Work Plan detailed at Section 4 which presented the key priorities and actions for the partnership over the next 12 months;**
- (b) **NOTED:**
- (i) **that in parallel to the Work Plan, a full review of the current Community Plan was being proposed to be undertaken in 2023-24, including a refreshed Strategic Assessment and the Health Needs Strategic Assessment, which would provide an evidence base for future changes to the Community Plan;**
 - (ii) **the further actions and timetable requirements within the draft Work Plan in relation to the CPP Structure and Performance Framework; and,**
 - (iii) **that this may require formal agreement of individual partners through their own governance arrangements.**

4. CHILD POVERTY PROGRESS REPORT

- 4.1 There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director Resilient Communities that presented the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report for 2021-22 and Action Plan for 2022-23 for endorsement before submission to the Scottish Government. The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 required Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report and an Annual Progress Report. This report provided the Community Planning Partnership and Scottish Government with an update on progress made in the Scottish Borders against activities within the Action Plan for 2021-22 and sets out planned actions in 2022-23. Mrs Janice Robertson gave a presentation on the Child Poverty Report Update, highlighting its key points:

- The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 required local authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report and Annual Progress Report.
- The Scottish Government published in March 2022 a national delivery plan called Best Start, Bright Futures which set out how to deliver on Scotland's national mission to tackle child poverty. Best Start, Bright Futures was a plan for all of Scotland and recognised that all parts of society must deliver change needed for children and families. The Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan aligned with the approach of Best Start, Bright Futures.
- Best Start, Bright Futures set out Scotland's offer to families in three parts: Part A – providing the opportunities and integrated support parents need to enter, sustain and progress in work; Part B – maximising the support available for families to live dignified lives and meet their basic needs; Part C – supporting the next generation to thrive including actions in early years education and post-school transitions.

- National targets – fewer than 18% of children living in families in relative poverty in 2023-24, reducing to fewer than 10% by 2030; fewer than 14% of children living in families in absolute poverty in 2023-24, reducing to fewer than 5% by 2030; fewer than 8% of children living in families living in combined low income and material deprivation in 2023-24, reducing to fewer than 5% by 2030; fewer than 8% of children living in families in persistent poverty in 2023-24, reducing to fewer than 5% by 2030.
- Scottish Borders headlines – Children in low income families (before housing costs) had dropped from 18.2% in 2019-20 to 14.7% in 2020-21. This was similar to the national trend. One in five Scottish Borders children lived in poverty (after housing costs); in 2021, the gross weekly full-time workplace-based wage in the Scottish Borders was £96 less per week than the average level for Scotland, this was the 2nd lowest of the 32 Scottish local authorities; in 2020, 24.6% of employees aged 18 and over earned less than the living wage in the Scottish Borders; the cost of living crisis was affecting the area with more families struggling to heat their homes or feed their children; 29% of adults in the Scottish Borders had no savings as at 2019 which was before the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis; and in 2021, 25% of those in employment in the Scottish Borders were in 'lower-paid' occupations.
- 2021-22 Progress Report highlights – 20 families had engaged with the Intensive Family Support Service over the year and as a result, five adults had entered employment; the total number of clients assisted in the year by Citizens Advice Bureau in the Scottish Borders was 4,327, and the total financial gain relating to these clients was approximately £3.5m; the Borders Housing Network dispersed funds to Housing Associations in the Scottish Borders to support tenants in fuel debt; summer activity camps averaged 80% occupancy with 62% of places free of charge for targeted children and young people; £85,000 from the Council's Financial Hardship Fund was dispersed to local foodbanks/Fareshare, food growing projects, community cafes and the Low and Slow Project; and there were 510 referrals for financial inclusion of mothers and pregnant women from the Health Visitor and Family Nurse Partnership, which resulted in £1.25 million in gains.
- 2022-23 Actions highlights – Ensured funding of Early Learning Centre (ELC) was free at the point of delivery for parents; ran summer camps and volunteering for young people, which allowed parents to be able to work a full day; continued to seek solutions to workforce challenges for employers and employees in the third sector where a low wage economy contributed to in-work poverty; developed a plan to transform whole family support services using funding from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund; reviewed and updated the Scottish Borders Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan in order to prevent families from becoming homeless; and continued to offer Modern Apprenticeship opportunities across a range of services.

4.2 Members discussed the report and recognised that many factors affected child poverty. Mrs Robertson advised that national data was relied upon and that sometimes there was a time lag in reporting data. Work was undertaken to develop a dashboard which displayed up-to-date data. With regards to transport allowances for Modern Apprentices, Ms Jane Grant advised that this would depend on the employer and day release availability, however many students were eligible for free bus travel and there also may be support available through Borders College for those with a college apprenticeship. Members asked that the report reflect the provision of sanitary products across Scottish Borders education alongside Borders College. The teaching of savings and personal finance was discussed by members that may be added to the Action Plan. Cllr Thornton-Nicol advised that there was an element of exclusion to the summer camp programmes if children were not able to travel to attend. Mr Easingwood, Director Social Work and Practice, advised that uptake on bus passes for young people was high but conversations were taking place with Lesley Munro, Director Education and Lifelong Learning, and David Robertson, Acting Chief Executive, with regards to improving uptake rates.

DECISION

AGREED to endorse the Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report for 2021-22 and Action Plan for 2022-23 for submission to the Scottish Government.

5. THE PROMISE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

5.1 There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director Social Work and Practice which outlined the proposed governance for Scottish Borders Council to deliver The Promise. The Promise was based on five priority areas and five fundamentals – what matters to children and families, listening, poverty, children’s rights and language. The five priority areas were:

- A Good Childhood – Support, A Right to an Education, Relationships, Brothers and Sisters, Youth Justice, Advocacy, Moving on, and Physical Intervention;
- Whole family support – Family Support, Peer and Community Support, Service Integration, and Family Therapies;
- Planning – Planning, Investment, and Information Sharing;
- Supporting the Workforce – Workforce Values, Trauma Informed, and Relationships, Workforce Support; and,
- Building Capacity – Legislation, Children’s Hearing System, Inspection and Regulation, Policy Coherence, Data Mapping and Collection, and Governance Structures.

5.2 Mr Easingwood advised that The Promise would be a significant policy driver over the next decade and the Scottish Government would be measuring children and young people’s services using the plan. The Promise was not to detract from excellent work that was taking place but to provide a governance platform to deliver on The Promise. The Promise was not solely focused about care-experienced young people as the plan had at its heart an approach of shifting the balance of care away from acute delivery to early intervention using a multi-agency approach. There would be regular updates to the Community Planning Strategic Board on updates on The Promise and the governance structure would function as the strategic corporate parenting board of the Scottish Borders and have the voice of lived experience built into it from the outset. The proposed governance structure would provide a forum with a single overview of services for children, young people and families in the Borders and would align with Scottish Government policy. Scottish Borders Council was one of three pilot areas for delivering The Promise so there would be some input from the Scottish Government. The proposed governance structure featured a Champions Board as part of a number of forums where the voices of children, young people and families were listened to. A young person would also be present on the proposed Strategic Forum. In response to a question from Councillor Thornton-Nicol, Mr Easingwood advised strategic corporate parenting would be part of the role of the Scottish Borders’ Children and Young People’s Promise Oversight and Leadership Board.

DECISION

AGREED:

- (a) to approve the implementation of the Strategic Partnership outlined in the report (which was agreed in principle at the Children and Young People’s Leadership Group (CYPLG) away day on 30th June 2022);**
- (b) that the Promise Strategic Lead Officer, Promise Operational Lead Officer and Promise Implementation Officer be directed to continue to work with the current members of the CYPLG to finalise and implement the new governance structure;**
- (c) that additional partners, including AHSCP and ADP, were made aware of the re-organisation of CYPLG in order to identify areas of cross partnership working in**

relation to The Promise; and,

- (d) that strategic corporate parenting be part of the role of the Scottish Borders' Children and Young People's Promise Oversight and Leadership Board.**

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

With reference to paragraph 3.2 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 16 June, Mr McGrath highlighted that the Community Planning Partnership was regarded as not as visible as it could have been and that during August and September, NHS Borders had drop-in sessions throughout the Borders which had been regarded as having poor uptake. Mr McGrath suggested that Community Councils should be used more to communicate services with people to improve uptake.

The meeting concluded at 3.25 pm.

MINUTES of Meeting of the EILDON AREA
PARTNERSHIP held Via Microsoft Teams on
Thursday, 8 September 2022 at 6.00 pm

Present:- Councillors E. Thornton-Nicol (Chairman), C. Cochrane, L. Douglas, J. Linehan, N. Mackinnon, J. PatonDay and F. Sinclair, together with 10 representatives of Partner Organisations, Community Councils, and members of the public.

Apologies:- Councillors E. Jardine and D. Parker

In Attendance:- Community Engagement Officer (E. Coltman), Climate Change Officer (J. Fausset), Sustainability Manager (L. Cox), Youth Engagement Officer (P. Rigby), Democratic Services Officer (D. Hall)

1. **WELCOME AND MEETING PROTOCOLS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership held remotely via Microsoft teams, which included Elected Members, guests attending within the meeting and those watching via the Live Stream. The Chairman explained that viewers on the live stream would be unable to see or hear the discussions when the attendees went into breakout rooms and encouraged people to join the meeting.

2. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING OF 30 JUNE 2022**

The Minute of the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership held on 30 June 2022 had been circulated and was noted. The Community Engagement Officer, Mr Erin Coltman, highlighted that the previous meeting had been positive. The Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund project evaluation from the Selkirk Baptist Church was well received, attendees in particular enjoyed their slide presentation. The Low and Slow project had been delivered in Galashiels, and there was a desire to invite the organisers of that event to the Area Partnership to provide their evaluation.

3. **PLACE MAKING - PROGRESS REPORT**

Mr Coltman highlighted that at the previous meeting of the Area Partnership it was agreed to proceed with a Place Making Working Group for the Eildon Locality. The Working Group was open to any person or group interested in Place Making, and Mr Coltman encouraged people to get in touch with the Communities and Partnership Team if they wished to get involved.

4. **CLIMATE CHANGE - LOCAL ACTION**

- 4.1 The Chairman welcomed Ms Louise Cox, Sustainability Manager and Ms Jenny Fausset, Climate Change Officer, to the meeting. Ms Cox explained that the key legislation in Scotland which concerned climate change was the Climate Change Act (Scotland) Act 2009. The Act had set emissions targets, which had subsequently been amended with stronger targets and annual and interim targets to reach net zero. A just transition was embedded into the legislation to ensure that the transition would be fair and that the future would be better for everyone. At a Local Government level, there was considerable work ongoing, with the Climate Change Route Map published in September 2021, and a Climate Emergency and Priority Action Plan in March 2022. There were 5 themes and an additional Climate Change Officer, Ms Fausset, had been recruited. All of the Council's activity needed to be addressed, and there was a need to undertake massive changes.

- 4.2 Ms Fausset introduced herself to the meeting and explained that she had joined Scottish Borders Council in June 2022. She stressed that whilst her job exclusively focused on climate change, there were a considerable number of staff across the whole Council involved in responding to climate change. As part of the Climate Change Route Map, a carbon baseline was being established, which would allow the Council to understand where it stood with regard to its emissions. Ms Fausset explained that two questions had been circulated prior to the meeting, namely “Thinking of your local community within Eildon, what projects/initiatives would you like to see thriving?” and “To realise these aspirations, what key tasks do we need to do? Who are the key players to drive these tasks?” Breakout rooms were held, with attendees divided into three groups to hold individual discussions for 35 minutes.
- 4.3 Following the breakout rooms, each group was asked to share the top 2 priorities from their discussions. Those present in room one stated that they had difficulty selecting only two priorities, but suggested that electric car clubs and better public transport as projects they would like to see thriving. Room two stated that projects involving energy generation such as the use of rivers to generate electricity, and food, particularly community orchards and projects which explored food production with young people, were the two areas they would like to see thriving. Room three had held similar conversations regarding local energy generation opportunities, and food access and food waste. Additionally, education and access to the key information needed to allow communities to make informed decisions had been highlighted. The Chairman thanked attendees for their input and suggested that the simple, everyday actions that people did to try and reduce their impact on the environment could be shared in the meeting chat.

5. **OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY FUNDING**

Copies of the Eildon Funding Table 2022/23 had been circulated with the agenda. Mr Coltman advised that the opening balance of the Neighbourhood Support Fund (NSF) had been £147k, and that the balance remaining prior to the meeting was £113k. If all of the applications considered at the meeting were awarded funding, the remaining balance of the NSF would be £82k. At the point when the agenda was issued, a Fast Track application from Oxtan Community Development Ltd for £948 was outstanding, which had subsequently been approved by Members. Mr Coltman explained to the meeting that a member of the Assessment Panel had resigned at the start of the year, and that he had subsequently contacted interested members of the community, two of whom had completed an application form to join the Panel. Given the level of enthusiasm of the applicants, and the desire to have suitable representation on the Panel, Ms Judith Cleghorn and Mr Ian King were both successful and were formally welcomed as members of the Eildon Assessment Panel.

MEMBER

Councillor Linehan left the meeting during the discussion of the item below.

6. **NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND**

- 6.1 There had been circulated copies of the Eildon Assessment Panel’s recommendations. The Chairman welcomed Ms Jenny Mushlin of the Eildon Assessment Panel to provide an overview of each of the recommendations.
- 6.2 **Live Learn Earn**
The application from Live Learn Earn was for £11,150 to help fund the Selkirk Community Garden Art Project, a cross-generational initiative which aimed to create artistically designed pieces within Selkirk High School Horticultural and Selkirk Community Shed garden areas. A consultant would be commissioned to provide training on metal working skills to the attendees, who would design and produce their own pieces. Marginalised pupils would be selected to take part. The Panel had expressed their opinion that the consultancy fees involved were very high, and were not justifiable given the expected outcomes of the project. The project would have an impact on a relatively small group of pupils at the High School, and would not necessarily benefit the wider community. The

Panel had recommended not to fund the project, and invited the group to submit a new application if the consultancy fees could be reduced and wider community benefit could be evidenced. Mr Aegir MacIver of the group was present at the meeting and explained that the consultancy fees referred to in the Assessment Panel recommendations were in fact for tutoring provided directly to attendees. Mr MacIver stressed that the group had a genuine desire to promote intergenerational collaboration on the project, with work ongoing with Selkirk Shedders. In response to a question regarding other sources of funding, Mr MacIver explained that no other funding had been sought. Regarding research carried out to ascertain demand for the project, and whether the project would duplicate work already carried out at the high school, Mr MacIver outlined that the key aim of the project was to teach young people the practical skills that they were not taught in school, including the use of power tools. In response to a question regarding the formal qualifications which would be attained by those who attended the course, Mr MacIver clarified that a workbook was used through the academic session which recorded what skills were attained and an official SQA-recognised qualification would be gained. Members in attendance expressed that the project had a commendable aim, and that teaching young people real world practical skills was a good project. The lack of wider community benefit was highlighted, in particular due to the high sum of money involved. There was a lack of consensus amongst Elected Members, and a vote was held to decide whether the application for funding was approved or rejected:

VOTE

Councillor Paton Day seconded by Councillor Douglas moved that the application for funding was approved.

Councillor Cochrane, seconded by Councillor Sinclair moved as an amendment that the application for funding was rejected.

As the meeting was conducted by Microsoft Teams members were unable to vote by the normal show of hands and gave a verbal response as to how they wished to vote the result of which was as follows:-

Motion – 3 votes

Amendment – 4 votes

Absent – 1 vote

The amendment was accordingly carried.

The application for funding was consequently rejected. The Chairman expressed hope that the Group would work on their application to address the issues raised, and seek support from the Communities and Partnership Team.

6.3 Channelkirk Primary School Parent Council

The application from the Channelkirk Primary School Parent Council was for £5,616 to address the lack of after-school childcare at Channelkirk Primary School. The funding would be used to provide a free transport service between Channelkirk and Lauder Primary School during term time, which would allow the children to attend Lauder Out-of-School Club. Peter Hogg of Jedburgh would operate the service between their Earlston School runs, which would reduce the cost to £108 per day. The planned project was a pilot. The Panel felt that the project was well researched and would help working parents in a rural area, with benefits to the children. The application was unanimously approved.

6.4 Stable Life

Stable life had applied for £15,000 to deliver a structured programme for at least 100 referred young people, 51% of whom would be based in the Eildon locality. The programme involved equine assisted therapy, riding lessons and psychological based interventions, as well as work placements and volunteering opportunities. The Panel had

recommended to defer the decision on the application to seek additional information, which was unanimously agreed.

6.5 **The Heartland Market**

The application from The Heartland Market was for £13,360 to purchase 20 market stalls to ensure that a monthly market in Galashiels could continue to run. The market operated using rented stalls, which had been deemed to be financially unviable. The Panel stressed that if the stalls were owned by the group, then the Community Interest Company (CIC) would be able to provide access to the stalls to charities and groups based in Galashiels. The CIC would build a website to manage bookings, and would promote the stalls as a community asset. The Assessment Panel expressed that the market had been popular in Galashiels and had recommended to approve the application. There had been confusion regarding funding which had been awarded to the group from a separate organisation for the purchase of stalls. Mr Coltman explained that The Heartland Market had experienced difficulties securing stalls on a consistent basis from their supplier. They had approached Galashiels Community Council and Energise Galashiels Trust (EGT) for assistance, and it had been agreed that EGT would purchase and own the stalls, on the condition that the Heartland Market would purchase the stalls prior to the end of the current financial year. Mr Coltman stressed that the approach was within the criteria of the Neighbourhood Support Fund, and that EGT would be acting as a supplier. Members expressed their concern that the market took place on the same day as the market in Selkirk. In response to a question regarding the necessity of developing a booking system, Mr Coltman explained that the funding applied for did not relate to the booking system, and would be used solely to purchase market stalls. The application for funding was unanimously approved in full.

7. **PROJECT EVALUATION - UPDATE/PRESENTATION**

7.1 With reference to paragraph 5.2 of the Minute of the meeting held on 11 November 2021, where The Abbotsford Trust had been awarded £15,000 from the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund, the Chair welcomed Ms Sandra McKenzie to provide an evaluation. There had been circulated copies of a final report by the Abbotsford Trust with the agenda. Ms McKenzie expressed thanks to the Area Partnership for the grant, and explained that the project had allowed the Trust to run a pilot project with adults living with mental health conditions. The project had been led the Heritage Engagement Officer at the Trust, and had involved group activities at Abbotsford House in 7-week blocks. The groups focussed on different work areas each week and allowed participants to experience a range of activities such as practical working in the gardens and estate, and undertaking front of house roles. The Trust had partnered with the Local Area Co-ordination (LAC) Mental Health Team at Scottish Borders Council to ensure that participants and those managing the project were able to gain as much positive benefits as possible. The Trust had hoped to engage with up to 20 individuals, however due to the need to provide a greater degree of support to participants, 11 adults in the Eildon Area had taken part over the duration of the project. Ms McKenzie explained that the feedback from participants had been extremely positive, with 9 of the 11 attendees providing feedback. 5 of the participants had expressed their hopes that they could take part in future initiatives, and the report outlined that the desired outcomes identified prior to the project commencing had been achieved to a high degree. In response to a question regarding the initial scoping of the project with regards to mental health considerations, Ms McKenzie acknowledged that her team had no formal mental health training, and highlighted the excellent assistance provided by the LAC team as key to the success of the project.

7.2 Ms McKenzie explained that there had been an £1,800 underspend related to travel costs for participants. Participants had mostly travelled to Abbotsford via private vehicle, with one small claim submitted. Additional underspend from the project related to the inability to source materials due to Covid-19 related supply chain issues. The total amount of money underspent on the project was £3,436. Members thanked Ms McKenzie for her presentation, highlighted that it was unusual for a project to have funds remaining

following a project, and unanimously agreed that The Abbotsford Trust could retain the unspent £3,436 to meet a proportion of salary costs. Mr Coltman explained that he required confirmation of the underspend via email, and how it would be deployed.

8. **NEXT AREA PARTNERSHIP - THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 6PM**

The Chairman explained that the meeting on the above date would be carried out via Microsoft Teams, but plans were being made to hold a face-to-face meeting in the spring.

9. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Donald McPhillimy of Greener Melrose requested that a summary of the proposed Borders Greenway was included in the Minute, which was agreed. The proposed Borders Greenway would run from Galashiels to the Coast at Eyemouth via Tweedbank Station, Melrose, Earlston, Gordon, Greenlaw, Duns, Chirnside and Reston Station. The Greenway would allow people to safely walk, cycle, wheel and ride between those communities, with benefits for health, the environment, and the wider economy. The route had been surveyed by Greener Melrose and members of various community groups. Scottish Borders Council, using funding from South of Scotland Enterprise had commissioned a feasibility study, which had reported favourably. A Community Collaboration Group (CCG) had been formed from a number of groups, and was supported by a steering group. The CCG welcomed all of the 16 Community Councils along the route to endorse and contribute to the project.

10. **MEETING EVALUATION VIA MENTI**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 17 November 2022. Suggestions for agenda items, in particular the next theme, could be sent to the Communities and Partnerships team.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 pm

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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Meeting of the AUDIT
COMMITTEE held via Microsoft Teams on
Monday, 12 September 2022 at 10.15 am

- Present:- Councillors E. Thornton-Nicol (Chair), N. Richards (Vice-Chair), J. Anderson, P. Brown, J. Cox, M. Douglas, J. PatonDay, E. Robson, S. Scott, and F. Sinclair
- Apologies:- Ms H Barnett and Mr M Middlemiss.
- In Attendance:- Acting Chief Executive, Chief Officer Audit and Risk, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Risk Officer, Principal Internal Auditor, Chief Officer Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership, Joint Manager Learning Disabilities Service, Clerk to the Council, Democratic Services Officer (W. Mohieddeen); Ms G. Woolman and Ms J. Law (Audit Scotland).

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair advised that the meeting was the first held of the Audit Committee. The Chair wished to record her thanks to Michael Middlemiss and Hayley Barnett whose terms of office as external members of the Committee would come to an end on 31 October 2022.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

1. **MINUTE**
- 1.1 There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting of Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 June 2022. The Chief Officer Audit and Risk advised that the Principal Internal Auditor had also been in attendance.
- 1.2 With reference to paragraph 3.3 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 27 June 2022, Ms Stacey highlighted that Mr Haseeb, Audit Scotland, advised that the annual audit report had a production target of 31 October 2022 and asked whether the report would be available for the next meeting of Audit Committee on 14 November 2022. Ms Gillian Woolman, Audit Scotland, advised that the reporting deadline was November 2022. Normally reports were signed off by 30 September, however this had been affected by backlogs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Acting Chief Financial Officer advised that there may be a challenge in preparing the report for the 10-day deadline for reports being published for committees. The Chair advised that, for the 14 November 2022 meeting of the Audit Committee, the report would be accepted if circulated seven days prior to the meeting taking place.

DECISION AGREED:

- (a) **to accept circulation of the annual audit report seven days prior to the 14 November 2022 meeting of Audit Committee; and,**
- (b) **to approve the Minute for signature by the Chair subject to the change detailed above.**

2. AUDIT BUSINESS ACTION TRACKER

- 2.1 There had been circulated copies of the Audit Business Action Tracker which was presented by the Chief Officer Audit and Risk. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 22 November 2021, a Business Continuity Project was underway where the Chief Officer Audit and Risk was a member of the Project Board to enable continuous Internal Audit follow-up work. There were delays to implementation of software while clarifications were being sought from the provider that software was GDPR compliant. Some recommendations from Internal Audit were scheduled for implementation at the end of September 2022 and meetings were being held over subsequent weeks where the rescheduled project plan would be reviewed. Discussions would take place with project board members to ensure actions associated with Internal Audit recommendations are scheduled.
- 2.2 With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 14 March 2022, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk advised that Directors received reports from the HR training team on uptake of e-learning mandatory modules to encourage staff to complete training. This was now routinely included as part of operational management arrangements.
- 2.3 With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 27 June 2022, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk advised of seminars and development sessions arranged for Members.
- 2.4 The Chair suggested that, with reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 14 March 2022, a decision on removing the Progress Update on LDS Financial Management Recommendation action from the action tracker would be made after the update had been heard.

DECISION

- (a) **AGREED to remove completed actions from the Action Tracker; and,**
- (b) **NOTED the update.**

3. PROGRESS UPDATE ON LDS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 14 March 2022, Mr Chris Myers, Chief Officer Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership, provided a verbal update on the Learning Disabilities Service Financial Management Recommendation progress. Mr Myers advised that progress on the final Internal Audit report recommendations relating to Learning Disabilities Service (LDS) work had been ongoing, further work was required on local assurances, and that Julie Hayward Consultancy was invited to give further views on progress which had been completed. Mr Myers advised that significant work had taken place since the March 2022 meeting of Audit and Scrutiny Committee, however, despite positive progress, expenditure was not in balance with available budget and work was ongoing to reduce spend. Further work was underway to complete outstanding actions, some of which did not sit with the Service but were being progressed. Progress was being monitored at monthly control meetings taking place at directorate level and at business unit level. The trajectory of expenditure was being monitored so that it was reduced while maintaining service for people with learning disabilities. Mr Myers advised that the Learning Disabilities Service was on a journey where

there was a much better control of the service and progression was being made on actions. Mr Simon Burt, Joint Manager Learning Disabilities Service, advised that there were two approaches taken to tackle the problem which incorporated ensuring that not too much was being paid for elements of the services comparable to other local authorities, and making sure that the appropriate volume of support for service users was being paid for, to allow people to be as independent as they could. Staff were engaged to contribute to solutions so that changes were not entirely management-led. Processes were in place to support Social Workers to take information to support panels where requests were heard to put support in place to allow people to be independent.

- 3.2 Mr Burt and Mr Myers responded to questions from Members. Regarding duplication in transition planning, Mr Burt advised that a transitions project led by a funded project officer had reported a couple of years ago that there were a number of legal requirements for various support plans, while an individual could require a single support plan that may contain different elements. This had not been achieved. However when an adult support plan was prepared as far in advance before an individual turned 18 years-old, a multidisciplinary approach was taken for transition to adulthood services and duplication was avoided as far as possible. Ms Stacey advised that timings of the Internal Audit recommendation completion were reviewed with ongoing discussions with Mr Myers and Mr Burt, and that monthly meetings took place with the Section 95 Officer (the Acting Chief Financial Officer) to gain insights of the financial pressures on LDS. Mr Burt advised that the number of those with very complex needs transitioning to adulthood was low although increasing and the solutions they required could be very expensive. Work was ongoing looking at how the Health and Social Care Partnership assessed what needed to be commissioned to support people with complex needs so that plans would be in place for when individuals reach adulthood. A report concerning a project based in Tweedbank for supporting people with complex needs in the Borders would be presented to Scottish Borders Council in the near future.
- 3.3 Mr Burt advised that, regarding planning for who required support for complex needs, the service knew of children requiring support for transitions at 14 years-old. However it sometimes would not be clear what support they would need until they approached 18 years-old, which would necessitate meetings to track the needs of an individual. Regarding financial pressures, Mr Burt advised that there was a cost pressure of approximately £625,000 if all £490,000 targeted savings in the financial plan were made. The whole saving was unlikely to be met within the financial year, however there was confidence a significant amount of savings could be made. Savings had been made through the review of day services and further savings may be made from reviewing care packages. The LDS aimed to review everyone's care within two years, however reviews had been limited due to there not being a fully staffed service in place. On average 67% of people were being reviewed within two years. With regards to service delivery contracts from third-party providers, Mr Burt advised that the Scottish Government had a framework where rates were set and the LDS generally paid below the Scotland Excel framework rate. Furthermore, providers used by the Service were rated highly by the Care Inspectorate. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, there would be an LDS manager assigned to a contracted provider that would assess day-to-day problems and hold regular meetings with providers to assess contracts. That work had stopped during the pandemic but was due to restart again so that contract performance could be assessed. The Acting Chief Financial Officer advised that the financial risk from the Learning Disabilities Service on the Council was lower than it had been due to significant Scottish Government funding to support IJB services.
- 3.4 The Chair suggested that the LDS Financial Recommendation remained on the action tracker and an update come to the Audit Committee in six months' time and requested that the Julie Hayward Consultancy reports be circulated to committee members.

DECISION

(a) AGREED:

- (i) to circulate the update report on Learning Disabilities Service to members of the Audit Committee;**
- (ii) to keep the LDS Financial Recommendation action on the Audit Business Action Tracker.**

(b) NOTED the verbal update.

4. PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF RISK IN SERVICES PRESENTATIONS BY DIRECTORS 2022-23

With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 14 March 2022, there had been circulated copies of a report by Chief Officer Audit and Risk that provided members of the Audit Committee with the proposed schedule for Directors' presentations on Risk Management in Services to enable the committee to fulfil its remit effectively. It was important that the Audit Committee, as a foundation for sound corporate governance, was able to demonstrate its effectiveness as a scrutiny body to the Council. One of the Audit Committee's functions was to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements. One of the lessons learned within the Audit and Scrutiny Committee Annual/End of Term Report 2021-22 on how it had effectively fulfilled its Audit functions was "Gain insights on the efficacy of the Council's risk management framework through a schedule of Directors' presentations on risk and mitigations within their areas of responsibility." This report outlined the proposed schedule for Directors' presentations on Risk Management in Services to enable the Audit Committee to fulfil its risk management function effectively.

DECISION

- (a) AGREED the schedule for Directors' presentations on Risk Management in Services set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report to enable the Audit Committee to fulfil its risk management function effectively; and,**
- (b) NOTED that a refresh of the Corporate Risk Register was underway and would be completed in advance of the first scheduled Director presentation to ensure consistency in approach and format.**

5. INTERNAL AUDIT WORK TO JULY 2022

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the Meeting of Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 June 2022, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Officer Audit and Risk that provided members of the Audit Committee with details of the recent work carried out by Internal Audit and the recommended audit actions agreed by Management to improve internal controls and governance arrangements. The work Internal Audit had carried out in the period from 1 April to 31 July 2022 associated with the delivery of the approved Internal Audit Annual Plan 2022-23 was detailed in this report. A total of five final Internal Audit reports had been issued. There were seven recommendations made associated with three of the reports (two Medium-rated; five Low-rated). An Executive Summary of the final Internal Audit assurance reports issued, including audit objective, findings, good practice, recommendations (where appropriate) and the Chief Officer Audit and Risk's independent and objective opinion on the adequacy of the control environment and governance arrangements within each audit area, was shown in Appendix 1 to this report. The SBC Internal Audit function conformed to the professional standards as set out in Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) (2017) including the production of the

report to communicate the results of the reviews. The Chief Officer Audit and Risk referred to the Internal Audit Consultancy Work and Assurance work in progress and highlighted key messages of assurance and areas of improvement associated with the Executive Summary of each of the five final Internal Audit reports in Appendix 1. This covered: Contract Management - Strategic Contracts CGI and Live Borders; Attendance Management; Performance Management (Local Government Benchmarking Framework); Schools Budgets (Devolved Schools Management); and Winter Service.

**DECISION
NOTED:**

- (a) the Executive Summaries of the final Internal Audit assurance reports issued in the period from 1 April to 31 July 2022 associated with the delivery of the approved Internal Audit Annual Plan 2022-23;**
- (b) the Internal Audit Consultancy and Other Work carried out in accordance with the approved Internal Audit Charter; and,**
- (c) the assurance provided on internal controls and governance arrangements in place for the areas covered by this Internal Audit work.**

6. AUDIT SCOTLAND NATIONAL FRAUD REPORTS 2022

With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the Meeting of Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 20 September 2021, there had been circulated copies of a report by Chief Officer Audit and Risk that provided members with recently published counter fraud reports by Audit Scotland and the Management Actions required in response for improvement and assurance purposes. Having robust fraud prevention and investigation arrangements in place contributed to safeguarding the Council's financial resources, for delivery of services, as part of protecting the public purse. A focus on prevention and detection and promotion of a counter fraud culture across the Council to improve its resilience to fraud, taking account of reducing resources, were associated with the Counter Fraud Strategy 2021-2024 that was approved by Council in December 2021. The purpose of the Integrity Group was to improve the Council's resilience to fraud, theft, corruption, and crime. One way it could achieve that was self-assessing the Council's arrangements against best practice and agreeing any appropriate actions to continuously improve the arrangements in place. The report referred to national fraud reports published by Audit Scotland, which set out recommendations for public sector organisations. Part of the Audit Committee's role was to oversee the framework of internal financial control including the assessment of fraud risks and to monitor counter fraud strategy, actions and resources. Ms Woolman advised that the National Fraud Initiative was a UK-wide exercise overseen by the Cabinet Office and took place over two years. Most public sector bodies including Audit Scotland took part in the initiative. The National Fraud Initiative report had gone to the Public Audit Committee of the Scottish Parliament and was subject to discussion there every two years. The Chief Officer Audit and Risk advised that Scottish Borders Council was part of the Scottish Local Authorities Investigators Group where information could be shared and information and outcomes of the National Fraud Initiative was shared to aid planning of future exercises.

DECISION

- (a) NOTED the Audit Scotland National Fraud Reports published in recent months;**
- (b) AGREED:**
 - (i) to endorse the tasks being undertaken by the Integrity Group, associated with the recently published counter fraud reports by Audit Scotland, as set**

out in Action Plans in paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7 of the report; and,

- (ii) to request that the Integrity Group reported back to the Audit Committee on its findings and proposed further actions arising from these tasks.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DECIDES ARE URGENT**

7.1 Councillor Anderson requested that the next meeting of the Audit Committee be held in-person to allow new members of the Committee to speak to officers and more experienced members about Audit Committee business as part of their learning of their role. The Chair advised that this could be considered in future and that it may also be advisable to hold an in-person training meeting before a meeting of Audit Committee so that any questions may also be asked. The Chief Officer Audit and Risk advised that options for in-person development sessions would be considered.

7.2 The Chair requested that members encouraged interested parties to consider vacancies for the external member positions of the Audit Committee. The Chief Officer Audit and Risk advised she was happy to speak to anyone interested in the roles if they wished for more information.

The meeting concluded at 12.00 noon.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL HAWICK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Special Meeting of the HAWICK
COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE
held via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 12
September 2022 at 9.00 am

- Present:- Councillors C. Ramage (Chair), J. Cox, W. McAteer, N. Richards; Mr W. Fletcher (Burnfoot CC).
- Apologies:- Councillor A. Smart.
- In Attendance:- Principal Solicitor, Pension and Investment Manager, Property Maintenance and Building Services Manager, Estates Strategy Manager, Property Officer (S. Drummond), and Democratic Services Officer (W. Mohieddeen).

1. **MINUTE**

With reference to paragraph one of the Minute of the Meeting held on 15 December 2021, there had been circulated copies of a report by Principal Solicitor that advised on the outcome of the recent consultation under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, and to seek approval of the final Common Good Register for Hawick. The Hawick Common Good Fund Sub-Committee approved a draft asset register of Common Good property, required by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, and agreed to the commencement of the public consultation on the register. The consultation ran from December 2021 to 31 March 2022. There were 65 responses to the consultation, seven of which related to Hawick. The majority of comments approved the draft register, however, substantive comments and officers' responses were set out in Appendix 1 of the report. The proposed final register was presented in Appendix 2 of the report. The Principal Solicitor summarised the report and answered Members' questions, and explained that consultation responses were likely to have been brief as the Hawick Common Good asset register had been well developed over time. Requests received for additions to the register related to Common Riding flags which the Principal Solicitor advised that the flags may be appropriate to add to the register however these may have to be considered on an individual basis and it may not be appropriate to add items to the register that were not in the control of Scottish Borders Council. The asset register would be considered an open register where items may be added when further information arises about the provenance or responsibility of assets, or whether assets are recommended to be disposed.

DECISION

- (a) NOTED the consultation responses and officers' comments thereon, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;**
- (b) AGREED**
 - (i) to approve the contents of the final list of heritable and moveable property assets held by the Council within the former Burgh of Hawick, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report; and,**

- (ii) **to recommend to Council the said final asset list for publication as a completed Common Good Register for Hawick.**

URGENT BUSINESS

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 make an early decision or to keep Members informed.

2. **PRIVATE BUSINESS**

DECISION

AGREED under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the business detailed in the Appendix to this Minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

3. **PILMUIR FARM COTTAGE**

Members considered an update from Property Officer and Estates Strategy Manager on Pilmuir Farm Cottage.

The meeting concluded at 9.24 am.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES of Meeting of the TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP held in Lesser Hall, Hawick Town Hall, Hawick on Tuesday, 13 September 2022 at 6.00 pm

Present:- Councillors C. Ramage (Chair), N. Richards and A. Smart.

Other organisations attendees: Ms H. Batsch (The Bridge), Mr S. Beck, Mr W. Fletcher (Burnfoot CC); Mr C. Knox, Mr J. Adams, Mr J. Campbell, Mr W. George and Mr E. Welsh (Hawick CC), Mr R. Swinton (Hobkirk CC), Mr D. Ploughman (Denholm CC), Mr A. Warburton (Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage CC).

Apologies:- Councillors J. Cox, S. Marshall and W. McAteer.

In Attendance:- Community Co-ordinator (G. Jardine), Community Engagement Officer (S. McKail), Projects Manager (S. Renwick), Democratic Services Officer (W. Mohieddeen).

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair began the meeting with a minute's silence to commemorate the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

1. WELCOME AND MEETING PROTOCOLS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and to Hawick Town Hall.

2. FEEDBACK FROM MEETING OF 21 JUNE 2022

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 21 June 2022. The Chair provided feedback on the meeting and advised that an update was anticipated from Neighbourhood Services regarding community councils arranging for weeding and grass cutting, that feedback was received on their being more attendance from representatives of the third sector to Area Partnership meetings and that Burnfoot Community Council was consulting on ideas for their remembrance garden.

3. PLACE MAKING UPDATE

3.1 The Chair introduced the update on Place Making and brought to the attention of attendees of work undertaken in Hawick on the Vision 2024 project undertaken in 2014. The project involved all schools in the Teviot and Liddesdale Learning Community and was managed by key staff from all Hawick nursery, primary schools, the secondary school as well as from the community. The project was designed to inspire young people to think about contributions to the excellence of their local community. The project took place over four years leading to 2014 with a different theme on each year; arts, sport, industry, and heritage. A graphic facilitator was obtained by Cllr Ramage while working at Hawick High School in 2008 who

listened to pupils discuss what they liked, didn't like and wanted to see happen in the town. The Graphic Facilitator produced a mural based on these discussions which was presented for the Area Partnership to reflect on as part of considerations on Place Making.

- 3.2 The Community Engagement Officer advised that five expressions of interest had been obtained and there had been interest raised in other communities. The consultation for Southdean closed on Saturday 10 September 2022 and approximately 50 responses had been obtained which were to be analysed. The Community Co-ordinator advised that framework for Place Planning was being prepared with funding to be made available which was intended to support community engagement activities. Attendees considered the work of SCDC in relation to Place Planning and potential overlap in community development work. It was advised that SCDC were not funded to do Place Plans and that they worked to facilitate community networks.
- 3.3 The Community Engagement Officer led attendees in table discussions using the Place Planning toolkit.
- 3.4 At the conclusion of discussions of the Place Planning toolkits, the Chair thanked pupil representatives of Hawick High School for attending the meeting of the Area Partnership for participating in the table discussions.

4. **ALMSTRONG'S REDEVELOPMENT**

The Chair introduced Steven Renwick, SBC Projects Manager to present an update on works related to the Hawick Business Centre at the site of the Almstrong's building. Mr Renwick advised that he was responsible for larger-scale projects, which included the Hawick Business Centre, flood prevention scheme, new Hawick High School and the Sustrans way. Mr Renwick advised that Scottish Borders Council bought and demolished the Almstrong's building in 2008 and that the Covid-19 pandemic had interrupted works. Works were due to finish in May 2023 and that the redevelopment would see small and medium-sized businesses working alongside each other. It was initially considered to have cellular business, however it had since been decided to have the business space open-planned. The Hawick Business Centre would also be open for community use. Mr Renwick further advised that the Hawick Business Centre would be a community facility owned by SBC and might fit alongside Place Making work. Expressions of interest had not yet been received, and that promotion of the space could include photographs and a fly-through animation of the available space.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

5. **TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE FUNDING TABLE 2022-23**

There had been circulated copies of the Teviot and Liddesdale Funding Table which showed available funding for funds in the Teviot and Liddesdale area. The Neighbourhood Support Fund had £87,826.02 available. The funding table showed that if all applications to the Neighbourhood Support Fund at the meeting were successful, there would be funds of £41,597.34 remaining however the Community Co-ordinator advised that the Roxburghshire and Berwickshire Citizen's Advice Bureau had withdrawn their application following their unsuccessful application to the Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund.

6. **NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND – POT A FUND HAWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

There had been circulated copies of a report by the Hawick Community Council Neighbourhood Support Fund Pot A Assessment Panel which detailed recommendations for two applications for funding. Mr Cameron Knox of Hawick Community Council presented the report. A Fast Track application was received from Future Hawick which the panel agreed to recommend not to fund as accounts provided indicated that Future Hawick could afford the

costs, there was no specific breakdown for what the application would cover and that the application lacked detail. An application was received from Hawick Youth Football Club for £3,280 which was recommended for approval by the panel.

DECISION

AGREED to grant Hawick Youth Football Club an award of £3,280.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND – POT B FUND

There had been circulated copies of a report from the Teviot and Liddesdale Neighbourhood Support Fund Pot B Assessment Panel which detailed recommendations for five applications for funding. The Assessment Panel recommended that ArtBeat Studios be awarded a grant of £4,240 and wished to add that the £10 participant charge may be seen as a barrier to participation and service user numbers at ArtBeat Studios should be monitored and that the organisation should consider their charging policy and whether discounted facilities could be provided. It was advised that Roxburghshire and Berwickshire Citizens' Advice Bureau had withdrawn their application. Mr Ploughman advised that a detailed discussion had taken place regarding the application from Campaign for Borders Rail however a majority decision was taken to approve the application as the Campaign for Border Rail study may provide an additional opportunity to involve communities and to promote the potential benefits of a railway.

DECISION

AGREED:

- (a) To award Stable Life the sum of £5,000;**
- (b) To award Burnfoot Community Futures the sum £4,960;**
- (c) To award ArtBeat Studios the sum of £4,240; and,**
- (d) To award Campaign for Borders Rail the sum of £2,600.**

8. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

8.1 The Chair invited representatives from community councils to share updates on activities in their area and use the opportunity at Area Partnership meetings to share best practice.

8.2 Burnfoot Community Council

Mr William Fletcher, Chair of Burnfoot Community Council, advised that arrangements for a remembrance garden were progressing, that a carnival was held on 9 July 2022 with attendees from across Hawick, and that arrangements were taking place in advance of events of marking Christmas.

8.3 Hawick Community Council

Mr Cameron Knox, Chair of Hawick Community Council advised that a programme of events at Wilton Lodge Park bandstand had successfully taken place through August 2022, grant funding had been awarded for the 176th anniversary of a speech being delivered in Hawick by Frederick Douglass which included the funding of education packs for Hawick schoolchildren and that events were being prepared for events in advance of Christmas.

8.4 Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council

Mr Andrew Warburton of Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council, advised that discussions were taking place with the Duke of Buccleuch regarding the use of local land to be established as a park.

9. COST OF LIVING

The Chair invited the Community Co-ordinator to lead a discussion with attendees on the Scottish Borders Council planning and response on issues related to the rising cost of living. With regards to enquiries about support for businesses to access information, the Community Co-ordinator advised that a first meeting of Strategic Response which would handle that particular question had taken place. Attendees advised that consideration should be given to how information from Scottish Borders Council on support available related to the rising cost of living was reached by vulnerable people living alone. Suggestions were made including the role of pharmacies and Fareshare may have by enclosing SBC information with their deliveries to customers. Neighbours were encouraged to check on the welfare of vulnerable people.

10. **NEXT MEETING OF THE TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP**

The Chair advised that information regarding the next meeting of the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership would follow in due course.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Andrew Warburton of Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council commented on his positive experience with community involvement in Teviot and Liddesdale.

12. **MEETING EVALUATION**

The Chair encouraged attendees to complete meeting evaluation forms.

The meeting concluded at 7.40 pm.

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
CHAMBERS INSTITUTION TRUST

MINUTE of MEETING of the
CHAMBERS INSTITUTION TRUST held
via Microsoft Teams on 14 September
2022 at 4.00 p.m.

Present:- Councillors R. Tatler (Chairman), M. Douglas, J. Pirone, E Small.
Apologies:- Councillor D. Begg, V. Thomson.
In Attendance:- Chief Legal Officer, Capital and Investments Manager, Estates
Strategy Manager, Estates Surveyor (T. Hill), Democratic Services
Team Leader.

1. **MINUTE**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 3 August 2022.

DECISION

APPROVED for signature by the Chairman.

2. **BENEFICIARIES GROUP**

The Chairman reported on the most recent meeting of the Group held the previous evening and shared a copy of the Actions that the Group wished to be taken forward, a copy of which is appended to this Minute. As Live Borders managed the property the Chairman agreed to write to the Chief Executive, Ewan Jackson to raise the requests for work to be carried out. It was noted that the Director Resilient Communities should also be copied in as she had oversight of Live Borders. The Chairman advised that he had spoken to the Acting Chief Executive regarding support for the Group who would hopefully be able to identify some resource.

DECISION

AGREED to support the actions contained in Appendix I to this Minute.

3. **PROPERTY UPDATE**

The Estates Strategy Manager advised that Listed Building Consent had now been approved for the works to the ceiling although some conditions had been attached which needed to be resolved e.g. the colour scheme. He was currently discussing with his manager who would be responsible for project managing the works. In response to a question by the Chairman on how quickly the works needed to be carried out, Mr Curtis advised that there were timescales attached to the grant funding and there was also the issue of build price inflation.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

4. **PRIVATE BUSINESS**

AGREED under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the business detailed

in the Appendix II to this Minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS

5. MINUTE

The private section of the Minute of the meeting held on 3 August 2022 was approved.

6. LEASE UPDATE

The Chief Legal Officer gave Members an update on the lease of 25 High Street..

The meeting concluded at 4.25 p.m.

CHAMBERS INSTITUTION TRUST
14 SEPTEMBER 2022
APPENDIX i

NOTE OF ACTIONS AGREED BY CHAMBERS INSTITUTION BENEFICIARIES GROUP ON 13/9/22

1. Wi fi to be installed in the Burgh Hall
2. Administrative support from SBC is to be arranged for the Chambers Institution Beneficiaries Group.
3. Series of “walk through” events to be arranged for interested parties to view the Chambers Institution buildings and the areas that could be changed. Fiona Colton of LIVE Borders has agreed to assist with this process.
4. Following the visits above there will be a presentation and discussion with Page and Park who will explain their proposed approach to developing the Chambers Institution.
5. After both of these events have taken place there will be a Workshop arranged with an independent facilitator who will lead a discussion involving members of the Chambers Institution Beneficiaries Group and the Chambers Institution Trustees. The focus of this discussion will be to agree a shared vision for the way forward for the Chambers Institution buildings. From this it is hope will come a renewed SWOT analysis, an agreed overall Project Plan, suggested funding sources, a series of small/medium and large targets and a project GANT chart (timetable).
6. The aim in all of this is that the two bodies – Chambers Institution Beneficiaries and Chambers Institution Trust – will work as one to achieve a shared vision of achieving the best outcome for the buildings to benefit the people of Peeblesshire/Tweeddale.
7. An article outlining the agreed process above will be prepared by Councillor Tatler in agreement with members of the Chambers Institution Beneficiaries Group and will be published in Peebles Life and the Peeblesshire News. It will encourage people to actively engage in this process.

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MINUTES of Meeting of the CHEVIOT
AREA PARTNERSHIP held remotely by
Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 28
September 2022 at 6.30 pm.

Present:- Councillors P. Brown, (Chairman), S. Hamilton, S. Scott, together with 15
Representatives of Partner Organisations, Community Councils and
Members of the Public.

Apologies: Councillors S. Mountford, E. Robson, T. Weatherston.

In attendance: - Community Co-ordinator – Gillian Jardine, Democratic Services Officer (F.
Henderson).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting via Microsoft teams, which included Elected Members, Community Council representatives, Community Organisations and guests attending within the meeting and those watching via the Live Stream. She outlined how the meeting would be conducted.

2. FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 29 JUNE 2022

The minute of the meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership held on 29 June 2022 had been circulated with the Agenda.

3. SECTION 1: SERVICE & PARTNER UPDATES AND CONSULTATIONS

Place Making

- 3.1 With reference to paragraph 4.5 of the Minute of 26 January 2022, Gillian Jardine, Community Co-ordinator was present to advise that a Working Group for Place Making had been formed over the summer and three meetings had taken place to date. The Working Group had been formed of interested community organisations, the two secondary schools and representatives from the 3rd Sector. It had been agreed that the focus would initially be around Smailholm, Jedburgh and Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet as well as the two secondary schools being involved. The Working Group was scheduled to meet again in 2 weeks.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

3.2 Eildon Housing Extra Care Service at Former Kelso High School

Amanda Miller, Director of Community services and Andries Fouries, Care Service Manager (East) were present to give a presentation on the Extra Care Housing being developed at Poynder Apartments, Kelso. Established in 1973 to help patients live in community through the creation of a housing association, the Eildon Group own and manage around 3,000 home across Scottish Borders including specialist housing and develop around 150-200 new homes [per year. Care and support had always been an important part of their service delivery model either through direct provision or through partnership. Regulated care and support services were provided to over 250 older people and adults with a learning disability, with two new extra care services commenced in 2021 and a further two planned by 2024.

The presentation went on to explain that Extra Care Housing (ECH), it was high quality accessible accommodation for people over 60 years of age (couples eligible) within a safe and secure community setting. There was no requirement to have a local connection to the Scottish Borders and Tenants could have pets subject to complying with the conditions of Eildon's Pets Policy. Tenants had full tenancy rights through a Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement, as other social housing tenants and applicants must have a combination of housing, support and/or care needs, or awaiting discharge from a formal care or hospital setting. Personalised care and support was delivered by an onsite staff team 24/7, based on individual assessment of need undertaken by both Social Work and Eildon, and designed to be flexible and adapt to the changing needs of older people. Allocation agreement was part of the contract framework with SBC and each allocation was agreed by a Locality Panel comprising Social Work and Eildon. When allocating tenancies, the aim was to create and maintain a "balanced community" of care and support needs using a Dependency Matrix as follows:

Low Needs – 30% of all tenancies (<12 assessed care hpw)

Medium – 30% of all tenancies (13-21 assessed care hpw)

High – 40% of all tenancies (>21 assessed care hpw)

Eildon was funded to deliver care services by SBC, and through Free Personal Care. Tenants may pay towards care costs based on SBC's charging policy and pay rent and service charges to Eildon to meet the cost of accommodation, local services and meals service (mandatory service). The majority of charges were covered by housing benefit, based on financial assessment. Social inclusion activities and meals provision were provided through on-site community hub - a key element to supporting health and wellbeing. Telecare and community Wi-Fi was throughout the building for use by tenants, staff and visitors.

The presentation went on to highlight the Extra Care Housing provision currently within Scottish Borders at Dovecot Court, Peebles – 37 x 2 bedroom properties, Wilkie Gardens, Galashiels – 39 mixed 1 and 2 bedroom properties and Poynder Apartments (former Kelso High School) which would consist of 36 properties – 34 x 1b, 2 x 2b bedroom and would go live in May 2023. Stirches, Hawick – which was in the early design stage but minimally expect extra care and amenity housing for older people, and housing for adults with a learning disability on site by early 2024 and the potential to embed extra care within current sheltered housing and to offer outreach services. All accommodation in Poynder Apartments offered high quality energy efficiency standards; Electric central heating; wheelchair accessible; built in kitchen with two ring hob for preparation of light snacks; Wet room showers and Assistive technology and Wi-Fi installed. The Communal hub provided a central dining room adjacent to a full commercial kitchen and a Central lounge area for meals and activities with adjacent hairdressing suite. A variety of activity spaces / meeting spaces which could be booked out use, Likelihood of HSC services being co-located in the development, Mobility scooters for scooters, External patio with landscaped gardens and garden space with raised beds for tenants to develop and maintain with support from staff and the community.

In terms of the timeline for Poynder Apartments, it was estimated that the build would complete in January/February 2023. Thereafter building and services would be set up, applicant viewings, staff recruitment and training, and community engagement with the aim of service being operational May 2023. General marketing and local networking had commenced and service specification and applicant marketing to commence from October 2022. A Kelso Locality Panel was being formed and regular meetings were planned to coincide with applicant campaign from late 2022. Staff recruitment had commenced for recruitment of an ECH Manager (in post from January 2023); Senior Support Workers from March 2023 and support

team from April 2023. Team induction would be held in May 2023 in time for the first let's starting thereafter. The presentation concluded by detailing the staffing structure and anticipated charges

3.3 **SBC Climate Change**

Louise Cox, Sustainability Manager was present at the meeting and submitted apologies for Jenny Fausset, Climate Change Officer, a new post within the Council established to develop and support Council action on climate change and the transition to net zero. A key task was to collate information for the Council's annual climate change report, which was a mandatory report that all public sector organisations required to submit to Scottish Government annually in November. This was to comply with the requirements placed on public bodies by the 2009 Climate Change Act. Jenny was also leading work on the evolution of the Council's organisational emissions baseline, which was critical to being able to assess the effectiveness of actions agreed under the Climate Change Route Map. In terms of key pieces of National Legislation and guidance on climate change, the overarching legal framework was the Climate Change Act Scotland. This legislation was originally passed in 2009, setting emissions reduction targets for Scotland, however in response to the Scottish Government Declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019, the Act had been amended and now sets renewed and stronger targets for emissions reduction – these were annual and interim reduction targets for Scotland, on a pathway to net zero emissions by 2045.

The Climate Change Act 2019 also embedded the principles of a Just Transition, which meant that as our emissions reduced and we respond to a changing climate, our journey was fair and created a better future for everyone – regardless of where they live, what they do, and who they are.

The Scottish Government recently announced their Programme for the next year, which included a wide range of new proposals to address some of the impacts of current energy prices rises but also to increase support for climate change action. Key commitments included the preparation of an updated Climate Change Plan – the existing plan was developed to set strategic policies and mechanisms to support the delivery of the emissions reduction targets and would be updated to reflect changes across a range of issues. An Energy Strategy for Scotland would be produced which was intended to set out ambitious plans to generate more power from renewable resources. Investment of £161 million in energy efficiency schemes across programmes such as Warmer Homes Scotland, and Area Based insulation and retrofit Schemes, and additional funding to Home Energy Scotland to provide advice and support to households to help cut energy bills and carbon emissions. Additional actions to support the decarbonisation of transport and travel were also included as well as commitments to address energy use in public buildings.

In terms of the Scottish Borders Council, there was a commitment to work hard to access the support mechanisms available through Government programmes and there was also a lot that could be done within local communities to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. In September 2020 the Council declared a Climate Emergency and a Climate Change Route Map was approved in June 2021, and a series of Priority Actions were set out in March this year. These priorities run across the 5 themes of the Route Map. The need for action to address both the climate and biodiversity crises runs through all aspects of Council activity and domestic, work and community lives – be it related to how energy was

used at home, travel for work and social purposes to what products are purchased. - everyone had a part to play.

Those attending via Teams were allocated to a breakout room to discuss the following questions:-

Q - What projects/initiatives would you like to see up and running, and thriving in your local community? These could be of an environmental nature but could also have social and economic benefits e.g. A community equipment/tools library (Library of Things) or something on a larger scale e.g. a shared community (electric!) car scheme.

Q – Think about the key steps & players that would be needed to make this a reality?

**DECISION
NOTED.**

4.0 SECTION 2: LOCAL PRIORITIES

4.1 Redevelopment of the former Jedburgh Grammar School Site

A consultation had been launched by Scottish Borders Council seeking the community's input into the redevelopment opportunities at the former Jedburgh Grammar School site. The former school, which extended across a number of buildings in the town centre, was empty following the creation of the Jedburgh Grammar Campus. Scottish Borders Council was keen to get input from the local community into their preferred uses of the site to inform the process of selling the site and assist potential buyers. The former grammar school site held many memories for Jedburgh residents and was a key town centre location, which included listed structures. Its redevelopment could also form an important element of the regeneration of the town centre. Therefore it was important that the community got the opportunity to identify the potential uses which would help address local needs and support the economy of the area. During the consultation, which concluded in August, a range of uses had been considered as possible opportunities, from housing to a hotel and care facilities, while there were also other potential commercial uses, including retail. The consultation was a chance for local residents and businesses to play their part and potentially help shape the future of the site. As with the redevelopment of any site, there would be a number of considerations as to how it could be redeveloped. This included flood risk, archaeology, access and how it would relate to the immediate surrounding area.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

5.0 SECTION 3: Community Empowerment and Community Funding

5.1. Cheviot Funding Tables 2022/23

There had been circulated copies of the Cheviot Funding for 2022/2023 which detailed the funding available together with information on the allocation of the Community Grant Fund in 2022/23. The opening balance at 1 April 2022 was £80,268.39 plus underspend from the Community Fund in 2021/22 of £28,640.65 and underspend in the Local Festival Grant in 2021/22 of £2,953.00, which resulted in an overall budget of £111,862.04. Neighbourhood Support Fund applications awarded totalled £2,492.00 and application assessed and awaiting a decision totalled £10,000.000, totalling an overall budget of £99,370.04. Other sources of funding included Local Festival Grant Budget totalling £16,675.00, Annual Support Grant to Community Councils totalling £10,470.00, Common Goods, SBC Enhancement Grant, SBC Welfare Grant and SBC Small Schemes totalled £169,531.17.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

- 5.2 With reference to paragraph 6.1 of the Minute of 29 June 2022, there had been circulated copies of a briefing note which explained the purpose of each fund available and how to apply.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

- 5.3 There had been circulated copies of a report which detailed the recommendations of the Cheviot Community Fund Assessment Panel. The report provided a brief description of each application received and a recommendation on the sum to be awarded to each project.

5.4 **CHEVIOT COMMUNITY FUND 20/23**

There had been circulated copies of a report which detailed the recommendations of the Cheviot Community Fund Assessment Panel. The report provided a brief description of each application received and a recommendation on the sum to be awarded to each project. The Chairman advised that as the meeting was not quorate a final decision could not be taken and a further meeting would be arranged for Elected Members to consider the funding applications. Following discussion, those present agreed the funding as recommended. Community Councillor Horsburgh highlighted the need to encourage applications and suggested that the paperwork be amended to illustrate that applications could be for one off projects.

Kelso Scout Group

An application had been received for the purchase of three Troop tents to enable large groups of young members to go camping. The current tents could only accommodate 2-3 Scouts and were in poor condition. The troop tents would accommodate up to 10 children each and were constructed of high quality canvas. The intention was to hold at least two camping trips per year. The Panel were supportive of the project and recommended awarding £2,500.

Ancrum & District Heritage Society

An application had been received for the purchase of four interpretation boards to be erected around the village of Ancrum. The boards would feature information on the heritage and historical sites of Ancrum and the applicant had been working with Scottish Borders Council to gain agreement for the installation of a board in Ancrum's cemetery. The Panel were supportive of the project and recommended to award £2,500 on condition that any additional terms and conditions from Scottish Borders Council were completed.

Jed Tourism Alliance

An application had been received for the upgrade of the Jedburgh Town website to include key features and information. The intention was to make the site easier to navigate which would help promote different assets of Jedburgh and beyond. The longer term finance for the website was supported through donations from the tourism booklets. The panel agreed to recommend awarding £2,500

Stable Life

An application had been received for project running costs to deliver an equine assisted learning programme for young people across the Borders which would include young people from Cheviot. The intention was to help young people develop life skills and strengthen their

resilience, increase self-confidence and self-belief, improve relationships and to reach their potential. The Panel were supportive of the project and recommended awarding £2,500.

**DECISION
AGREED:-**

- (a) the funding be approved, subject to consideration by the Elected Members;**
- (b) that consideration be given to amending the application to encourage applications which include one- off projects**

6.0 SECTION 4: Other

6.1 Kalewater Bridge

Information was sought on the timescale and cost of repairs to the Kalewater Bridge.

DECISION

Information to be circulated to those present.

6.2 Area Partnership Boundary

Clarification on the Area Partnership boundary was sought in terms of High Schools and feeder Primary Schools in relation to the Community Plan. Ms Jardine advised that placemaking conversations would feed into the Cheviot Locality Plan and onto the Community Plan.

DECISION

NOTED.

6.3 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The Chairman advised that additional information was included in the agenda pack which contained information on current consultations and links to useful information.

DECISION

NOTED.

6.4 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Future Meetings of the Cheviot Area Partnership would be held on the following dates:

Wednesday, 1 February 2023

Wednesday, 29 March 2023

Wednesday, 31 May 2023

The next meeting would be held on **Wednesday, 23 November 2022 at 6.30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.**

6.5. MEETING EVALUATION

Cheviot Area Partnership

Ms Jardine reminded those present about the meeting evaluation form which could be accessed via the link <https://forms.office.com/r/HHH1dEcmz3>. She added that feedback about the Area Partnership meetings was really helpful and always appreciated.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

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MINUTE of Meeting of the CHEVIOT
AREA PARTNERSHIP held remotely by
Microsoft Teams on Monday, 10
October 2022 at 10am.

Present:- Councillors P. Brown (Chairman), S. Mountford, E. Robson,
T. Weatherston.

Apologies: Councillors S. Hamilton, S. Scott.

In attendance: - Community Co-ordinator – Gillian Jardine, Democratic Services Officer (F.
Henderson).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting via Microsoft teams, which included Elected Members and those watching via the Live Stream. She outlined how the meeting would be conducted.

2. SECTION 3: COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY FUNDING

2.1 Cheviot Funding Table 2022/23

There had been circulated copies of the Cheviot Funding for 2022/23 which detailed the funding available together with information on the allocation of the Community Grant Fund. The overall opening balance as at 1 April 2022 was £111, 862.04, less monies awarded thus far (£2,492), the total monies under consideration today (£10,000) and the final balance on their approval (£99,370).

2.2 Neighbourhood Assessment Panel

There had been circulated copies of a report which detailed the recommendations of the Cheviot Community Fund Assessment Panel. The report provided a brief description of each application received and a recommendation on the sum to be awarded to each project. The Chairman reiterated that as the Cheviot Area Partnership meeting of 28 September 2022 had not been quorate, a further meeting was required to approve the funding applications, although there had been agreement from those present on 28 September.

2.3 Kelso Scout Group

An application had been received for the purchase of three Troop tents to enable large groups of young members to go camping. The current tents could only accommodate 2-3 Scouts and were in poor condition. The troop tents would accommodate up to 10 children each and were constructed of high quality canvas. The intention was to hold at least two camping trips per year. The Panel were supportive of the project and recommended awarding £2,500.

2.4 Ancrum & District Heritage Society

An application had been received for the purchase of four interpretation boards to be erected around the village of Ancrum. The boards would feature information on the heritage and historical sites of Ancrum and the applicant had been working with Scottish Borders Council to gain agreement for the installation of a board in Ancrum's cemetery. The Panel were supportive of the project and recommended to award £2,500 on condition that any additional terms and conditions from Scottish Borders Council were completed.

2.5 Jed Tourism Alliance

An application had been received for the upgrade of the Jedburgh Town website to include key features and information. The intention was to make the site easier to navigate which would help promote different assets of Jedburgh and beyond. The longer term finance for the website was supported through donations from the tourism booklets. The panel agreed to recommend awarding £2,500

2.6 Stable Life

An application had been received for project running costs to deliver an equine assisted learning programme for young people across the Borders which would include young people from Cheviot. The intention was to help young people develop life skills and strengthen their resilience, increase self-confidence and self-belief, improve relationships and to reach their potential. The Panel were supportive of the project and recommended awarding £2,500. Councillor Mountford sought feedback on the number of people from Cheviot helped by the service and Ms Jardine advised that it was in the region of 11% and agreed to provide information on those from Cheviot who used the service.

DECISION

AGREED that the sum of £2,500 be awarded to each of the following:-

- **Kelso Scout Group**
- **Stable Life**
- **Ancrum and District Heritage Society**
- **Jedburgh Tourism Alliance**

Meeting concluded at 10:07 a.m.