

# Public Document Pack



## PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS COMMITTEE THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER, 2015

A MEETING of the PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS COMMITTEE will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, NEWTOWN ST BOSWELLS, TD6 0SA on THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2015 at 10.00 am

J. J. WILKINSON,  
Clerk to the Council,

24 September 2015

<b>BUSINESS</b>		
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
2.	<b>Order of Business</b>	
3.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
4.	<b>The Petitions Procedure</b> (Pages 1 - 2)  Note meeting procedure (copy of extract from the Scottish Borders Council Petitions Procedure attached)	
5.	<b>The Great Tapestry of Scotland building</b>	30 mins
	(a) <b>Petition</b>  Copies attached of petition submission form and comments from signatories  A file containing the original petition and total list of signatures will be available for inspection prior to and at the meeting	(Pages 3 - 16)
	(b) <b>Briefing Note by Corporate Transformation and Services Director</b>	(Pages 17 - 58)
6.	<b>120 Bus Service</b>	30 mins
	(a) <b>Petition</b>  Copy attached of petition submission form  A file containing the original petition and total list of	(Pages 59 - 64)

	signatures will be available for inspection prior to and at the meeting	
	(b) <b>Briefing Note by Service Director Commercial Services</b>	(Pages 65 - 66)
7.	<b>Any Other Items previously circulated</b>	
8.	<b>Any Other Items which the Chairman decides are urgent</b>	

**NOTES**

1. **Timings given above are only indicative and not intended to inhibit Members' discussions.**
2. **Members are reminded that, if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item of business coming before the meeting, that interest should be declared prior to commencement of discussion on that item. Such declaration will be recorded in the Minute of the meeting.**

---

**Membership of Committee:-** Councillors A. J. Nicol (Chairman), S. Bell, J. Greenwell, D. Parker, D. Paterson, J. Torrance and T. Weatherston

---

Please direct any enquiries to Fiona Walling 01835 826504  
Email:- [fwalling@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:fwalling@scotborders.gov.uk)

---

**Extract from the Scottish Borders Council Petitions Procedure**

15. The procedure at the meeting, for each petition considered, shall be as follows:
- (i) the meeting shall be in public unless the subject matter of the petition would be deemed to be confidential under the terms of Section 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973;
  - (ii) the principal petitioner, or named deputy, shall give a statement in explanation of the petition;
  - (iii) there will be an opportunity for Members of the Committee to ask questions of the petitioner or their named deputy;
  - (iv) there will be an opportunity for any Director(s), Executive Member(s) and Community Planning Partner representative(s) present to ask questions of the petitioner or their named deputy;
  - (v) a response to the petition may be heard from a Director, Executive Member and/or Community Planning Partner representative present at the meeting;
  - (vi) there will be an opportunity for Members of the Committee to ask questions of any Director, Executive Member(s) and Community Planning Partner representative(s) present at the meeting;
  - (vii) there will be an opportunity for the petitioner or their named deputy to ask questions of any Elected Member, Director or Community Planning Partner representative present at the meeting;
  - (viii) Members of the Committee shall then discuss the information available and consider their findings. The Committee may defer a decision should further information be required.

Note: any contribution on behalf of the petition from a second or other speaker(s) shall be at the discretion of the Chairman. The public will not be allowed to speak at the meeting unless invited to do so by the Chairman.

16. The Petitions Committee shall agree to one of the following:-
- (i) refer the petition to another Committee or Director, with or without a recommendation or comment. That Committee or Director shall then make the final decision which could include taking no further action;

- (ii) refer the petition to the relevant Community Planning Partner, with or without a recommendation or comment, if appropriate;
  - (iii) that the issue(s) raised do not merit or do not require further action.
17. The decision of the Petitions Committee, and any reason for that decision, shall be recorded in the Minute of the Meeting and a copy of the Minute shall be sent to the principal petitioner by Democratic Services staff. Where the petition is referred to a Director or another body, the responsibility for communicating the final outcome of the petition is also referred. Updates on these outcomes will be provided to the Petitions Committee.
18. There will be no right of appeal in response to a final decision made in response to a petition.

**Reference** (official use)



**Petitions – submission form**

If you wish to submit a petition for consideration by the Petitions Committee, please complete the form below. You are advised to refer to the Guidance Questions and Answer sheet provided.

<b>Details of Principal Petitioner</b>	
Please enter the name and contact details of the person raising the petition. <i>The Principal Petitioner must be on the Register of Electors for the Scottish Borders Council area.</i>	
<b>Name:</b>	Brian McCrow
<b>Address:</b>	1 Cardrona Way, Cardrona
<b>Postcode:</b>	EH45 9LD
<b>Telephone no:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	

<b>Title of Petition and Petition Statement</b>
Please enter the title of the Petition and a statement to cover the main subject of the Petition or the action you would like the Council to take.
<b>Title: The Great Tapestry of Scotland building</b>
<b>Statement (no more than 250 words):</b>
<b>We believe that the decision made by Scottish Borders Council to fund a building in Tweedbank to house the Great Tapestry of Scotland is an unacceptable use of our Council budget at a time when essential services are being cut. As residents and tax payers of Scottish Borders Council, we therefore request our elected members to overturn the decision to spend £3.5M in this manner</b>

**Further information.**

Please enter below any measures already taken, or persons/organisations approached to attempt to resolve the issues. Attach additional sheets to this form if required but please note that this information must be limited to no more than 4 sides of A4 paper.

*Additional sheets provided*

**Presentation of petition to the Committee.**

Please indicate below if you would like the opportunity to make a statement at the meeting of the Petitions Committee when your petition is considered. Whether or not you will be invited to do so will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

\*I do wish the opportunity to make a brief statement about the petition.

\*

Name of deputy .....

Contact details .....

Signature of deputy.....

\* please delete as appropriate

**Signature of Principal Petitioner.**

If you are satisfied your petition meets all the requirements as stated in the Guidance Questions and Answers please add your signature and date below.

Signature of Principal Petitioner.....

Date..... 14/9/15 .....

**Accompanying signatures.**

Your petition must be accompanied by at least 10 signatures in total, from persons aged 16 and over, resident in the Scottish Borders. The signatures must be from a minimum of 3 separate addresses.

*Please be aware that if the petition is on the agenda for a meeting of the Petitions Committee the names and addresses, but not signatures, of all signatories will be published on the Council website.*

	Name	Address	Signature
1	FAY H. McCROW	1 Cardrona Way Cardrona EH45 9LD	
2	CATHERINE CUMMINGS	7 Mains Farm Steading Cardrona, Peebles EH45 9HL	
3	J. R. Lyon	14 The Green Cardrona Peebles EH45 9LR	
4	Jim Hawker	14 The Green, Cardrona EH45 9LR	
5	DAVID ROWE	2 Croft Gardens Peebles EH45 9DG	
6	A. Rowe	Chambers Terrace Peebles EH45 9BQ	
7	G Lamb	16 Mark Street Lane Peebles EH45 8EL	
8	L Fraser	44 GEORGE ST PEEBLES EH45 8DN	

9	JIM M'CAUSLIN	7 Dukehaugh, Peebles EH45 9DN	
10	CHRISTINE COVELL	Crickhollow, Springwood Drive, Peebles EH45 9HA	

*Attach additional sheets of signatures if you wish.*

**Please submit this form and any additional sheets to:-**

Clerk to the Council, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown  
St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA,

or email to:

[committeepapers@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:committeepapers@scotborders.gov.uk)

Total No. signatures 4,440



## Great Tapestry building petition

We have attached the following signed document with 2,514 signatures obtained from across the Borders over a 4 week period plus a print-out from the website – Change.org – petition with 1,932 signatures and a selection from the over 1,000 individual comments. Thus the total signatures for this petition is 4,440.

These petitions were supported by the Press across the Borders plus interviews with Radio Borders and BBC Scotland. The petitions were presented on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 to Cllr Jim Brown but we were informed subsequently that they would not be accepted as they didn't have the full addresses only the post codes. We are now presenting this petition in the SBC format with the above paperwork as supporting evidence.

The case for SBC to overturn the decision on the spend on the Tapestry building has been printed over the intervening months in the local Press but we have had no response from SBC. The general feeling from the Borders residents is that the £3.5M spend by SBC on this new building in these times of austerity could be better spent on roads, education, social work, health.

The feasibility study for this new building has also come in for considerable criticism e.g.

- no serious investigation of alternative and cheaper sites,
- no polling of prospective visitors to establish the need in the short and long term whereas only a macro-data study was the basis of the feasibility study,
- the risk is seen to be too high versus the poor level of anticipated profits in the longer term and
- the architects have designed a signature building costing twice the square footage cost of, say, the Abbotsford visitor centre.
- the need for and the costs of converting the building for other uses if the Tapestry project fails.
- The Tapestry has been seen by 320,000 Scots in their locality (circa 10% of the population) at no cost so will they pay for travel and an entrance fee.
- Will the tourist numbers be sufficient to support the enterprise
- The Tapestry Trustees charter is to make the tapestry ('The Great Scottish Tapestry') *available for viewing* at public museums or other public bodies of similar status at no cost to the public. This seems to clash with the need to charge at this new building to make the enterprise viable.

Many of the comments from residents talk about a vanity project rather than one meeting a calculated business need.

There are concerns that SBC will have to meet the £3.5M from borrowing as the site location will not attract public funding e.g. HLF and hence residents will be paying off this debt over the next 30 years.

We would therefore ask our elected members to overturn the decision to spend £3.5M on this building. If they decide not to do so, they should as a bare minimum:

- review the basis of the feasibility study
- undertake polling surveys of prospective visitors to test their willingness to purchase a return rail ticket @ circa £15 per person plus an entrance fee of £10 per person
- review the financial case to determine if and when a reasonable profit level can be achieved
- review the risk factors
- conduct public consultations to obtain residents views on the business case and their willingness to be committed to paying for this building over the next 30 years.
- Consider alternative sites in the Borders e.g. Galashiels based Scottish Centre of Textiles where a simpler and cheaper multi-use building could be constructed with access to public funds e.g. HLF

**Selection from the 1,000 comments on the Change.org petition site regarding the Great Tapestry building**

Cathie Cummings	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I believe the Tapestry should have stayed in an area of higher population in order to succeed. It is an incredibly risky strategy to bring the Tapestry to an industrial area not renowned for tourism.
Robin Young	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I think the money being used for this could be better spent on more useful things in the area, like AimUp.
Jan Jeffrey	Innerleithen, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	There are many, many more important things to spend this money on - care for the elderly, uplift at Innerleithen, new schools, return of garden uplift service, new care homes etc etc. Look after the living first!
John Derrick	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	This amount of money could be better spent for one thing the roads are in a dreadful state with potholes
Abi Reed	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I attended meetings last year where I was told the council had to cut 11million from the school budget, I would rather our money went towards more essential services
Craig Archibald	Innerleithen, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	Aim up will create way more local jobs and bring more tourism to help existing local businesses
Ruth Fry	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I think it should be housed in an existing Borders building. The money is needed elsewhere.
Iain MacKay	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	No need to spend money on something the region cannot afford. Streets are full of potholes, court has been closed and hospital under threat yet we are asked to stump up £3.5m for a flippin tapestry. I don't believe it!
Sally Walker	Broughton, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I do not wish funds to be spent on housing the tapestry. Mountain biking is a growth area, investing there will see economic development throughout the Borders. Tapestry should be housed in Edinburgh where there are

Sally Walker	Broughton, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I do not wish funds to be spent on housing the tapestry. Mountain biking is a growth area, investing there will see economic development throughout the Borders. Tapestry should be housed in Edinburgh
Thomas Quinn	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	THE MONEY WOULD BE BETTER SPENT ON ELDERLY CARE AND REPAIRING OUR ROADS.
William Palin	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	SBC cannot afford this, money should be spent on the community not some red herring that's going to eat money,
Ronald Landers	Walkerburn, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I signed because i think the money would be better put towards the chair lift as it will be a major boost not just to mountain biking which has an amazing following but also a draw for tourism as a general project.
Gillian Steele	Innerleithen, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	This is a horrendous waste of money on a small tourist attraction. Spend it on our schools & education instead!
Joseph Kirkpatrick	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	How many cuts in public services will be required to fund this project in future years. When is this Scottish Borders Council going to wake up to reality.
Yvonne Finnigan	Broughton, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	SBC could be using the money they are borrowing for this project for much more that is actually needed ..such as improving social care, social housing, education & community projects
victoria anderson	traquair, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I am a teacher of additional needs in the borders. Our department is badly under-funded, this is quite an absurd and insulting suggestion
Kathleen Connor	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	Money could be better spent on health care, education, etc. the tapestry should be housed in an Edinburgh art gallery or at The Castle!
Paul Nairn	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	If we must house the Tapestry in the Borders we should house in it one of our existing buildings & save the £3.5 M for a more worthwhile project that will directly improve the lives of ordinary borderers.

James Miller	Selkirk, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	It will never achieve targets -- waste of OUR money.
wendy bertram	Galashiels, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	We shouldn't b wasting our money on this as it's a waste of time as it won't attract the amount of people it needs to pay off the debt it will get the borders in
joanna dean	Galashiels, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	Inappropriate use of funds and would be better geographically and economically to house it in Galashiels.
Neil MacKinnon	Galashiels, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	This project is a complete waste of money, the tapestry could easily be housed in an existing building in Galashiels.
angela frost	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	I feel that this is a waste of money given the current economic climate when people are starving and freezing in their homes .. also we pay council tax so that amenities can be provided to the residents of the borders
Brian Lawson	Galashiels, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	its wrong to divert money from other budgets to pay for this. There is plenty of options. Also Tweedbank is the wrong place..... Who goes or will go to Tweedbank. Most people will get off the train in Galashiels.
Aaeon Biggs	Selkirk, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	Disgrace, money could be put towards other projects around the borders to help grow local trade and attract more people to the area.... standard from the council...
KAREN Brown	Galashiels, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	It is not acceptable to spend money like that when people are going to food banks and are homeless.
Sheila Shaw	Galashiels, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	I'm signing because I feel money could be put to better use. Road repairs, cleaning up the buildings in the town, reduce rents in channel street/high street and maybe more shops would come in. Lots could be done with this
Greg Dalgleish	Hawick, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	Mr Parker and anyone who voted for this have proved they so out of touch with what's going on locally. I bet they wouldn't have backed this silly project with their own money !

Marlene Borthwick	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	Too much risk involved at a time when there are cutbacks in education, social work, roads etc which are essential to the wellbeing of the community.
Graham Jones	selkirk, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	This is completely SHOCKING! DISGUSTED what are you doing spending my money on a bit cloth! In a time where people are having to use food banks and struggling to make end meet in another 5 years of Austerity
joyce Macvicar	Lilliesleaf, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	There are people in the Borders having to use food banks. I rest my case!
emma howie	Jedburgh, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	This amount of money needs to be redirected to health and social care, road repairs. House the tapestry in a building that already exists
David Pye	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-01-31	This council must concentrate it's efforts on managing the core essential services they have to deliver with ever increasing budgetary pressures. tapestry in Tweedbank costing the council £3.5M to house, cannot be
Laura Delaney	Hawick, United Kingdom	2015-01-31	In a time when local business are closing and the existence of our local hospitals are at risk this would be a complete waste of public money!
Iain Scott	Hawick, United Kingdom	2015-01-31	I do not believe that our Councillors have voted in the interests of their constituents, this is an utter waste of money
John Tait	Hawick, United Kingdom	2015-01-31	I believe that the Tapestry could have been housed in a regenerated mill building preferably in Hawick for much less than the current new build at Tweedbank and would have been eligible for lottery Funding.
catherine eardley	Oxton, United Kingdom	2015-01-31	This is a flagrant disregard for the cruciality of basic services in the borders. Wasting £3..5m in a time of such constraints on budgets is shocking
Sheila waddell	Duns, United Kingdom	2015-01-31	the borders regional council could spend that money on repairing roads which are awful in places

geraldine strickland	Jedburgh, United Kingdom	2015-02-01	decent buses, social care, human care and essential services are more important, the tapestry can come but house it in an existing venue! 30 years of debt for our children, irresponsible
Wilma Blackie	Kelso, United Kingdom	2015-02-03	The cuts in areas such as education are horrendous and this money could be better spent elsewhere
Mark Hope	Selkirk, United Kingdom	2015-02-04	Total waste of money and especially so when it is borrowed money that incurs interest, all of which we have to cover. Please don't waste our money
Elsbeth Babington	Tweedbank, United Kingdom	2015-02-04	I do not believe in wasting taxpayers money on this tapestry which is not viable by any means. Our workplace has suffered pay/holidays/pension cuts
Dorothy Ainslie	Melrose, United Kingdom	2015-02-04	I believe the cost to the Borders is too great, especially at a time when services are being cut
Nancy Allinson	Tweedbank, United Kingdom	2015-02-04	This is a disgraceful waste of money when essential services are being cut and the council repeatedly bemoans the fact that they are short of money
Gillian Ormiston	Tweedbank, United Kingdom	2015-02-04	This is unwanted, unaffordable and a folly, I've seen the tapestry (for free) it's something to be part of another attraction, not an attraction meriting £10
Thomas R Beattie	Earlston, United Kingdom	2015-02-05	The council has better things to do with the millions it will take to display this tapestry. Education and roads for a start.
Alexander Thompson	Coldstream, United Kingdom	2015-02-05	I think it is an incorrect decision to spend that amount of money displaying a tapestry.
David Shields	Bowden, United Kingdom	2015-02-05	The sums don't appear to add up. Once again the Council has gone off on a half-cocked looney scheme/idea!! Always remember it's the council
Robert Petrie	Selkirk, United Kingdom	2015-02-05	The council has an overabundance of buildings that are not fully utilised or supported and is determined to hive them off to yet another (charity status)
Ogilvie Mathieson	Galashiels, United Kingdom	2015-02-05	I believe there are existing buildings which could accommodate the Tapestry for a much lower cost eg. the vacant NGT building at Selkirk to
Natalie Brown	Galashiels, United Kingdom	2015-02-05	It is not a democratic decision and £200,000 is far to much for the Scottish Borders to pay back every year for thirty years!
Derek Stewart	Hawick, United Kingdom	2015-02-06	Because there was no proper consultation - The tapestry could go into an existing building - And the public be spared this large bill that it can't afford

Lesley Hubbard	Peeblesshire, United Kingdom	2015-02-06	I have no objection to the tapestry being housed in the borders, but to erect a costly new building for it does not make financial sense when the council
John Hobkirk	Kelso, United Kingdom	2015-02-06	The projected number of visitors will never be achieved and if it goes ahead it will be another masive "white elephant" funded by public money
Adrian Downey	Newcastleton, United Kingdom	2015-02-07	3.5 million can be used in other areas that WILL benefit the people that paid this money, without a choice, in the first place!
Lesley Trotter	Melrose, United Kingdom	2015-02-07	I think this is an appalling waste of the Borders council's limited resources and Tweedbank is a ridiculous location.
Janice Hunt	Bowden, United Kingdom	2015-02-07	It will not prove a good investment for the Borders and it would more appropriate to site the tapestry more centrally so that it could be accessed
David Magill	Lauder, United Kingdom	2015-02-07	I think such a huge amount of public money could be put to better use.It's not the Bayeux Tapestry.
David Bremner	Saint Boswells, United Kingdom	2015-02-08	I Think that there are far better suited sites for this rather than wasting ratepayers money on what is bound to be a loss making scheme
Rodney Thomas	Duns, United Kingdom	2015-02-09	This is a national project and should be paid for by central government with the cost spread across the whole of the population.
Hamish Carruthers	Gattonside, United Kingdom	2015-02-09	The Business Plan produced by Jura Consultants is inaccurate and does not give the full facts.
Michael Begley	Duns, United Kingdom	2015-02-09	SBC have lost the plot. At a time when so many other services are being cut I cannot believe they are wasting money on this.
John Alistair Buchan	Melrose, United Kingdom	2015-02-10	Unlikely to attract tourists as a stand alone exhibition.Should be combined with another attraction preferably in an existing building
Ellen Magee	Tweedbank, United Kingdom	2015-02-10	There are more important things to spend money on. Homes, roads, jobs for instance
Gavin Whittaker	Heriot, United Kingdom	2015-02-10	This is yet another waste of limited resources by SBC on a vanity project, at a time when school students don't have books
Stuart Smith	Kelso, United Kingdom	2015-02-12	I believe the councillors who supported this project have lost touch with their constituents and democracy.



Tania McPether	Selkirk, United Kingdom	2015-02-12	I think the visitor projections have been hugely over-estimated and Borders' taxpayers will end up footing the bill. Viewing the tapestry is currently free
Karen Smail	Selkirk, United Kingdom	2015-02-12	This is a vanity project, when the basic services are not being met. Poorly maintained roads, dirty streets etc.
Vee Freir	Gordon, United Kingdom	2015-02-13	I'm signing because in these times of austerity when money is needed for vital services I think it's a crime to spend £3.5M on a building.
Elizabeth Parker	Saint Boswells, United Kingdom	2015-02-13	I feel the coucil is gambling with ratepayers money which should be spent on health, welfare or education. I feel a more appropriate venue should be
George Langlands	Peebles, United Kingdom	2015-02-17	I am sure the funds could be much more effectively used- education,training,infrastructure-than this vanity project.
Karen Bedwell	Newtown Saint Boswells, United Kingdom	2015-02-17	Money would be better spent on our local schools. We need to invest in the next generation.
Sandy & Maude Brownlie	Gattonside, United Kingdom	2015-02-18	It should be combined with another attraction We cannot afford an exclusive build.
Joyce Blaikie	Duns, United Kingdom	2015-02-21	Total waste of money which could be better spend keeping Knoll Hospital open. It will be better spent this way.
Joanne Hands	Kelso, United Kingdom	2015-02-24	As a nurse we are short staffed continually and can't get patients home because of lack of home care, use the Money for that instead!!!
Sheila Felton	Eyemouth, United Kingdom	2015-02-27	It's a terrible cost at a time that need is essential.If that amount of money is available it needs to be used for need not frivialities
Sarah Ewing	West Linton, United Kingdom	2015-02-28	Which geniuses ever thought this was a good use of money? Focus on essentials first before idiotic expenditure like this!
tom darrie	Kelso, United Kingdom	2015-02-28	We pay our council tax, but not for this. How can you take OUR money and waste it on this! We are paying for it and we do NOT want it!!
george thomson	Galashiels, United Kingdom	2015-03-01	Scottish Borders Council and David Parker are not listening to the people that voted them in.....waste of money better spent on education,social work
Debbie Walbaum	Biggar, United Kingdom	2015-03-01	It would be better housed in an existing popular tourist attraction. - Traquair House or Bowhill or Abbotsford

Gillian Swan	Earlston, United Kingdom	2015-03-03	The tapestry can be housed elsewhere,how about Heart of Hawick, this is not a priority.
Ina Gladstone	KELSO., United Kingdom	2015-07-31	when there is so many lovely historical homes around the Scottish Borders which would be more fitting and better placed than Tweedbank.
Aileen Dryden MBE	Ancrum, United Kingdom	2015-08-13	There are so many empty mills perfect for displaying the tapestry . what a perfect use for social historic building s

---

## **TAPESTRY PETITION**

---

### **Briefing Note by Corporate Transformation & Services Director**

---

## **PETITIONS & DEPUTATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Thursday 1 October 2015**

---

### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 **This note sets out the background in respect of decisions made by Council in respect of the Great Tapestry of Scotland.**

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Council considered this matter on three separate occasions. These were

- a) Thursday 29 May 2014 (Item 8) Report and Minute at Appendix A

The purpose of that report was to inform Council of the possibility of locating the Great Tapestry of Scotland in the Scottish Borders on a permanent basis and to seek authority to prepare a detailed business case in respect of that proposal.

The report set out the background of the Great Tapestry of Scotland. It explained that the Tapestry's Trustees were considering a permanent location in Scotland. The Council had by then completed initial work in respect of a possible permanent location in the Borders with Tweedbank being the most likely viable option.

An initial feasibility assessment had been completed and this indicated that there was merit in proceeding to evaluate the costs and benefits of the proposal via a full business case. It was recommended and agreed that a detailed business case should be prepared

- b) Thursday 18 December 2014 (Item 12) Report and Minute at Appendix B

[Prior to this Council meeting a seminar for all Elected Members was held that allowed full discussion of the matters to be reported at Council on 18 December]

The purpose of that report was to inform Members of the outputs following the feasibility design proposals and detailed business case for the Great Tapestry of Scotland that had been requested by Council in May 2014. The report sought approval of the proposed permanent location for the Tapestry in the Scottish Borders at Tweedbank.

The report highlighted the ambitions contained in the 'Borders Railway, Maximising the Impact: a Blueprint for the future' that was announced by the then First Minister in November 2014. The Blueprint confirms the important role that the development of a permanent home for the Tapestry in the Scottish Borders could play in achieving the ambitions set out in that document.

The report indicated that this was a unique opportunity for the Scottish Borders to obtain an exhibition of national significance with strong ties to the textile heritage and wider history of the area. It would provide a potential hub for local and international events. A location at Tweedbank has the opportunity to create a destination for the area with direct links to other local attractions such as Abbotsford House and Melrose Abbey, together with the further development of Tweedbank and the emerging proposals for a Central Borders Business Park.

An initial design for a new building had been completed by Page Park Architects who spoke at the Council meeting. This work provided a good basis for initial costs. The detailed business case prepared by Jura Consultants, who spoke at the Council meeting, (including costs from the Page Park work) confirmed that the project can be financially viable based on the visitor projections and anticipated operating costs.

c) Thursday 12 February 2015 (Item 9)

At this meeting the matter considered was the necessary Capital Funding for the Project as part of the Capital Budget setting process. Councillor Ballantyne, seconded by Councillor Turnbull, moved in terms of Standing Order 57(a) that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the consideration of a Motion relating to funding in respect of the Great Tapestry Building. On a show of hands Members voted as follows:-For suspension 11votes, Against suspension 19 votes. Standing Orders were therefore not suspended and there was no further debate on the matter.

2.2 The reports and minutes appended record in detail the process followed by Council and the decisions taken.

**Approved by**

**Name**            **Rob Dickson**                            **Signature .....**  
**Title**            **Corporate Transformation & Services Director**

**Author(s)**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Rob Dickson	Corporate Transformation & Services Director 01835 825075

**Background Papers:** Set out within the report

**Previous Minute Reference:** Set out within the report

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

Contact us at Rachel Wigmore at Council HQ on 01835 826614 or [rwigmore@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:rwigmore@scotborders.gov.uk)

---

**THE GREAT TAPESTRY OF SCOTLAND – CONSIDERATION OF  
PERMANENT LOCATION IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS**

Report by the Corporate Transformation & Services Director

---

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

**29 May 2014**

---

**1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the possibility of locating the Great Tapestry of Scotland in the Scottish Borders on a permanent basis and to seek authority to prepare a detailed business case in respect of this proposal.
- 1.2 The report sets out the background of the Great Tapestry of Scotland. It explains that the Tapestry's Trustees are considering a permanent location in Scotland. The Council has completed initial work in respect of a possible permanent location in the Borders with Tweedbank being the most likely viable option.
- 1.3 An initial feasibility assessment has been completed and this indicates that there is merit in proceeding to evaluate the costs and benefits of the proposal via a full business case. This business proposition would include a new building to house the Tapestry along with ancillary facilities for an exhibition of such national importance. Consequently it is being recommended that a detailed business case should now be prepared and that a short life Member Officer Group is established to oversee the completion of this business case.
- 1.4 This is a unique opportunity for the Borders to obtain an exhibition of national significance with strong ties to the textile heritage and wider history of the Region.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 It is recommended that Council:**

- (a) requests Officers to prepare a detailed business case for locating The Great Tapestry of Scotland in the Scottish Borders at Tweedbank and brings a further report back to Council on this matter; and**
- (b) Agrees to the establishment of a short life Member Officer Group and nominates two Members to join the Group.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Great Tapestry of Scotland (the Tapestry) is a unique project to stitch the entire story of Scotland from pre-history to modern times. The Tapestry was the brainchild of renowned writer, Alexander McCall Smith, historian Alistair Moffat, and artist Andrew Crummy. They formed a team to mastermind the production of the world's longest tapestries through one of the biggest community arts projects ever to take place in Scotland. The aim was to create a series of over one hundred and fifty panels that told the key stories in Scottish history – everything from Duns Scotus to the formation of Rangers FC. Produced by over 1000 volunteers, each panel focuses on a specific historical chapter, and interwoven through each are tales of the time.
- 3.2 The tapestry design consists of 160 panels, each measuring either 100 × 100 cm or 100 × 50 cm. The successful creation of the tapestry initiated a legacy project that tells Scotland's history.
- 3.3 The first exhibition of The Great Tapestry of Scotland took place at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh in September 2013. The exhibition opened to the public on Tuesday, 3 September and remained in the Parliament's Main Hall until 21 September 2013. All 143 metres of the tapestry were on display, in series, for the first time and more than 50,000 people came to view the artwork.
- 3.4 The Tapestry was then displayed in Aberdeen where more than 50,000 people visited the exhibition. The Tapestry is now on display in Paisley until 8 June 2014 where 10,000 visitors are expected. The exhibition returns to the Parliament over the summer months before travelling to New Lanark in October. At each of these exhibitions, visitors have been staying for approximately 4 hours. This means use of cafe and shop facilities is high. There is no doubt that the Tapestry is proving to be a very attractive exhibition and the visitor numbers are impressive. It is likely that the Tapestry will continue to be moved around Scotland and potentially beyond Scotland in the coming years.

### **4 PERMANENT LOCATION**

- 4.1 The Trustees of the registered charity who own and manage the Tapestry are now considering a permanent location for the Tapestry. The Council has been in discussion with the Trustees since last year to consider the possibility of locating the Tapestry in the Borders.
- 4.2 Looking forward, it is likely the tapestry will be a major tourist and visitor attraction. In time it is very likely that the Tapestry will become a treasured historical Scottish artefact and wherever it finds a permanent home it will receive many visitors annually.
- 4.3 The Trustees are very clear about how they want the Tapestry treated and it must be a visitor attraction in its own right, in a location very close to a significant public transport link. They also feel that a purpose built home with a "visually striking, conceptually rich" fabric and design in which to house and exhibit the Tapestry would be the most fitting solution. It is already clear that other Councils as well as other public and private sector organisations would be very keen to host the Tapestry on a permanent basis.

- 4.4 Given the history of textiles in the Borders, the very close proximity to Abbotsford and also to Bowhill and the reintroduction of the Borders Railway in 2015, there is a real possibility of the Council securing the Tapestry on a permanent basis at a location in the Borders. This is an outstanding opportunity for the Borders to further enhance its tourist offer and secure a potentially world class attraction

## **5 INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 Following the initial discussions with the Trustees, consideration has been given to possible locations. Given the Trustees' wish for the location to be very close to a significant public transport link, the only viable options in the Borders would appear to be Galashiels and Tweedbank. An initial desk top assessment suggested that land availability with good access for both public transport and private cars was very restricted at Galashiels. The work undertaken in recent years in Galashiels town centre has focussed on the through routes for the A7, access to new developments, enhancing public space and the transport interchange for the new railway station. It was concluded from even a brief initial review that to introduce a new building and associated parking in close proximity to the railway station was simply not viable on the basis of existing land uses with no available site identifiable. In considering Tweedbank there is both adjacent land available and it is in the ownership of the Council. It was concluded that at least for the purposes of the initial feasibility assessment that Tweedbank was a more viable option.
- 5.2 The Council commissioned Jura Consultants to complete an initial feasibility study. The study considered the potential of the Scottish Borders as a permanent home for the Tapestry, with a particular emphasis on the village of Tweedbank, given the new railway terminus there. The outcome of the study was informed by a detailed consideration of the visitor experience, a desk-based review of the visitor market, an assessment of the potential capital costs and funding, and consideration of the projected income and expenditure.

### **The Building**

- 5.3 In completing the initial study, a range of accommodation for the Tapestry was considered; the study concluded with three options "Comprehensive", "Enhanced" and "Core".
- 5.4 To allow for enough room to accommodate the Great Tapestry of Scotland exhibition, supplementary exhibition space, conservation area, workshops areas and café/ entertainment areas, it is anticipated that a building of approximately 1300 m<sup>2</sup> ("Comprehensive") would be required.
- 5.5 In the event that some ancillary elements are not included (such as the conservation and workshop facilities), a building of 650m<sup>2</sup> (Core) could accommodate the Tapestry with a modest supplementary exhibitions area.
- 5.6 A third option could involve a building of 850m<sup>2</sup> (Enhanced). The additional space, 200m<sup>2</sup> greater than the smaller option, would provide a larger area for exhibitions. This appears to be the most viable option presented within the study.

- 5.7 Initial estimates place the Capital cost of these options between £2.6 and £5 million. The initial estimates in respect of revenue income and expenditure suggest a broadly balanced position at circa £450k. However these figures all require refining with further detailed work. Importantly borrowing costs also require to be assessed and incorporated into the revenue projections.
- 5.8 The key conclusions of the initial study were as follows:
- a. The large scale of the Tapestry itself makes it difficult to envisage it as an element of another attraction. If it was to be incorporated as part of an existing attraction, it would be difficult to maximise the financial and economic return because the achievable increase in both visitor numbers and associated admission would be constrained.
  - b. In assessing the potential location of the Tapestry, it is considered that the majority of visitors will arrive by car or by train. The new Borders Railway will provide a useful increment in visitors. A location adjacent to the station is advantageous but not necessarily essential, as long as direct transport links are available between the station and the attraction. This conclusion is supported by the Tourism Impact Assessment within the initial study, which is cautious in forecasting the volume of additional tourism the railway will bring to the area.
  - c. Melrose and Galashiels could provide alternative locations; however, the Great Tapestry of Scotland would then have to compete with other attractions and more importantly with other visitor services, e.g. cafes and restaurants.
  - d. The construction of a building at the proposed site adjacent to the railway station at Tweedbank would, in contrast, provide the opportunity to create a destination. Though co-location with Abbotsford could be considered a possibility for the certain efficiencies and avoidance of facility duplication which it would provide, it would not allow for the potential of creating a new attraction for the area in this way.
  - e. The performance of other visitor attractions in the Scottish Borders demonstrates that there are a number of popular historical attractions already existing in the Borders, and the subject and nature of the Tapestry renders it potentially well-placed in terms of both being an additional complementary attraction.
  - f. Regular refreshment of the visitor experience could be achieved by smaller scale supplementary exhibitions, updated on an annual basis. This accords with the concept of the Trustees for the attraction. It is considered that this refreshment is of paramount importance in ensuring the Tapestry is able to meet and sustain the medium visitor penetration rate, and potentially achieve the high estimate, of visitor numbers detailed in the visitor penetration rate analysis.
  - g. The importance of the refreshment of both central and complementary exhibitions is borne out by the experiences of the comparator attractions: those with largely static exhibitions, such as the Quaker Tapestry Exhibition, have seen a decline in visitor numbers.



## **Summary**

- 5.9 As a consequence of these key conclusions it is evident that there is a basis to move to a detailed business case for this proposal and it is recommended that the Council requests officers to prepare a detailed business case for locating The Great Tapestry of Scotland in the Scottish Borders at Tweedbank and brings a further report back to Council on this matter.

## **Detailed Business Plan**

- 5.10 There are a range of detailed and practical issues that are identified within the initial feasibility study as requiring to be developed. In addition Officers have considered some of the wider issues around the Tweedbank site that require further assessment, notably public utility provision, wider road network management implications and funding. The funding issue is addressed further under the financial implications. There may be further issues identified by the full business case, but at this stage there are no substantive issues identified that would lead Officers to believe that the key conclusions of the initial feasibility study are incorrect or that there is not a sound basis for proceeding with development of a detailed business case.
- 5.11 Given the profile of this project and the range of issues to be addressed in completing the detailed business case it is recommended that a short life Member Officer Working Group is established. This group should oversee the completion of the detailed business case and the preparation of the report for Council. It is recommended that two Members are nominated to join the group.
- 5.12 Officers will procure external support to complete the development of the Detailed Business Plan. The estimated costs of this advice are circa £15-20k. An additional cost of circa £20k will also be required to undertake a desktop survey of the site, sufficient preliminary design work and cost planning (requiring an architect, engineer and quantity surveyor) and specialist advice on both the environmental systems and exhibition display to ensure that the capital cost estimates and revenue running costs are robust.

## **6 IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial**

The development of a facility to house the Tapestry will be a significant undertaking for the Council both in terms of the costs and the revenue generating potential of such a facility.

The business case will set out the capital construction costs including site acquisition and preparation, revenue running costs and income generating potential of the facility and will apply both optimism bias to the capital costs and sensitivity analysis to revenue expenditure. The cost drivers will vary with,

- a. the structure chosen to develop the business case, for example a trust model could be eligible for relief from non-domestic rates, and will have implications for VAT
- b. the size and specification of the building
- c. the availability of grant funding, and
- d. decisions over whether or not to charge visitors an entrance fee to view the Tapestry.

The assumptions used to derive the financial business case will be clearly set out in the full business case along with a risk commentary. A sensitivity analysis will be developed to provide comfort with regard to the revenue and capital budgetary implications of the recommended scope of the project.

## 6.2 Risk and Mitigations

The report describes all the potential risks that have been identified in relation to this project, no specific additional concerns need be addressed at this stage pending the completion of the full business case.

## 6.3 Equalities

There are no immediate matters that require to be addressed in respect of equalities. The detailed business case will address equalities issues pertaining to the project.

## 6.4 Acting Sustainably

Any new project that requires a new building offers a range of opportunities for more sustainable action. The detailed business case will address this issue.

## 6.5 Carbon Management

There will be carbon management implications from this project given both travel and building implications. The detailed business case will address this.

## 6.6 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes are required to the Scheme of Administration as a consequence of this report.

# 7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, the Service Director Interim Capital Projects and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted. Their comments have been incorporated in the final report.

**Approved by**

**Corporate Transformation & Services Director Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Rob Dickson	Corporate Transformation & Services Director Tel: 01835 825 075
David Robertson	Chief Finance Officer Tel: 01835 825 012

**Background Papers:** None

**Previous Minute Reference:** None

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

Contact: Rob Dickson, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA,  
Tel: 01835 825155 email [eitranslationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:eitranslationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk).

## **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

MINUTE of MEETING of the SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL held in the TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, HAWICK on 29 May 2014 at 10:30 a.m.

-----

Present: Councillors G Garvie (Convener), S. Aitchison, W. Archibald, M. Ballantyne, S. Bell, C. Bhatia, J. Brown, J. Campbell, K. Cockburn, M. J. Cook, A. Cranston, G. Edgar, J. A. Fullarton, J. Greenwell, B. Herd, G. Logan, S. Marshall, J. G. Mitchell, D. Moffat, S. Mountford, A. J. Nicol, D. Parker, D. Paterson, F. Renton, S. Scott, R. Smith, R. Stewart, G. Turnbull, T. Weatherston, B. White

Apologies: Councillors V. M. Davidson, I. Gillespie, J. Torrance

In attendance: Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (People), Depute Chief Executive (Place), Corporate Transformation and Services Director, Chief Financial Officer, Joint Director of Public Health, Democratic Services Team Leader.

-----

### **WELCOME**

1. Councillor Stuart Marshall, Hawick Provost welcomed Scottish Borders Council to Hawick and expressed his pleasure in providing the venue for the meeting in the recently refurbished Hawick Town Hall. In adding his gratitude for the Council's support for the refurbishment project he commented on the quality of the work that had been carried out and drew attention to the iconic clock designed and made for the hall by local jeweller Hamish Smith.
2. The Convener welcomed newly elected Councillor McAteer to his first Council meeting.

### **DECISION NOTED.**

### **MINUTE**

3. The Minute of the Meeting held on 24 April 2014 was considered.

### **DECISION**

**AGREED that the Minute be approved and signed by the Convener.**

### **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

4. The Minutes of the following Committees had been circulated:-

Community Planning Strategic Board	3 April 2014
Local Review Body	14 April 2014
Planning & Building Standards	14 April 2014
Audit	21 April 2014
Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum	22 April 2014
Selkirk Common Good Fund	24 April 2014
Education Committee	29 April 2014
Eildon Area Forum	30 April 2014
Planning & Building Standards	6 May 2014
Peebles Common Good Fund	7 May 2014

**DECISION**

**APPROVED the Minutes listed above subject to paragraphs 5-7 below.**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

5. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Audit Committee Minute of 21 April 2014, it was recommended that the HM Treasury Green Book Checklist be used in a range of projects within the Council.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the recommendation of the Audit Committee.**

**PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

6. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the Planning and Building Standards Committee of 6 May 2014, it was recommended that the new arrangements for the committee be continued on a permanent basis.

**DECISION**

**NOTED that this formed part of a report later on the agenda.**

**TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM**

7. With reference to paragraph 8(c) of the Tweeddale Area Forum meeting of 7 May 2014, it was recommended that the review of the Council's Scheme of Administration include consideration of deputations, in certain defined circumstances, be allowed to address Council Committees re local concerns in relation to recommendations within reports.

**DECISION**

**AGREED that this recommendation be included in the review.**

**HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION SHADOW BOARD**

8. The draft Minute of the Health and Social Care Integration Shadow Board meeting of 28 April 2014 had been circulated.

**DECISION**

**APPROVED the Minute.**

**THE GREAT TAPESTRY OF SCOTLAND**

9. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Corporate Transformation and Services Director to inform Council of the possibility of locating the Great Tapestry of Scotland in the Scottish Borders on a permanent basis and to seek authority to prepare a detailed business case in respect of this proposal. The report set out the background of the Tapestry, a legacy project which told the story of Scotland from pre-history to modern times. This was the brainchild of author, Alexander McCall Smith, historian, Alistair Moffat, both of whom were in attendance and of artist Andrew Crummy. The Trustees of the registered charity who owned and managed the Tapestry had made their wish known that the Tapestry should be a visitor attraction in its own right in a location very close to a significant transport link. Having completed initial work in respect of a possible permanent location in the Borders, with Tweedbank being the most viable option, the Council commissioned Jura Consultants to complete an initial feasibility study. The Consultants' representative Paul Jardine gave Members a review of the study and of the key conclusions reached. The assessment had indicated that there was merit in proceeding to evaluate the costs and benefits of the proposal via a full business case. The business proposition would include a new building to house the Tapestry along with ancillary facilities. The report recommended that a short life Member Officer Group be established to oversee the completion of the business case. In the ensuing debate the majority of Members strongly

supported the report's conclusion that this was a unique opportunity for the Borders to obtain an exhibition of national significance with strong ties to the textile heritage and wider history of the region. Its value was recognised both as a visitor attraction in its own right as well as the potential for generating economic inward investment. However, some concern was expressed with regard to revenue running costs in relation to the attraction's income generating potential. With respect to the remit for the business case, several Members made cases for locating the Tapestry in other towns in the Borders and also pointed out advantages of linking it with other visitor attractions. However, the merits of Tweedbank as a location were generally recognised in terms of its centrality to the Borders and potential transport links associated with the Railway.

#### VOTE

*Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the recommendations in the report be approved subject to the number of Members nominated to join the Member Officer group being amended from two to three and that the Members nominated be Councillors Archibald, Davidson and Parker.*

*Councillor Ballantyne, seconded by Councillor Fullarton, moved as an amendment that:-*

*(a) the words 'at Tweedbank' be omitted from part (a) of the recommendation; and*

*(b) four Members be nominated to join the Member Officer group, these being one Member elected from each political group.*

*On a show of hands Members voted as follows:-*

*Motion - 21 votes*

*Amendment - 7 votes*

*The motion was accordingly carried.*

The Chairman thanked Alistair Moffat and Alexander McCall Smith for their attendance.

#### **DECISION**

##### **DECIDED:-**

- (a) that officers be requested to prepare a detailed business case for locating the Great Tapestry of Scotland in the Scottish Borders at Tweedbank and to bring a further report back to Council on this matter;**
- (b) that a short life Member Officer Group be established and that three Members be nominated to join Group; and**
- (c) to appoint Councillors Archibald, Davidson and Parker as the Members to serve on this Group.**

#### **OPEN QUESTIONS**

10. The questions submitted by Councillors Mountford, Turnbull, Scott, Logan and Weatherston were answered.

#### **DECISION**

**NOTED the replies as detailed in Appendix I to this Minute.**

#### **MEMBERS**

Councillors Marshall and Stewart left the meeting.

### **EQUALITIES REVIEW GROUP – FINAL REPORT**

11. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of 25 October 2012, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Strategy and Policy seeking approval of the report and recommendations of the Equalities Review Group and of the proposals for taking these recommendations forward. It was explained that the Equalities Review Group was given the remit to assess and put forward recommendations to Council in terms of the approach, governance and engagement on equalities matters. The Group's Chairman Councillor Greenwell referred Members to the report of the Review Group which set out its findings and recommendations. He emphasised the importance of ensuring that equality impact assessments were carried out on the various aspects of the Council's work. The report advised that the Equalities Officer Group (EOG) had a crucial role to play in embedding equalities across Council services. It was considered that the EOG could take forward the recommendations of the Equalities Review Group and outline the progress on these in the formal progress report of the Mainstreaming Report and Equality Outcomes 2013-2017, which required to be approved by Council in April 2015. One of the recommendations of the report was that an Equalities Champion be designated to provide stronger political leadership on equalities. Members unanimously agreed that Councillor Greenwell should be appointed to this role.

#### **DECISION**

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

- (a) the recommendations in the report of the Equalities Review Group and that the Equalities Officer's Group be given the remit to take these forward;**
- (b) that progress on these recommendations be included in the formal progress report of the Mainstreaming Report and Equality Outcomes 2013 – 2017 which would require Council approval in April 2015; and**
- (c) that Councillor Greenwell be appointed as Equalities Champion for the Council.**

### **CHAMBERS INSTITUTION TRUST**

12. The Convenor advised that consideration of this report would be deferred.

#### **DECISION**

##### **NOTED.**

### **PLANNING REFORM AND GOVERNANCE OF THE PLANNING SYSTEM**

13. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of 25 September 2013 and paragraph 3 of the Minute of 31 October 2013, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director Regulatory Services. The purpose of the report was to review the Planning and Building Standards Committee and public speaking arrangements introduced on 1 November 2013 and to consider whether those arrangements should be made permanent. Members were advised that the report had been presented to the Planning and Building Standards Committee on 6 May 2014 and the Committee's recommendations had been incorporated. The report referred to the key changes which had been approved and which were now subject to review. As part of the review to establish how effective the new arrangements had been, short questionnaires had been sent to relevant parties including Committee Members, other Members, applicants and agents as well as supporters and objectors who had spoken at Committee. The main findings from the returns to the questionnaires were summarised in the report. It was concluded that the revised Committee arrangements, including the arrangements for public speaking, appeared to be working satisfactorily and were supported by the majority of Members and public speakers. However it was agreed that investigations should be undertaken with a view to improving acoustics in the Chamber. With regard to concerns about the volume and quality of paperwork presented to the Local Review Body, proposals and opportunities to streamline paperwork and information presented to both Committee and Local Review Body meetings were set out in an appendix to the report. In respect of the requirement, which was

questioned by Members, for any Member to retire from the meeting room after making representations to Committee on behalf of constituents the Service Director Regulatory Services advised that this was required by the Standards Commission Code of Conduct. He would, however, raise Members' concerns with the Standards Commissioner and report back his findings to the Planning and Building Standards Committee by September 2014.

#### **DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the continuation of the Planning and Building Standards Committee and Public Speaking arrangements agreed in September and October 2013 on a permanent basis.**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

14. This item was withdrawn.

#### **DECISION NOTED.**

#### **MOTION BY COUNCILLOR COCKBURN**

15. Councillor Cockburn, seconded by Councillor Tumbull, moved approval of his Motion as detailed on the agenda in the following terms:-

"In the light of the ongoing changes to the energy subsidies, this Council instructs the Leader to write to the Scottish Government expressing concern over the sustainability of the Scottish Government's targets, and the impact on the Scottish Borders countryside, of the current energy policy"

Councillor Cockburn spoke in support of his motion.

Councillor Aitchison moved that the wording of the Motion be amended as follows:-

"Council instructs the Leader to write to Scottish Government expressing concern over the conflict between the sustainability of Scottish Government energy targets and their impact on Scottish Borders Landscapes, being mindful of the present impact of wind turbines in this area. This Council reaffirms that Scottish Borders Council Planning Policy is the best mechanism for balancing protection with appropriate developments."

Following Councillor Cockburn's agreement with the amended wording it received unanimous approval from Members.

#### **DECISION**

**AGREED that amended Motion be approved.**

#### **PRIVATE BUSINESS**

16. **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 Appendix II to this Minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6, 9 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.**

#### **SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS**

#### **Minute**

1. The private section of the Council Minute of 29 April 2014 was approved.

#### **Committee Minutes**



2. The private sections of the Committee Minutes as detailed in paragraph 3 of this Minute were approved.

**Waste Treatment Project**

3. Members approved a report by the Corporate Transformation and Services Director.

*The meeting concluded at 1.05 pm*

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**29 MAY 2014**  
**APPENDIX I**

**Questions from Councillor Mountford**

To Executive Member for Environmental Services

1. How many tonnes of waste is the Council expecting to send to landfill this year and how does this compare with totals for previous years?

Reply from Councillor Paterson

The historic and future projections of Municipal Solid Waste sent to landfill by the Council are publicly available within the Integrated Waste Management Strategy. The Council sent 38,206 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste to landfill in 2012/13. The 2013/14 figure has not been verified but we expect it to be in the region of 38,500 tonnes. It is projected that the Council will send approximately 41,000 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste to landfill in 2014/15.

2. What proportion of waste collected by SBC is expected to be recycled this year and how does this compare with previous years?

Reply from Councillor Paterson

The historic and future projections of household recycling performance are publicly available within the Integrated Waste Management Strategy. The Council achieved a recycling rate of 7.8% in 2004/05 rising to 41.1% in 2012/13. Figures for 2013/14 have not yet been verified but we would expect them to be similar to that achieved in 2012/13 i.e. approximately 41%. The Council's projected recycling performance for 2014/15 is 35.8%, which is a decrease of 5.3%. The reduction is related to the removal of the garden waste service.

**Questions from Councillor Turnbull**

To Executive Member for Environmental Services

1. Due to the number of complaints that are being made to the locally elected Councillors, can the Executive Member advise this Council as to when the extended opening hours at the Hawick Community Recycling unit will come into force?

Reply from Councillor Paterson

The review of Community Recycling Centre operating hours is outlined as 'Action 20' within the Integrated Waste Management Strategy. Action 20 was identified as a high priority with completion of the review within 1 year (i.e. December 2014). Implementation would take place thereafter, following approval from the appropriate Council Committee. Officers are currently undertaking a review of resources, priorities and project delivery timelines associated with the Integrated Waste Management Strategy to determine if it is possible to accelerate delivery of Action 20. Officers will be discussing the outputs from this review with Members.

2. Can the Executive Member advise what arrangements are in place for gardening contractors and what gate charges are made either annually or on a casual basis?

Reply from Councillor Paterson

We currently accept garden waste from contractors at Hawick and Eshiels Waste Transfer Stations. A garden waste bay has recently been installed at Hawick Waste Transfer Station to increase garden waste storage capacity. The Waste Transfer Stations are open to contractors between 9:00am and 12:00pm Monday to Friday. The gate fee is currently £35.17 per tonne plus VAT with a minimum 1 tonne charge per month. The minimum 1 tonne charge is to cover administration fees. As highlighted the transfer

stations are closed to contractors in the afternoon. This is for operational reasons to support the refuse collection service. Officers are currently assessing the ability to extend the contractor opening hours but at this point it is not possible to provide an update as to the viability.

It is also worth mentioning that Fourth Resource Management accept garden waste directly from contractors at their composting facility at Pavilion between Galashiels and Gattonside

#### To Executive Member for Planning and Environment

Can the Executive Member advise how many applications were made in response to the current advertisement for a Dog Control Officer, and what priority will be given to those on the redeployment register?

#### Reply from Councillor Smith

A total of 34 applications were received in response to the advertisement for this post. In accordance with the Council's Retention and Redeployment Procedure, prior to the post being advertised consideration was given to whether any suitable candidate(s) were available from the redeployment register. This was undertaken by comparing the nature and grade of the new post and considering whether any employees requiring redeployment met the essential criteria of the new post. In this case no matches were identified. It remained open to anyone on the redeployment register to apply for the new post. Any applications received will be assessed alongside all other applicants.

#### To Executive Member for Roads and Infrastructure

Can the Executive Member advise when we will be given an update on the CCTV provision and when the upgrade will take place and at what cost?

#### Reply from Councillor Edgar

Work is ongoing to assess the future provision of CCTV within the Borders, including the adoption of new technology. In doing so it is recognised that a strategic decision will need to be made by the Council regarding its policy for use of CCTV in town centres. It is anticipated that the outcome of this work together with a proposed policy would be ready for implementation in the autumn of 2014.

In the meantime, in consultation with the Police, measures have been taken to keep existing CCTV systems operational where practicable, including the system in Hawick.

#### **Question from Councillor Scott**

#### To the Leader

Is the Scheme of Administration going to be debated at the June Council meeting?

#### Reply from Councillor Parker

A report reviewing the current Committee Structure is currently being prepared but is unlikely to be available for consideration by Council at their June meeting and will be presented at a suitable future meeting.

#### **Questions from Councillor Logan**

#### To the Executive Member for Social Work

With reference to the summit of 23 April on Pay Day Loans and Gambling and the invitation from the Minister of Local Government and Planning in which he stated that he was keen for interested elected members to attend and contribute, can you tell us any specific contribution made by you on behalf of the Scottish Borders Council?

### Reply from Councillor Renton

The Ministerial Summit on Pay Day Loans and Gambling held on 23rd April involved a number of keynote speakers on the impacts of debt, and a range of workshops ranging from ethically responsible financial services to current regulation and measures.

As Executive Member for Social Work and Housing my specific contribution to the event was by way of representing the Council through attending and actively contributing to discussions in the various workshops that took place.

Specifically, I attended a workshop on Young People's perspective whose social and financial wellbeing are impacted by lax credit checks being carried out. I believe that the legislation around checks on young people borrowing should be tightened to prevent them falling into serious debt.

Turning to the potential to block access to payday websites I have, following the summit, requested a report from Officers to determine the actual impact of web site blocking to enable the Council to look into whether this is something that SBC should be doing and this work is progressing".

### To the Leader

With reference to your answer to my question at the Council meeting of 27 February on the Innerleithen Gap Site, can you tell us if Scottish Borders Council have a contract in place with Waverco given that in your answer you stated that it was hoped to have a start made to redevelopment by May of this year?

### Reply from Councillor Parker

I would like to thank Cllr Logan for raising this question. As he and other local councillors are aware, the Innerleithen gap site has been a complicated and challenging redevelopment project.

The project itself is being procured via a design and build building contract route, which involves liaison with both internal Council Departments, external consultants and the developer who has just established a joint venture company.

Unfortunately, owing to the nature of the project, the partners involved, as well as ensuring that all of the inherent project risks for the Council are minimised within the contract; it has taken slightly longer than officers initially anticipated.

However, I am sure that Cllr Logan will agree that minimising risk to the Council outweighs the short time delay for tender issue.

I can confirm that these issues have now been resolved and the Invitation to Tender is in final sign off stage and will be issued by Friday 30 May.

### **Questions from Councillor Weatherston**

#### To the Executive Member for Environmental Services

1. Were you aware your department made a promise to Kelso Councillors that temporary measures would be put in place to help move 690 tonnes of garden waste and avoid a 40 mile round trip for residents?

#### Reply from Councillor Paterson

The minutes to the Council meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013 makes no reference or commitment to the delivery of an interim garden waste service in Kelso. The Director did make a commitment to investigate an interim solution.

2. Can you explain how you could give details of the Kelso garden waste proposal to the Hawick News on 11<sup>th</sup> April and slam our plans when no details were known until a meeting with officers from your department on 16<sup>th</sup> April?

Reply from Councillor Paterson

An approach was made by the Hawick News for a comment and I advised that it would be unfair on other communities in the Borders if they did not receive this service.

3. Were your efforts to stop Kelso Councillors trying to help their constituents based on specific operational issues in their Ward or was it around setting a precedent?

Reply from Councillor Paterson

The agreement was made by Council at their meeting on 12 December.

This page is intentionally left blank

---

## **THE GREAT TAPESTRY OF SCOTLAND – PERMANENT LOCATION AT TWEEDBANK**

**Report by Corporate Transformation & Services Director**

---

**Scottish Borders Council**

**18 December 2014**

---

### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 **The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the outputs following the feasibility design proposals and detailed business case for the Great Tapestry of Scotland that was requested by Council in May 2014. The report seeks approval of the proposed permanent location for the Tapestry in the Scottish Borders at Tweedbank.**
- 1.2 The report highlights the ambitions contained in the 'Borders Railway, Maximising the Impact: a Blueprint for the future' that was recently announced by the First Minister. It confirms the important role that the development of a permanent home for the Tapestry in the Scottish Borders can play in achieving the ambitions set out in that document.
- 1.3 The report indicates that this is a unique opportunity for the Scottish Borders to obtain an exhibition of national significance with strong ties to the textile heritage and wider history of the area. It will provide a potential hub for local and international events. A location at Tweedbank has the opportunity to create a destination for the area with direct links to other local attractions such as Abbotsford House and Melrose Abbey, together with the further development of Tweedbank and the emerging proposals for a Central Borders Business Park.
- 1.4 An initial design for a new building has been completed by Page Park Architects. This work has provided a good basis for initial costs. The detailed business case prepared by Jura Consultants (including costs from the Page Park work) has confirmed that the project can be financially viable based on the visitor projections and anticipated operating costs.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Council:**
  - a) **Note the new 'Borders Railway, Maximising the Impact: a Blueprint for the future', the initial design completed by Page Park Architects and the detailed business case completed by Jura Consultants.**
  - b) **Agrees to enter into a legal agreement with the Great Tapestry of Scotland Trust to provide a permanent home for the Great Tapestry in the Scottish Borders.**

- c) Agrees to support the construction of a new building on land owned by Scottish Borders Council at Tweedbank, that will provide the permanent home for the Great Tapestry of Scotland.**
- d) Agrees to allocate up to £3.5M in the Council's Capital Programme, phased over 2015/16 and 2016/17, to support the construction of the building, and notes the £2.5M intended investment from Scottish Government.**
- e) Agrees that the building should be developed and owned by Scottish Borders Council and not it is then likely to be leased, on appropriate terms, to a new Trust which would be responsible for operating the Tapestry attraction.**
- f) Instructs the Chief Executive to proceed with the development of the project, requests that progress is reported through the normal capital monitoring process and that any necessary decisions are taken by Executive in relation to a lease for the building.**



### **3 INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1 The Great Tapestry of Scotland (the Tapestry) is a unique community arts project to stitch the entire story of Scotland from pre-history to modern times. The Tapestry was the brainchild of renowned writer, Alexander McCall Smith, historian Alistair Moffat, and artist Andrew Crummy. They formed a team to mastermind the production of the world's longest tapestry through one of the biggest community arts projects ever to take place in Scotland. The aim was to create a series of over one hundred and fifty panels that tells the key stories in Scotland's history. Produced by over 1000 volunteers, each panel focuses on a specific historical chapter and interwoven through each are tales of the time.
- 3.2 The Tapestry design now consists of 160 panels, each measuring either 100 × 100 cm or 100 × 50 cm. The successful creation of the Tapestry has created a legacy project that tells Scotland's history.
- 3.3 The first exhibition of The Great Tapestry of Scotland took place at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh through September 2013. All 143 meters of the tapestry were on display, in series, for the first time and more than 50,000 people viewed the artwork during a 3 week period. The Tapestry has been on temporary display at various locations around Scotland and is continuing to attract large numbers of visitors.
- 3.4 This report sets out the progress that has been made in considering the detailed business case for the Great Tapestry project, as requested by Council at its meeting in May 2014.

### **4 BORDERS RAILWAY BLUEPRINT**

- 4.1 Scottish Borders Council, Midlothian Council and City of Edinburgh Council have worked alongside the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Transport Scotland and VisitScotland to agree a range of initiatives that will maximise the economic impact from the Borders Railway. The First Minister launched 'Borders Railway Maximising the Impact: A Blueprint for the Future' on 17 November at Abbotsford House.
- 4.2 The 'Blueprint' sets out the partner's ambitions for delivery of a range of projects and initiatives that recognise the national significance of the opening of the Borders Railway and that help to realise the economic opportunities that it can bring to Edinburgh, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders. It commits the partners to "continue working together towards realising our ambition and delivering what is expected of us – great places for working, investing, living, learning & visiting".
- 4.3 The Blueprint is framed around four themes: 'Great Locations for Working and Investing; Great Communities for Living and Learning; Great Destinations to Visit; and 'The Stages of our Journey. One of the key projects identified in the Great Destinations to Visit theme is the ambition to deliver a fitting home for the Great Tapestry of Scotland.

### **5 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 5.1 The Trustees of the registered charity who own and manage the Tapestry are now considering a permanent location for the Tapestry. Officers of the Council have been in discussion with the Trustees to consider the possibility of permanently locating the Tapestry in the Scottish Borders.
- 5.2 Looking forward, it is likely that the Tapestry will be a major tourist and visitor attraction, and in time it is also likely that the Tapestry will become a treasured historical Scottish artefact. This means that wherever it finds a permanent home, it will continue to receive many visitors annually.

- 5.3 Given the history of textiles in the Borders, the close proximity to Abbotsford House, and also to Bowhill, and the reintroduction of the Borders Railway in 2015, there is a real possibility of the Council securing the Tapestry on a permanent basis at a location in the Scottish Borders. This is an outstanding opportunity for the Scottish Borders to further enhance its tourist offer and secure a potentially world class attraction.
- 5.4 Through consultation with the Trustees, they are very clear about how they want the Tapestry displayed and that it should be a visitor attraction in its own right, in a location very close to a significant public transport link. They also feel that a purpose built home with a “visually striking, conceptually rich” concept design in which to house and exhibit the Tapestry would be the most fitting solution.

## **6 DETAILED BUSINESS CASE**

- 6.1 The Council commissioned Jura Consultants to complete a detailed business case. The study considers the potential of the Scottish Borders as a permanent home for the Tapestry, with a particular emphasis on the village of Tweedbank, given its central location and the new railway station there. The consultants also considered the potential for other locations including Selkirk, Hawick, Melrose and Galashiels.
- 6.2 The business case included the following key requirements
- a) Demonstrate the operational viability and sustainability of the attraction in the long term.
  - b) Recommend the most suitable business model for the visitor attraction.
  - c) Identify realistic external funding opportunities to support delivery of the project.
  - d) Demonstrate the likely positive impact of the attraction on the economy.
  - e) Consider the implications of a range of organisational vehicles for the delivery and operation of the project.
  - f) Assess the implications of a visitor admission charge.
- 6.3 The detailed business case for the creation of a Great Tapestry of Scotland Visitor Centre has been developed for a site, adjacent to the new Tweedbank railway station.
- 6.4 The report considers the implications of sites in this area and the concept building design prepared by Page \ Park Architects. In assessing the potential location of the Tapestry, it is considered that the majority of visitors will arrive by car or by train. The creation of a new railway line serving the Scottish Borders, terminating at Tweedbank, is a significant opportunity for the visitor centre. The potential addition of a bus service, or re-routing of existing services, will facilitate easier access to surrounding towns from the railway and should increase tourism opportunities.
- 6.5 The steady state visitor projection presented in the detailed business case suggests the following visitor number targets for the first four years of operation, a steady state of circa 47,000 is forecast from year three:  
Year 1 – 55,000    Year 2 – 50,000    Year 3 – 47,000    Year 4 – 47,000
- 6.6 This trend is consistent with the opening or refurbishment of many significant museums and galleries. The peak is generated through pre-launch publicity and launch events and programmes. The steady state

projection of 47,000 is the medium term target for business planning purposes.

6.7 In order for the attraction to be financially viable, there is a strong case made for charging admission to view the Tapestry. The headline price for adult admission is projected at £10 inclusive of VAT. However, the pricing structure assumes a range of discounts for a number of visitor groups including families. The average income per ticket sold is forecast to be £6. This charging scheme has been benchmarked against other similar attractions in the Scottish Borders and across the UK.

6.8 Based on these visitor projections and the pricing structure outlined above, the attraction is forecast to achieve a surplus of approximately £80,000 in its first year of operation. With the predicted levelling off in visitor numbers in later years, this translates to a £22,000 surplus in Year 3. These figures demonstrate the viability of the attraction as long as visitor numbers can be achieved and operating costs are carefully controlled. Additional sensitivity analysis also demonstrates that a reduced level of income could be tolerated as long as management measures were taken to reduce operating costs.

It should also be noted that the report describes the likely national marketing campaign to be launched by Visit Scotland in respect of the railway. The report also notes the national marketing campaign to be launched by the new franchise operator, Abellio. This likely to be sustained over several years and will be very high profile. This should add further to the visitor numbers.

6.9 Key conclusions of the report are as follows

- a) The large scale of the Tapestry itself makes it difficult to envisage it as an element of another attraction. If it was to be incorporated as part of an existing attraction, it would be difficult to maximise the financial and economic return because the achievable increase in both visitor numbers and associated admission would be constrained.
- b) The construction of a building at a site adjacent to the railway station at Tweedbank would, in contrast, provide the opportunity to create a destination and provide direct links to other local attractions, for example Abbotsford House and Melrose Abbey.
- c) The performance of other visitor attractions in the Scottish Borders demonstrates that there are a number of popular historical attractions already existing in the Scottish Borders. The subject and nature of the Tapestry means it is potentially well-placed in terms of being an additional complementary attraction as part of this heritage based tourism offer.
- d) Regular refreshment of the visitor experience could be achieved by smaller scale supplementary exhibitions, updated on a frequent basis. This accords with the concept of the Trustees for the attraction. It is considered that this refreshment is of paramount importance in ensuring the Tapestry is able to meet and sustain the medium level projected visitor penetration rate, and potentially achieve the high estimate of visitor numbers detailed in the visitor penetration rate analysis.
- e) The Tapestry holds significant opportunities for informal and formal learning due to the range of narratives and themes associated with

the Tapestry and the wider project.

- f) The importance of the refreshment of both central and complementary exhibitions is borne out by the experiences of the comparator attractions: those with largely static exhibitions, such as the Quaker Tapestry Exhibition, have seen a decline in visitor numbers.
- g) Key findings from the report present two scenarios: paid admission and free admission. Free admission generates higher visitor numbers but a significant annual operating deficit. This is unlikely to be attractive to Scottish Borders Council, or any potential operator, and as such it is recommended that a paid admission model is preferable and sustainable.
- h) The rich history offered across the Tapestry provides a range of opportunities for events and activities to link to particular historic dates or events. This could provide an additional revenue stream.

## **7 DESIGN FEASIBILITY STUDY**

- 7.1 Following the initial discussions and review of suitable locations within the Scottish Borders with close transportation links, strong consideration has been given to Tweedbank as the future home of the Great Tapestry of Scotland. Sites close to the new railway station and in the ownership of the Council have been considered.
- 7.2 Page Park Architects were commissioned by Scottish Borders Council to prepare concept designs for a new museum building to house the 'Great Tapestry of Scotland' at Tweedbank. The Borders Railway will terminate at a new station and parking facility at Tweedbank and it is considered that the opportunity exists to create a significant new tourist attraction utilising this new transport hub.
- 7.3 This design feasibility study had a number of objectives:
  - a) to identify the best site for the location of the Tapestry.
  - b) to prepare a response to the brief that meets the objectives of the care and display of the Tapestry.
  - c) to develop a concept illustration of a building that reflected the project's values.
  - d) to conceive a plan that is capable of potential reuse for other functions.
- 7.4 Page Park Architects undertook an analysis of a number of sites around the Tweedbank Railway station. In addition, the master planning team at Page Park has also been commissioned to undertake an assessment of the potential to develop a Central Borders Business Park at Tweedbank. These two design elements have been considered in parallel to identify the most mutually beneficial proposal for the area.
- 7.5 Scottish Borders Council has recently acquired the land to the east of the proposed railway station and station car park which is seen as potential development land. A number of options for the building orientation and setting on this land have been considered. However, through further appraisal of this land it was highlighted that the proposal for a longer term extension of the railway line to Carlisle would limit vehicular access across the railway. As a result, there was a risk that the proposed building may be perceived as being less accessible in the longer term.
- 7.6 Alternative locations and configuration were investigated with consideration given to locate the building to the southern boundaries of

Tweedbank Industrial Estate. Two options were considered suggesting either a building to the frontage onto the main A6091 or a building in a prominent position onto the Melrose Roundabout. Both these sites suffer from the potential disassociation from the railway station. Whilst they may provide more roadside visibility they suffer from this lack of connection to the new railway station and car park.

- 7.7 To address the above site constraints and maintain close connection to the railway, Page Park Architects have explored a further variation potentially exploiting the south western corner of the roundabout opposite Eildon Mill.
- 7.8 The new roundabout access into Tweedbank station will make this site a prominent one in relation to walking from the station. Whilst this site is currently planted with the trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order, it has the advantage of facing the approach from the Melrose roundabout, is visible from the station, can have parking associated with it in the landscape and leaves the Eildon Mill site available to benefit from any early redevelopment. The proposed site is set in a small woodland and greenspace area providing opportunities to develop activities and programmes that make use of both indoor and outdoor space, linking the wider community whilst also providing what could be an attractive area for the café to use.
- 7.9 To allow enough room to accommodate the Great Tapestry of Scotland exhibition, supplementary exhibition space, conservation area, workshops areas and café/ entertainment areas, it is anticipated that a building of approximately 1175 m<sup>2</sup> would be required. The brief has been developed from the outline business case by Jura Consultants.
- 7.10 The building is envisaged over two levels with the main and additional display on the first floor, and below it the reception, support, temporary gallery and café. This two storey design creates a relatively compact building form.
- 7.11 The layout of the ground floor is dictated by the arrangement for the collection on the upper level. The elliptical form extends down to the ground floor as a wrap to an orthogonal core of accommodation which comprises:
- a central temporary gallery, event and education space
  - tapestry storage space and workshop
  - ancillary support spaces including the kitchen and toilet spaces.
- 7.12 The main room housing the collection is accessed by a sweeping stair up from reception and a lift. The two means of access arrive at a window looking out over the station and to views beyond, turning into an introduction space and central reception area around which the collection is arranged.
- 7.13 The building has been designed with future flexibility in mind. This allows for a seamless refresh of the attraction or the ability to create an events space for both local and national or international events as an additional revenue stream.

## **8 IMPLICATIONS**

### **8.1 Financial**

- (a) The financial appraisal provided in the outline business plan has been revised and updated to take into account the scale of the proposed building, a greater level of detail has been provided on the staffing structure for the organisation and an outline

economic impact appraisal has been undertaken to assess the likely economic benefit of the project.

- (b) The assumptions used to derive the financial business case are set out in the full business case along with a risk commentary. A sensitivity analysis has been developed to provide comfort with regard to the revenue and capital budgetary implications of the recommended scope of the project.
- (c) The development of a facility to house the Tapestry will be a significant undertaking for the Council. The total capital cost for delivery of the GTS building is currently forecast at up to £6 million.
- (d) The construction cost is based on an area of 1,175 m<sup>2</sup>. The preliminaries are subject to review in response to the market, while the fees include project, cost and design fees and specialist exhibition advice. The construction costs of the proposed building are therefore estimated to be £4.6M. Not included in the £4.6M are costs associated with site preparation / conditions, inflation, utilities, roads and footpath redesign / connections and project management costs.
- (e) Consideration has been given to the funding for the Tapestry building. Scottish Government has intimated that it would provide £2.5M towards the cost of the construction. Other potential third party sources, such as Lottery Funds have also been considered. However, it is as yet uncertain whether significant contributions towards the construction costs could be timeously secured from other sources.
- (f) As well as considering the priorities in the Capital Programme, the need to meet the ongoing revenue cost of the capital borrowing should also be recognised. Initially this will amount to annual loan charges of £275,000 per annum assuming a 30 year loan term over which interest and principal will be repaid. The project will require to be prioritised within the Council's 10 Year Capital Programme when this is next approved in February 2015.
- (g) A Trust is to be established to own the Tapestry and to operate the attraction. It is recommended that the Council retains ownership of the proposed building in order to maintain control over this key asset, and to protect the Council's capital investment. The Council would then lease the building to the Trust on appropriate terms. The business case assumes running costs for the attraction will be met from visitor income with no further public subsidy beyond the loan charges outlined above.

## 8.2 Risk and Mitigations

An outline risk and mitigation assessment is provided within the full business case. The risks identified cover a range of project specific delivery issues from design delivery to the financial implications. The following key risks and potential mitigating actions are noted:

- (a) Bid for the Tapestry from another geographic location may delay the programme. The GTS Trustees have indicated that Scottish Borders is their preferred location for the Tapestry.
- (b) The design may need to evolve to include other non-Tapestry facilities. This may introduce a design and cost risk which will need to be managed. This risk is mitigated by putting in place effective project management for the design and construction of the building.

- (c) Objections raised via the planning process may fundamentally alter the concept for the project.
- (d) Unforeseen site issues could increase cost or affect design development. This risk is mitigated by putting in place effective project management for the design and construction of the building, and ensuring that detailed site investigations are in place as part of that process.
- (e) Visitor numbers, and critically visitor admission income, may be lower than forecast. This risk would be mitigated by ensuring that a strong marketing plan is in place and that income potential is maximised.
- (f) Spend per visitor on retail and catering may be lower than forecast. This risk would be mitigated by ensuring that the attraction is managed on a commercial basis, with effective management of the attraction ensuring that income potential is maximised and that operating costs are reduced.
- (g) Building operating costs could be greater than forecast. This risk would be mitigated by ensuring that the attraction is well managed and that operating costs are closely controlled.
- (h) The proposal relating to the site on the western side of the roundabout would involve the removal of trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order. There is a risk that this designation may mean that the site cannot accommodate the proposed building. This risk is mitigated by the availability of alternative sites equally close to Tweedbank Station.

### 8.3 **Equalities**

The initial building design has been informed by good practice in terms of accessibility and ensuring a good visitor experience for all users, whatever their physical requirements. A full equalities impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the detailed design phase for the building.

### 8.4 **Acting Sustainably**

Any project that requires a new building offers a range of opportunities for more sustainable action. Further design development will establish sustainable design elements for the project in terms of energy efficiency and use of resources. The project would also support the sustainability of the local economy, attracting additional new visitors to the Scottish Borders and encouraging visitors to stay longer in the area. The loss of trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order would have a potential negative impact on the environment.

### 8.5 **Carbon Management**

There will be carbon management implications from this project in terms of building construction and its ongoing operation. The building will be designed to high energy efficiency standards to minimise its carbon emissions and its running costs. Further design development will address carbon management issues. Attracting additional visitors to the Scottish Borders will have an impact on travel related carbon emissions. These will be mitigated to some extent by a proportion of visitors using the Borders Railway and other public transport. Removing an area of protected trees is a negative consideration.

### 8.6 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

No changes are required to the Scheme of Administration as a

consequence of this report.

## 9 CONSULTATION

The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, the Service Director Capital Projects and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated in this report.

### Approved by

**Rob Dickson**

**Corporate Transformation & Services Director**

**Signature.....**

### Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Rob Dickson	Corporate Transformation & Services Director, Tel: 01835 825075
Bryan McGrath	Chief Officer Economic Development Tel: 01835 826525
Martin Joyce	Service Director Capital Projects, Tel: 01835 825015

### Background Papers:

Jura Consultants Detailed Business Case

Page/Park Feasibility Study

**Previous Minute Reference:** Scottish Borders Council, 29 May 2014

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

Contact: Rob Dickson, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA, Tel: 01835 825155 email [eittranslationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:eittranslationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk).



## **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

MINUTE of MEETING of the SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, NEWTOWN ST. BOSWELLS on 18 December 2014 at 10.00 a.m.

Present:- Councillors G. Garvie (Convener), S. Aitchison, W. Archibald, M. Ballantyne, S. Bell, J. Brown, J. Campbell, K. Cockburn, M. Cook, G. Edgar, V. Davidson (from para.9), J. Fullarton, I. Gillespie, J. Greenwell, B. Herd, G. Logan, W. McAteer, S. Marshall, J. Mitchell, D. Moffat, S. Mountford, A. Nicol, D. Parker, D. Paterson, F. Renton (from para.16), S. Scott, R. Smith, R. Stewart, J. Torrance, G. Turnbull, T. Weatherston, B. White.

Apology:- Councillors C. Bhatia.

Absent:- Councillor A. Cranston.

In Attendance:- Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (People), Depute Chief Executive (Place), Corporate Transformation and Services Director, Director of Public Health, Chief Financial Officer, Service Director Regulatory Services, Chief Officer Health & Social Care Integration, Clerk to the Council.

### **CONVENER'S REMARKS**

1. The Convener highlighted the successes of Libby Clegg and Samantha Kinghorn, who had both represented Scotland in the recent Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Samantha Kinghorn was present at the meeting and was presented with a gift from the Council by the Convener.

### **DECISION**

**AGREED to congratulate Libby Clegg and Samantha Kinghorn on their sporting achievements.**

### **MINUTE**

2. The Minute of the Meeting held on 20 November 2014 was considered.

### **DECISION**

**AGREED that the Minute be approved and signed by the Convener.**

### **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

3. The Minutes of the following Committees had been circulated:-

Lauder Common Good Fund	28 October 2014
William Hill Trust	28 October 2014
Audit	10 November 2014
Executive	11 November 2014
Economic Development Group	13 November 2014
Eildon Area Forum	13 November 2014
Local Review Body	17 November 2014
Health & Social Care Shadow Board	17 November 2014
Hawick Common Good Fund	18 November 2014

Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum	18 November 2014
Education	25 November 2014
Kelso Common Good Fund	26 November 2014
Jedburgh Common Good Fund	26 November 2014
Cheviot Area Forum	26 November 2014
Community Planning Strategic Board	27 November 2014
Environment & Infrastructure	4 December 2014

**DECISION**

**APPROVED** the Minutes listed above subject to paragraphs 4-6 below.

**LAUDER COMMON GOOD FUND**

4. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of 28 October 2014, it was noted that all references to Lauder Public Hall should read Lauder Town Hall.

**DECISION**

**AGREED** that the Minute be amended accordingly.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

5. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of 10 November 2014, it was recommended that Council agree that the business case for a new finance system be prioritised as part of the budget process and to monitor progress on that recommendation.

**DECISION**

**AGREED** to approve the recommendation as detailed above.

**ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

6. With reference to the meeting held on 4 December 2014, it was noted that as there had been insufficient Members present at the meeting to meet the quorum, it had been conducted on an informal basis with no decisions being taken. Where decisions were required these were presented as recommendations for approval by Council.

**DECISION**

**AGREED** to consider the recommendations from the Environment and Infrastructure Committee as detailed in paragraphs 7 and 8 below.

**LAND USE STRATEGY**

7. With reference to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Minute of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee of 4 December 2014 and the circulated copies of a report by Service Director Regulatory Services outlining the progress in developing a regional Land Use Framework, one of two pilots in Scotland, it was recommended that approval be given for a further stage of public consultation on the draft Framework.

**DECISION**

**AGREED** to give approval for a further stage of public consultation on the draft Framework.

**REVIEW OF WINTER SERVICE PLAN FOR YEAR 2014/15**

8. With reference to paragraphs 5-7 of the Minute of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee of 4 December 2014, it was recommended that amendments be made to the Winter Services Plan.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to:-**

**(a) instruct the Service Director Commercial Services to:-**

- (i) prepare draft Secondary Salting Routes in towns where currently a Primary Route took place, and meet with Ward Members and Community Council Representatives to finalise the routes to be adopted; and**
- (ii) assess requests for additional salt bins and prioritise the purchase of any bins that were approved from future Capital Programmes in time for the following winter.**

**(b) approve the amendment of the Winter Service Plan 2014/15:-**

- (i) to an easy-to-read format which clearly set out the Council's policies, priorities and resource parameters; and**
- (ii) to define a secondary salting route network in rural areas to be introduced during the winter of 2014/15 and detailed in the report.**

**MEMBER**

Councillor Davidson joined the meeting during consideration of the following item of business.

**OPEN QUESTIONS**

9. The questions submitted by Councillors Fullarton, Mountford, Turnbull and Logan were answered.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the replies as detailed in Appendix I to this Minute.**

**NHS BORDERS**

10. The Convener welcomed Mr John Raine, Chairman; Calum Campbell, Chief Executive; Jane Davidson, Interim Chief Executive from January 2015; and Dr Sheena MacDonald, Medical Director from NHS Borders. Mr Raine sought to allay fears regarding recent press coverage of possible community hospital closures. The Board was carrying out a review of all clinical services to ascertain if they were being provided in the best way and there were no outcomes or decisions in relation to the future of any service provision at this stage. He also commented on the new children's facility at the Borders General Hospital which would complement the provision at the Sick Kids in Edinburgh. Dr MacDonald gave Members a presentation on the work being done by NHS Borders to achieve their vision for services by 2020 that everyone was able to live longer healthier lives at home, or in a homely setting. She advised that Boards were asked to work towards a number of key targets for the year which fitted with the Governments' health objectives, known as HEAT Targets, and she commented on how these were being met. The 3 main factors putting pressure on the health service at both local and national level were demographics, the number of people

living longer with multiple long term conditions and the financial challenges of providing services with the level of resources available. Dr MacDonald also highlighted the areas of success and the proposed next steps for the future. The NHS Borders representatives answered Members' questions and the Convener thanked them for their presentation and attendance at the meeting.

## **DECISION**

**NOTED.**

### **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

11. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Joint Director of Public Health proposing that he lead actions, on a collaborative basis, in response to the consultation on the Director of Public Health's previous Annual Report. The Report's Action Plan recognised the importance of organisations working in partnership, and was intended to provide sustainable public health solutions. The emphasis in the action plan was on involving and enabling communities. Actions included addressing inequalities, improving food and nutrition, bringing about a change in culture and physical activity as the norm in a smoke-free environment, promoting mental well-being mitigation of the negative aspect of benefit reform and developing the assets communities already had. Members welcomed the report.

## **DECISION**

**NOTED the planned forward work in the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2013/14 in response to the previous consultation and endorsed the action plan.**

### **HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION SCHEME**

12. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Depute Chief Executive People clarifying how the integrated health and social care arrangements in the Scottish Borders would be established through the Scheme of Integration, the establishment of the Integrated Joint Board and the Strategic Plan. The report explained that by 31 March 2015 the Integration Scheme would be submitted to Ministers for approval. A body corporate model had been agreed by Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders and the scope of which services were to be included as required by the legislation had been agreed and these were listed in the report. Once the Integration Scheme had been approved by Ministers, Orders would be laid in Parliament to establish the Integrated Joint Boards. Following the establishment of the Integrated Joint Board it would appoint its Chief Officer, Finance Officer and prepare the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan would contain the date when the functions and resources were to be delegated to the Integrated Joint Board, by 1 April 2016 at the latest. The Strategic Plan would set out how the Integrated Joint Board aimed to achieve the nine health and wellbeing national outcomes, in addition to linking with Council and NHS priorities and the Single Outcome Agreement, and would state the date by which the functions would be formally delegated. It was intended to produce a draft Strategic Plan in April 2015, in order to ensure a clear sense of direction and purpose toward the agreed national health and wellbeing outcomes. It proposed the full Strategic Plan be agreed in October 2015 and set out the plan for future delivery with the finances to match together with the date for implementation. To ensure a clean move to the new integrated arrangements and align the budgets with the service plan, it was proposed that the date for the legal powers to be transferred to the Integrated Joint Board and the date from which the strategic plan became fully operational would be 1 April 2016.

## **DECISION**

**NOTED the key elements required to be in place to establish the integrated health and social care arrangements in the Scottish Borders and the timescales as outlined.**

13. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Depute Chief Executive People containing the current Draft Integration Scheme and seeking approval to consult on the Draft Integration Scheme in line with Scottish Government requirements. The report explained that the Integration Scheme was the document by which the Health Board and Local Authority outlined how they would comply with the legislation, Public Bodies (Joint Working)(Scotland) Act 2014. Specifically the Integration Scheme had to state which model of integration the Health Board and the Local Authority had agreed to apply (delegated authority to an Integrated Joint Board or a lead agency model), the functions to be delegated in accordance with that model and the scope agreed. The report outlined the timetable required to achieve having an agreed Integration Scheme in place by 31 March 2015, which included the need to undertake a 12 week consultation. During this consultation period the work streams would develop and describe the detailed operational arrangements which were essential to delivery and governance but would also, as appendices, provide the evidence to support the required legislative arrangements set out in the scheme. Members welcomed the report and the proposal to prepare an easy read version for consultation purposes.

## **DECISION**

**AGREED to:-**

- (a) give approval to proceed to consult on the Draft Integration Scheme;**
- (b) delegate authority to the Chief Executive (SBC) - in consultation with the Chief Executive (NHS) and the Shadow Integration Board – to approve the final scheme for submission to Scottish Ministers by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015; and**
- (c) ratify the final integration scheme at the Council meeting on 2 April 2015.**

## **REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16 – 2019/20**

14. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval to consult on the draft 2015/16 - 2019/20 Revenue Financial Plan. The report explained that over the last 2 years a medium term revenue budget process based on a 5 year cycle in which a more strategic approach to the financial planning process had been adopted to meet the financial challenges facing the Council. The 2014-19 Revenue Financial Plan had been used as the starting point to roll forward the plan for a third time. The Corporate Management Team and the Administration Budget Working Group had reviewed and updated the assumptions used to set the budget around pay and price inflation, other manpower costs, including pension changes, auto enrolment, increments and future changes anticipated to the national insurance system, as well as demographic and other departmental pressures. These pressures had been offset by the full year effects of savings which commenced in 2014/15, savings proposed to start in 2015/16 and proposals which would be delivered in future years as well as additional funding drawn down from reserves. The scale of the financial challenge facing the Council next year and beyond meant that the robust, proactive approach to the delivery of efficiency savings evidenced in previous years would continue to be required to balance the budget and protect services in key priority areas. Members would be asked to approve a firm budget for 2015/16 and an indicative

budget for the remaining 4 years of the plan. The Chief Financial Officer confirmed that the letter from the Government detailing the financial settlement had been received and that this was in line with expectations.

#### **DECISION**

**Noted the five year plan and the amount of resources available in appendix 1 to the report and proceeded to consider the Administration's draft revenue proposals for consultation as detailed below.**

15. There had been circulated copies of the Administration's Draft Revenue Budget Proposals for 2015/16 - 2019/20 which set out the annual savings by Corporate Theme giving a total of £20,157,000 over the 5 years.

#### **DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the proposals for inclusion in the Revenue Budget which would be brought forward for approval on 12 February 2015.**

#### **MEMBERS**

Councillor Renton joined the meeting. Councillor Stewart left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

#### **GREAT TAPESTRY OF SCOTLAND**

16. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of 29 May 2014, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Corporate Transformation and Services Director on the outcome of the feasibility design proposals and detailed business case for the Great Tapestry of Scotland, seeking approval of the proposed permanent location for the Tapestry in the Scottish Borders at Tweedbank. The report outlined the ambitions contained in the 'Borders Railway, Maximising the Impact: a Blueprint for the future' that was recently announced by the First Minister, which confirmed the important role that the development of a permanent home for the Tapestry in the Scottish Borders could play in achieving the ambitions set out in that document. The report indicated that this was a unique opportunity for the Scottish Borders to obtain an exhibition of national significance with strong ties to the textile heritage and wider history of the area. It would provide a potential hub for local and international events. A location at Tweedbank had the opportunity to create a destination for the area with direct links to other local attractions such as Abbotsford House and Melrose Abbey, together with the further development of Tweedbank and the emerging proposals for a Central Borders Business Park. An initial design for a new building had been completed by Page Park Architects. This work provided a good basis for initial costs and the detailed business case prepared by Jura Consultants (including costs from the Page Park work) had confirmed that the project could be financially viable based on the visitor projections and anticipated operating costs. Paul Jackson from Jura Consultants and David Page from Page Park Architects were present at the meeting to answer Members questions. Members discussed the proposal in detail, including the location for the Tapestry, infrastructure required, the cost, expected visitor numbers, and whether or not there would be economic benefits arising from the project.

#### **VOTES**

*Councillor Turnbull, seconded by Councillor Logan, moved that the vote be taken by Roll Call.*

*Councillor Cook seconded by Councillor Parker, moved as an amendment that the vote be not taken by Roll Call.*

*On a show of hands Members voted as follows:-*

<i>For</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>9 votes</i>
<i>Against</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>20 votes</i>

*The motion accordingly fell.*

*Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Gillespie, moved approval of the recommendations subject to the addition of a further recommendation (g) to instruct the Chief Executive to bring a report to this Council on the structure, membership and proposed operation of the Management Trust.*

*Councillor Ballantyne, seconded by Councillor Logan, moved that no action be taken in respect of this project.*

*On a show of hands Members voted as follows:-*

<i>Motion</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>21 votes</i>
<i>Amendment</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>10 votes</i>

*The Motion was accordingly approved.*

## **DECISION**

### **DECIDED:-**

- (a) to note the new 'Borders Railway, Maximising the Impact: a Blueprint for the future', the initial design completed by Page Park Architects and the detailed business case completed by Jura Consultants;**
- (b) to enter into a legal agreement with the Great Tapestry of Scotland Trust to provide a permanent home for the Great Tapestry in the Scottish Borders;**
- (c) to support the construction of a new building on land owned by Scottish Borders Council at Tweedbank, that would provide the permanent home for the Great Tapestry of Scotland;**
- (d) to allocate up to £3.5M in the Council's Capital Programme, phased over 2015/16 and 2016/17, to support the construction of the building, and notes the £2.5M intended investment from Scottish Government;**
- (e) that the building should be developed and owned by Scottish Borders Council and note that it was then likely to be leased, on appropriate terms, to a new Trust which would be responsible for operating the Tapestry attraction;**

- (f) to instruct the Chief Executive to proceed with the development of the project, and that progress was reported through the normal capital monitoring process and that any necessary decisions were taken by Executive in relation to a lease for the building; and
- (g) to instruct the Chief Executive to bring a report to this Council on the structure, membership and proposed operation of the Management Trust.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Convener adjourned the meeting at 1.30 pm for lunch. The meeting reconvened at 2.15 pm.

### **MEMBERS**

Councillors Aitchison, Greenwell, Marshall, McAteer and Turnbull did not re-join the meeting after lunch.

### **EARLY RETIREMENT AND VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE**

- 17. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Executive seeking approval for 6 members of staff who had requested early retirement and voluntary severance. If all 6 applications were approved, a total one-off cost of £195,617 would be incurred. In total, £176,819 of direct recurring employee cost savings would be delivered each year. The average payback period for all staff was 1.11 years.

### **DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the 6 current proposed applications as detailed in the appendix to the report with associated costs being met from the voluntary severance/early retirement budget.**

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

- 18. Following approval of the new Scheme of Administration it was necessary to appoint 9 Members to serve on the Scrutiny Committee. It was proposed that Councillors Archibald, Cockburn, Logan, Marshall, McAteer, Mountford, Nicol, Stewart and Torrance be appointed with Councillor Logan as Chairman and Councillor McAteer as Vice-Chairman. This was unanimously accepted.

### **DECISION**

**AGREED that the Scrutiny Committee comprise of Councillors Archibald, Cockburn, Logan, Marshall, McAteer, Mountford, Nicol, Stewart and Torrance, with Councillor Logan as Chairman and Councillor McAteer as Vice-Chairman.**

- 19. It was reported that Councillor Bell had resigned from the Planning and Building Standards Committee. Councillor Parker nominated Councillor Campbell to fill the vacancy, and this was unanimously accepted.

### **DECISION**

**AGREED to appoint Councillor Campbell to the Planning and Building Standards Committee.**



20. It was reported that Councillor Torrance had resigned as Health & Safety Champion. In the absence of a Member wishing to take over this role it was agreed to leave the post vacant at present.

**DECISION**

**AGREED not to appoint a Health and Safety Champion at present.**

**REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

21. It was reported that Councillor Smith had resigned from the Southern Upland Partnership. It was proposed that Councillor Mitchell be appointed as his replacement. This was unanimously accepted.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to appoint Councillor Mitchell to the Southern Upland Partnership.**

22. It was reported that Scottish Borders Housing Association had reduced the number of Council representatives on their Board from 5 to 3. It was proposed that Councillors Davidson, Herd and Mountford be the Council's representatives. This was unanimously accepted.

**DECISION**

**AGREED that Councillors Davidson, Herd and Mountford represent the Council on the SBHA Board.**

**MEMBER**

Councillor Aitchison rejoined the meeting.

**CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2015/16**

23. There had been circulated copies of the draft Calendar of Meetings for the period August 2015 to July 2016. It was noted that there would be a special Council meeting on 29 January 2015.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the Calendar of meetings for 2015/16.**

**PRIVATE BUSINESS**

24. **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 Appendix II to this Minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 6, 8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.**

**SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS**

**Minute**

1. The private section of the Council Minute of 20 November 2014 was approved.

**Committee Minutes**

2. The private sections of the Committee Minutes as detailed in paragraph 3 of this Minute were approved.

*The meeting concluded at 2.30 p.m.*

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**18 DECEMBER 2014**  
**APPENDIX I**

**Open Questions for Scottish Borders Council 18 December 2014**

**Question from Councillor Fullarton**

To Executive Member for Education

Could the Executive Member please give us an update on the current position to incorporate the nursery into the primary school at Cockburnspath? This obviously involves planning, architects drawings and physical work and a programme of those to ensure delivery for the start of the 2015 session. Can you also confirm that there will be a new teacher due to the increased roll?

Reply from Councillor Aitchison

The current nursery provision at Cockburnspath is operated by an independent provider outwith Cockburnspath Primary School.

At the beginning of December 2014, Scottish Borders Council received a letter from the nursery providers indicating that they intend to cease functioning in June 2015. As a direct result, Scottish Borders Council have commenced a piece of work to consider future nursery provision for the Cockburnspath area. This work will allow decisions to be taken on the future delivery of the service. The main priority is to ensure that a nursery provision is in place for children from August 2015.

Nursery staffing levels will be dependent on the number of children within the Early Learning and Childcare provision and will not impact on teacher numbers for Cockburnspath Primary School which is based on the number of pupils in P1 to P7.

**Question from Councillor Mountford**

To Executive Member for Education

What is the average ratio of pupils to teachers in Scottish Borders Council Primary and Secondary Schools?

Reply from Councillor Aitchison

**Primary sector**

The 2014 census results show the SBC Primary pupil to teacher ratio (PTR) is 17.2.

**Secondary sector**

The 2014 census results show the SBC Secondary PTR is 13.4.

**Across both sectors**

The 2014 census results show the SBC PTR is 13.7.

**Question from Councillor Turnbull**

To Executive Member for Education

Can the Council be advised of the current situation regarding bullying within all our schools in the Scottish Borders?

Reply from Councillor Aitchison

While we cannot guarantee that bullying does not exist in schools our staff respond swiftly to all reported incidents and that in partnership with a team of young people we have developed the Respectful Relationship policy .

All our schools are in the process of implementing the Respectful Relationship Policy and this will enable us to adopt a consistent approach when managing, monitoring and reporting bullying incidents across the authority. In addition to this the policy also refers to the importance of ensuring that the pupils learn and experience the value of respectful and positive relationships so as to support them to become responsible citizens.

This policy covers all areas of bullying eg cyber bullying as well as emotional and physical bullying.

The implementation of this policy is included in all school improvement plans and is a strategic priority within the department as well as nationally.

**Question from Councillor Logan**

To the Leader

With reference to the green waste service a motion, in your name, that was agreed at the October 2014 Council meeting which asked the Chief Executive to prepare a report to address the five actions in your motion. Can you tell us if the proposed actions, if accepted by the Council, will be available to all communities in the Borders?"

Reply from Councillor Parker

Yes.

Reference (official use)



**Petitions – submission form**

If you wish to submit a petition for consideration by the Petitions Committee, please complete the form below. You are advised to refer to the Guidance Questions and Answer sheet provided.

**Details of Principal Petitioner**

Please enter the name and contact details of the person raising the petition. *The Principal Petitioner must be on the Register of Electors for the Scottish Borders Council area.*

<b>Name:</b>	MARION SHORT AS CHAIR OF HCC
<b>Address:</b>	16 HIGHLAND HILL BANK HAWICK
<b>Postcode:</b>	TD9 9RY
<b>Telephone no:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	

**Title of Petition and Petition Statement**

Please enter the title of the Petition and a statement to cover the main subject of the Petition or the action you would like the Council to take.

**Title:** 120 Bus Petition

**Statement (no more than 250 words):**

See attached separate sheet

**Further information.**

Please enter below any measures already taken, or persons/organisations approached to attempt to resolve the issues. Attach additional sheets to this form if required but please note that this information must be limited to no more than 4 sides of A4 paper.

Action has been co-ordinated with other Community Councils raising similar petitions and also with Elected Councillors and local MSP. A Facebook/Twitter petition has also been raised by Burnfoot CC.

**Presentation of petition to the Committee.**

Please indicate below if you would like the opportunity to make a statement at the meeting of the Petitions Committee when your petition is considered. Whether or not you will be invited to do so will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

~~\*I do/~~do not~~ wish the opportunity to make a brief statement about the petition.~~

~~\*I would like my deputy named below to make a statement on my behalf.~~

~~Name of deputy FRENCH WIGHT~~

~~Contact details .....~~

~~Signature of deputy.....~~

\* please delete as appropriate

**Signature of Principal Petitioner.**

If you are satisfied your petition meets all the requirements as stated in the Guidance Questions and Answers please add your signature and date below.

Signature of Principal Petitioner.....

Date..... 21/07/2015

**Accompanying signatures.**

Your petition must be accompanied by at least 10 signatures in total, from persons aged 16 and over, resident in the Scottish Borders. The signatures must be from a minimum of 3 separate addresses.

Please be aware that if the petition is on the agenda for a meeting of the Petitions Committee the names and addresses, but not signatures, of all signatories will be published on the Council website.

	Name	Address	Signature
1	Ely. Adams	11 WILTON HILL TERRACE HAWICK	
2	Emma Little	5, LANGLANDS RD HAWICK	
3	K. O'NEILL	6A WILTON HILL TERRACE HAWICK	
4	JAN ROBERTSON	4 LANGLANDS RD HAWICK	
5	COMERON KNOX	27A WELLSBANE PARK HAWICK	
6	J. TURNBULL	14 ELM GROVE HAWICK	
7	Wilson George	11A GREEN TERRACE	
8	Marian Shutt	16 HERSCHELL BANK HAWICK	

9	M. H Ford	12 Slitrig Gues. HAWICK.	
10	BRIAN FORD	12 SLITRIG CRUISE	

Attach additional sheets of signatures if you wish.

**Please submit this form and any additional sheets to:-**  
 Clerk to the Council, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown  
 St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA,  
 or email to:  
[committeepapers@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:committeepapers@scotborders.gov.uk)

Additional sheets of signatures  
 were submitted



HCC was made aware of the withdrawal of this bus service and on the basis of public concerns in this and surrounding communities that the withdrawal of the service would result in no public transport connection for locals, tourists and those in employment in neighbouring towns, it was decided to raise this petition to seek support for the continuation of the service and there is scope for compromise on the service which would have to be negotiated. Hawick suffers enough isolation at present with the new railway only reaching Galashiels and this would only compound the isolation. Those who travel to work would have to make the decision to keep working with time added to their day or give up their employment.

Would people in Kelso or Jedburgh who originally wanted to come to Hawick but are faced with travelling via Galashiels not just then stay there rather than extend their travelling time and therefore Hawick loses out on visitors. The withdrawal of the service particularly affects Denholm but in Hawick itself for those residents who live on the perimeter of the town in the Weensland area, they rely on this service as local transport.

The attached petition was distributed to six outlets in Hawick requesting that the service is retained and in the short few days available has amassed hundreds of signatures which is indicative of public feeling.

It should be noted by the reader that you have to live with this situation to really appreciate the effect this withdrawal would have on people in this area.



---

## **PETITION FOR THE RETENTION OF LOCAL BUS SERVICE 120 KELSO, JEDBURGH AND HAWICK (RETURN)**

**Briefing Note by the Service Director Commercial Services**

---

### **PETITIONS COMMITTEE**

**1 OCTOBER 2015**

---

#### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 **This briefing note advises the Petitions Committee of the background to a petition received from Hawick Community Council regarding the retention of local bus service 120. Officers recommend no further action is warranted.**
- 1.2 This bus route which runs between Hawick, Jedburgh and Kelso was operated on a commercial basis (no subsidy from the Council) by First Buses until January 2015
- 1.3 In January 2015 First Buses decided that they were no longer able to operate the route commercially. The Council stepped in and offered a temporary solution to subsidise the service with First Buses until a retender of bus services could be undertaken in the Summer of 2015. It was explained to Councillors at the time that this was a temporary solution for 6 months and budget would be found from existing resources.
- 1.4 Following the retender it became obvious that the cost of operating this route was far in excess of any available budget. It should be noted that as a commercial bus service the Council had no budget allocated for this route.
- 1.5 A restructured service 120 (20) was designed using a single bus operation with a reduced timetable and frequency based on passenger numbers gathered from data collected since January 2015. This revised timetable was sent out to Communities for consultation in July. Feedback was given and some minor changes were made to the timetable to try and accommodate community requests particularly around provision to Eckford, Jedburgh Town and Weensland Road, Hawick however, it was not possible to meet every request and remain in budget.
- 1.6 The revised service has operated since 17 August 2015. To date there has been very little negative passenger response.

#### **2 CONCLUSION**

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Committee notes the Petition received for the retention of local bus service 120 but takes no further action.**

**Approved by**

**Service Director Commercial Services    Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Timothy Stephenson	Strategic Transport Services Manager 01835 825182

**Background Papers:** Petitions Procedure

**Previous Minute Reference:** None

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

Contact us at Jacqueline Whitelaw, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA, Tel 01835 825431, Fax 01835 825071, email [eitranslationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:eitranslationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk).