

# Public Document Pack



## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE THURSDAY, 18 AUGUST, 2016

A MEETING of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, NEWTOWN ST BOSWELLS on THURSDAY, 18 AUGUST, 2016 at 10.00 AM

J. J. WILKINSON,  
Clerk to the Council.

12 August 2016

<b>BUSINESS</b>		
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
2.	<b>Order of Business</b>	
3.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
4.	<b>Minute</b> (Pages 1 - 6)  Minute of the meeting of 28 April 2016 to be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Copy attached).	5 mins
5.	<b>Scrutiny Reviews</b> (Pages 7 - 12)  Update on subjects included in the future Scrutiny Review Programme. (Copy attached).	10 mins
6.	<b>Great Tapestry of Scotland: A Review of the Process in respect of Decision-Making</b>  Final report of the Scrutiny Committee Working Group on the Great Tapestry of Scotland: A Review of the Process in respect of Decision-Making. (To follow).	60 mins
7.	<b>Commissioning Arrangements with the Voluntary and Third Sector</b> (Pages 13 - 18)  Briefing Note by Procurement and Payment Services Manager. (Copy attached).	30 mins
8.	<b>Any other Items Previously Circulated</b>	
9.	<b>Any Other Items which the Chairman Decides are Urgent</b>	
10.	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 22 September 2016.	

## **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.**

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**Membership of Committee:-** Councillors G. Logan (Chairman), W. Archibald, K. Cockburn, A. Cranston, I. Gillespie, B Herd, W. McAteer, A. J. Nicol and J. Torrance

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**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of Meeting of the SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 4,  
COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, NEWTOWN  
ST BOSWELLS on Thursday, 28th April,  
2016 at 10.00 am

Present:- Councillors G. Logan (Chairman), W. Archibald, A. Cranston, I. Gillespie,  
B Herd and W. McAteer.  
Apologies:- Councillors K. Cockburn, A. J. Nicol and J. Torrance  
Also Present:- Councillor S. Aitchison.  
In Attendance:- Clerk to the Council, Democratic Services Officer (P. Bolson).

1. **MINUTE**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of 24 March 2016.

**DECISION**

**NOTED for signature by the Chairman.**

2. **MATTER ARISING:**

2.1 **ROADS RETRUNKING AND ROADS CAPITAL SPEND**

With reference to paragraph 7.4 of the Minute of 24 March 2016, there had been circulated copies of a briefing note providing Members with information relating to the capital costs of works to individual roads in the roads infrastructure. Mr Colin Ovens, Infrastructure Manager and Mr David Richardson, Asset Manager were in attendance to present the briefing note and provide additional information as required. The briefing note explained that officers had reviewed the comments from Transport Scotland in relation to a proposal to re-trunk A7 north of Galashiels and A72 Galashiels to Skirling and the position had been clarified that trunk roads were routes that were of strategic national importance and which followed the principles of:- providing the users with a coherent and continuous system of routes, serving destinations of importance to industry, commerce, agriculture and tourism; and defining nationally important routes which would be developed in line with strategic national transport demands. Mr Ovens emphasised that Transport Scotland would not be reviewing trunk road status on an individual basis and there were no current plans for a review of the strategic network as a whole. The report also explained that Transport Scotland was clearly of the view that the existing trunk roads through the Borders already met the function detailed above and that the non-trunk sections of A7 and A72 were of more local importance. Any future consideration by Ministers to trunk the above routes, which were managed locally, would bring with it an expectation that the stretches of road to be trunked would be of, or near to, trunk road standards.

2.2 With regard to the revenue costs of works to individual roads, Members were advised that the budget sat within Neighbourhood Services and that these figures were included in the Block Revenue allocation and were not recorded against specific roads. A number of questions were raised in terms of specific stretches of road and Mr Ovens and Mr Richardson provided clarification in terms of how the situations would be addressed. In some situations, the Council would be made aware of problems during routine inspections and in others, through reporting by members of the public. Action would be taken either directly by SBC or by providing advice to the landowner. Details of the capital spend on A7, A72 and A697 were provided within the briefing note and comparisons provided for each financial year from 2011/12 through to 2015/16. The Chairman thanked Mr Ovens and Mr Richardson for their attendance.

**DECISION**  
**NOTED the report.**

**3. SUPPORT FOR HIGHLY ABLE LEARNERS IN SCHOOLS**

- 3.1 With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of 24 March 2016, Ms Donna Manson, Service Director Children and Young People was in attendance to provide Members with information on how schools within the Scottish Borders provided support for its young people, and in particular, highly able learners. Ms Manson introduced Ms Michelle Strong, Chief Officer Education; Ms Jacqueline Wilson, Headteacher at Kingsland Primary School, Peebles; and Mr John Clark, Headteacher at Berwickshire High School; who would provide additional information to Members in respect of how support had been successful in their particular areas. Ms Manson explained that the rationale Inclusion for All would be presented to the Executive Committee in May 2016 and this would detail how the Council would meet the needs of all learners, taking into account changes in legislation and plans for the provision of enhanced support in areas such as specialist needs and highly able learners. Ms Manson reported that Scottish Borders Council schools were currently in the top quartile and improving. SBC was also fully compliant with the National Development Framework.
- 3.2 Ms Strong explained that terminology used within the education system had changed over the years. Terms such as marked aptitude, talented, gifted, exceptional etc had been replaced with "highly able learners" as the accepted term. In order to promote inclusion for all learners, "Getting It Right for Every Child" (GIRFEC) had been implemented in the Scottish Borders in April 2016, developing and adopting a growth mindset for young people. The term "highly able learner" referred both to pupils who worked or had the potential to work ahead of their age peers and/or to pupils who were highly able across the curriculum as well as in one or more particular areas. It was emphasised that the Curriculum for Excellence took into consideration the development of the whole young person, including their enjoyment of learning, and support was tailored to suit each individual. In terms of education beyond school, Ms Manson advised Members that all options were discussed with parents and issues such as readiness to leave home were considered. Opportunities such as Modern Apprenticeships would be considered along with university, college etc and it was acknowledged that schools were often in the position of knowing the pupil well and therefore being able to tailor their curriculum and Individualised Plan (IEP) according to the ability of each young person.
- 3.3 Ms Wilson advised Members that there were in the region of 600 pupils attending Kingsland Primary School and just over 60 children in nursery education. There was obviously a wide range of abilities within the school and in terms of how each individual developed throughout their primary school years. In order to provide support for highly able learners in this environment, a number of activities were in place to encourage these young people. Activities included participation in master classes for those identified with particular skills; opportunities to work in different classes, accelerated work such as the Scottish Mathematical Council and additional support from the High School for pupils at level three and beyond. Further examples of local opportunities included partnership working with local clubs and taking part in national and local competitions. Members were advised that in some instances, pupils represented Scotland internationally. A number of other opportunities were available to highly able secondary pupils and these included developing talent and ability in sports such as pole vault, javelin and carting; musical ability and on occasion, the "once in a lifetime" ability shown by an individual young person in subjects such as mathematics. It was recognised that resilience was an important part of education and for highly able learners, who had perhaps experienced few or no hurdles in their lives, developing resilience would help them to deal with any future disappointments they might encounter. Mr Clark explained that "differentiation" was key across all subjects and this allowed a teacher to ensure pupils within a group were given work appropriate to their individual level and not all given the same work, as all pupils were unique; and "setting" when young people were grouped together according to ability in order to manage differentiation. However, there was a balance as having

more able pupils in groups could be a help for those less able. These tools, when used as part of the overall strategy, were extremely beneficial at all levels of ability, as was the use of mentoring within the school setting which ensured skills were developed to the maximum. There was a need to bring creativity to the curriculum to allow young people to develop, and links with universities and other organisations had been set up to assist in this. Examples to demonstrate how such links were used to benefit individual young people were given.

3.4 Discussion followed and Members raised a number of questions. It was emphasised that all aspects of a learner's journey were equally important and with regard to developing partnerships with local businesses, it was emphasised that development of business/entrepreneurial skills was as important as any other. Developing the young workforce within secondary schools was important and as well as young people going out into the community for work experience, businesses were also invited into schools. In terms of mentoring and social interaction, Mr Clark acknowledged that this was a very important issue and advised Members of a mentoring project which had been tested at Hawick High School, where senior pupils had been trained in 'Mentally Flourishing Schools'. This also involved the use of mobile 'phone technology and the use of an application called Toot Toot. Pupils could feed information about problems/concerns they had in to the Toot Toot online forum 24 hours per day and the school could then assess the issue and identify the most appropriate person to deal with each situation. Discussion followed about the options for young people who did not wish to go to university immediately following secondary school. Ms Manson explained the importance of getting the message across to communities that it was "socially acceptable" that university might not be the next step for every young person and that work experience could lead to professional qualifications in other ways. Ms Manson also acknowledged that the new IT contract with CGI could ultimately provide a range of opportunities for young people in the Scottish Borders.

3.5 A concern had been raised in relation to the number of qualifications a young person was permitted to study in 4th year at High School. Ms Strong explained that currently six or seven National examinations could be taken in one year whereas under the previous system it had been up to eight O levels over two years. Colleges and Universities were not looking at 8 or 9 qualifications and Universities were looking at Highers not Nationals, so it was important to look at the totality of qualifications required by pupils to meet their future roles. It was important to achieve a balance and allow other interests such as music, sport etc. to be continued and such hobbies and any work experience were also taken into account for further education placements. There was work to be done to look at exactly what young people were going on to study after school and therefore best tailor the qualifications and the number taken to reach that goal. Parents were also invited to contribute to these discussions. Invited to speak as Executive Member for Education, Councillor Aitchison commented that schools had a very complex task to assist all learners in reaching their potential and to ensure that ability challenges were met when a young person was highly able in a number of subjects. The Chairman thanked officers for their very informative and interesting presentation.

## **DECISION**

**NOTED the presentation.**

## **4. SCHOOL TRANSPORT AND ESCORTS**

4.1 With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of 24 March 2016, there had been circulated copies of a briefing note providing information on the existing practice for school transport. Ms Manson and Mr John Dellow, Team Leader Transport Services presented a summary of the provision within Scottish Borders Council. The Policy was scheduled for review within the next two years and would take account of the financial challenges in place at the time. Ms Manson explained that there was a statutory obligation to provide transport for all children who lived two or more miles from the catchment school and who were under 8 years of age; in the case of any other child, the distance was set at three miles from the school. Within the Scottish Borders, this transport was provided free of charge.

Pupils enrolled at a Roman Catholic school were offered transport under the same restrictions where they lived within the designated catchment area of that school and transport was also provided for pupils with additional support needs. Figures provided detailed that there were 178 contracts in place to provide 3,426 mainstream pupils with transport; a further 112 contracts existed for transport for pupils with additional support needs; 123 pupils required escort provision and 42 currently received a privilege lift (as defined in paragraph 4.2 of the briefing note). Within the primary and secondary school areas, the percentage of the school roll receiving school transport ranged from 40% in Berwickshire, 38% in Earlston, 18% in Eyemouth, 10% in Hawick to 8% in Galashiels. The Service was flexible and responsive and was delivered using Best Value principles. The Passenger Transport section managed all aspects of school transport provision and utilised a range of vehicles which were verified as meeting required legislation. The budget for school transport for 2015/16 was £5,016,300 and Ms Manson explained some of the issues facing the service e.g. increasing operator costs; supply in the market meeting the demand; and the number of licenced operators, drivers, vehicles and availability. There were examples of exceptional partnership working such as when bus operators were able to continue services during challenging weather conditions with the help of local people; the implementation of additional vehicles at short notice when a primary school was relocated; and when a bus driver ensured the safety of pupils alighting from the bus on which they were travelling.

- 4.2 Following discussion, a number of questions were raised. In terms of entitlement to free school transport being transferred along with a pupil when s/he moved to a different school, Ms Manson advised that a planned review of the existing Policy would address this issue, and emphasised that pupil safety was paramount at all times. Ms Manson advised that using the Borders Railway as part of school transport provision would present risk assessment challenges and suggested that train travel might be considered only in specific circumstances. Further discussion took place in respect of utilising unused seats on buses. Ms Manson explained that under the statutory provision requirement, seat allocation was for individual pupils and allocating this seat if the pupil was not in attendance raised a number of issues. This would also be reviewed as part of the current Policy which would be presented to Council for approval in due course.

**DECISION  
NOTED:**

- (a) the presentation;
- (b) that information on transport received from parents would be included in the School Estates review; and
- (c) that there would be an incremental review of school transport linked to the Schools Estates review carried out over the next 12 to 24 months.

**5. SCRUTINY REVIEWS - UPDATE ON SUBJECTS INCLUDED IN THE FUTURE  
SCRUTINY REVIEW PROGRAMME**

- 5.1 With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of 18 February 2016, there had been circulated an updated list of subjects which Scrutiny Committee had been asked to review and which included the source of the request, the stage the process had reached and the date, if identified, of the Scrutiny meeting at which the information would be presented. In addition, Members were also asked to consider further subjects for inclusion on this list for presentation at future meetings of the Committee. When deciding whether subjects would be reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee, Members required a clear indication from the initiator of the request as to which aspects of the subject they wished to be reviewed. This would enable the Committee to determine whether the subject was appropriate for consideration.

- 5.2 Discussion took place on the inclusion and timing of a review on Artificial Pitches and the Clerk to the Council was asked to explore the possibility of this subject being brought forward to the June meeting. With regard to Home Schooling, it was reported that no further action had been taken at this time to write to the Minister with a view to considering a change in legislation affecting home schooled children and young people. The Council's Legal Services was currently looking into what could be included in such a letter and a private update would be given to the Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the proposed list of subjects for review by Scrutiny Committee as amended on 28 April 2016 and appended to this Minute.**

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would take place on Thursday, 9 June 2016.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

**SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS**

7. **MINUTE**

The Committee approved the private section of the Minute of 24 March 2016.

***The meeting concluded at 11.55 am***

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## Scrutiny Committee – Review Subjects 2015/16

### Timetabled for Scrutiny Meetings

Source	Issue/Description	Stage	Scrutiny Committee meeting date
Greenlaw and Hume CC	To consider outsourcing success stories from this Council and elsewhere in Scotland, in particular where the service has been outsourced to a third sector organisation.	Presentation by Kathryn Dickson, Procurement & Payment Services Manager.	18 August 2016.
Etrick and Yarrow Community Council	Great Tapestry of Scotland Working Group – Report.	Report by Scrutiny Working Group, presented by Councillor Mountford.	18 August 2016
Councillor Cockburn	Asymmetric Week	Presentation by Donna Manson, Service Director Children & Young People.	22 September 2016
Councillor Nicol	Recycling Centres. Update on the remarketing of goods for recycling at the Centre, including how other Local Authorities had approached this.	Presentation by Jenni Craig, Service Director Neighbourhood Services.	22 September 2016
Councillor Torrance	Social Work Duty Hub	Graeme Dobson, Project Manager. Les Grant, Customer Services Manager	24 November 2016

Source	Issue/Description	Stage	Scrutiny Committee meeting date
Councillor Archibald	Artificial sports pitches. Briefing paper to be brought forward on existing artificial pitches in the Scottish Borders, to include information on the use, costs, benefits and issues of these facilities.	Presentation from Rob Dickson, Corporate Transformation and Services Director.	Rob Dickson to advise further.
Councillor Nicol	Review of Bridges Assets. The review should include the condition of bridges on the register and the processes for inspection and maintenance.	Presentation by Service Director Assets and Infrastructure	Martin Joyce to advise of date.
Royal Burgh of Peebles & District Community Council	This issue relates to how (and under what circumstances) community consultation is designed, planned and managed, and how the processes by which Council canvasses the views of local communities can be facilitated and improved upon. In particular, use the example of the process that led to the decision by the Council's Executive Committee to agree that Victoria Park, Peebles is the preferred location for a 3G pitch.	Presentation from Rob Dickson, Corporate Transformation & Services Director.	Rob Dickson to advise.
Lib Dem Group	Implications of the Community Empowerment Act on the Council – <i>"there may be multiple implications of the Community Empowerment Act e.g. disposal of assets either SBC or Common Good, the transfer of local services to community groups who wish to take them on, future provision of allotments etc."</i>	Presentation from Shona Smith, Communities & Partnership Manager and Douglas Scott, Senior Policy Advisor on Communities and Partnership Manager.	Seminar planned for all Members. Scrutiny to decide whether to pursue following seminar.
Scrutiny Committee	Drugs and Alcohol Strategy	To be confirmed Tim Patterson, Joint Director of Public Health.	TBA

### Review Subjects to be considered/awaiting further information

Source	Issue/Description	Stage	
Councillor Gillespie	Home Schooling. To consider the requirement for a change in the law to ensure health assessments for home schooled children are carried out. Also to investigate parents undertaking an examination to ensure that they were adequate educators for primary and secondary school education.	Donna Manson, Service Director Children & Young People will provide private update.	

### Reviews Completed 2015/16

Source	Issue/Description	Stage	Scrutiny Committee meeting date.
Scrutiny Committee	Following the review on road repairs maintenance, presented to the January meeting of Scrutiny Committee. There was a further report to the March meeting on the implications on the capital and revenue budgets of the trunk status of the A72 and A7. Scrutiny Committee requested a further report identifying the revenue and capital costs of works to individual roads in the roads infrastructure.	Report from Asset Manager	28 April 2016 Completed.
Councillor Logan	Support for Highly Able Learners in Schools	Presentation by Service Director Children & Young People.	28 April 2016. Completed.
Councillor Torrance	School Transport and Escorts	Presentation by Service Director Children and Young People.	28 April 2016. Completed.
Scrutiny Committee	Following the review on road repairs maintenance, presented to the January meeting of Scrutiny Committee. There was a further report to the March meeting on the implications on the capital and revenue budgets of the trunk status on the A72 and A7. Scrutiny Committee requested a further report identifying the revenue and capital costs of works to individual roads in the roads infrastructure.	Report from Asset Manager	28 April 2016 Completed.

Source	Issue/Description	Stage	Scrutiny Committee meeting date.
Scrutiny Committee	Financing arrangements for the Transport Interchange in Galashiels - to include subsidy arrangements and departure charges.	None.	24 March 2016 Completed
Councillor Archibald	Equalities Legislation. Consideration on the Council's up to date grant application form and information on how the legislation is applied to local festivals, in particular where the Council awards grants.	None.	24 March 2016 Completed
Councillor Bhatia	Protection of Private Water Supplies – <i>"in relation to Planning e.g. when a planning application is granted which requires an additional private supply or taking water from an existing private supply, how do existing householders ensure that their supply is protected? This may be purely a civil matter or the Council may have a role. This is further exacerbated with large forestry/windfarm applications."</i>	Recommendation to be considered by Executive Committee on 22 March 2016.	18 February 2016 Completed.
Ettrick and Yarrow Community Council Allocation of budgets for road maintenance and repairs.	To review extent to which the SBC budget for road repairs and maintenance is sufficient to meet need and the not unreasonable expectation that roads will be maintained in a safe condition. Within this context, to particularly examine how the allocation of budget for rural roads is arrived and whether more should be allocated.	Recommendation considered by Executive Committee on 8 March 2016 – accepted.	28 January 2016 Completed.
Graeme Donald	Religious Observance Policy } }These were presented together at the } same meeting.	None – briefing session	29 October 2015 Completed
Scrutiny Committee	Faith Schools }	None – briefing session	29 October 2015 Completed
Councillor Turnbull	Fees for taxi licensing – the amount paid to outside bodies in administering taxi licensing and how the fees for a licence in the Borders compare with those of neighbouring authorities.	Information emailed to Cllr Turnbull from Licensing Team Leader on 5/10/15. Cllr Turnbull does	14 October 2015 Completed.

Source	Issue/Description	Stage	Scrutiny Committee meeting date.
		not wish to pursue further.	
Scrutiny Committee	Attainment levels in Schools in Deprived Areas	None – briefing session	24 September 2015 Completed
Scrutiny Committee	Mainstream Schools and Children with Complex Additional Support Needs	None – briefing session	24 September 2015 Completed

#### Reviews Completed 2014/15

Source	Issue/Description	Stage	Scrutiny Committee Meeting Date
Scrutiny Committee	Funding available to Community Councils	Presentation from Ms Malster	11 June 2015 Completed.
Scrutiny Committee	Presentations on Planning Enforcement and the Building Inspection Regime	Presentation from Alan Gueldner, Lead Officer Enforcement and Mr James Whiteford, Lead Building Standards Surveyor	11 June 2015 Completed.
Scrutiny Committee	Procurement Control of contractors policy/repairs & maintenance framework agreement procurement project	Presentation by Kathryn Dickson, Procurement and Payment Services Manager; Graham Cresswell, Health and Safety Manager; Ray Cherry, Senior	28 May 2015 Completed.

		Architect; Stuart Mawson, Property Manager.	
Scrutiny Committee	Use of Small Schemes and Quality of Life Funding by Area Fora	Report by Jenni Craig, Service Director Neighbourhood Services.	26 March 2015 Completed.

# Briefing Paper for Scrutiny, 18th August 2016

## Commissioning Arrangements with the Voluntary and Third Sector

### 1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **The purpose of this briefing paper is to explain the Council's commissioning arrangements with the voluntary and Third Sector, in response to the request from Greenlaw and Hume Community Council earlier in 2016.**
- 1.2 SBC has a long standing commitment to supporting its voluntary and Third Sector (referred to as "the Third Sector") with around 23% of the overall procurement spend being spent on Social Care services commissioned by the Council and delivered by Third Sector organisations.
- 1.3 Third Sector suppliers are well positioned to support the delivery of Council responsibilities and with the majority being locally based and generating local impact, these suppliers are also supporting economic growth within the area.
- 1.4 To best explain the extent of these arrangements, an independent 2014 report, compiled by Ready for Business and including detailed information about the extent and value of this Council's engagement with the sector has been used.
- 1.5 The data used to create the benchmark information in the 2014 report related to the financial year 2012/13. Since then, the key change to the data would be the inclusion of the new "Live Borders" contract and its associated value. This would positively impact the outcome by increasing relatively the overall figures contained in the original report. Similarly, efficiencies have been sought from all Social Care contracts in the intervening period since the production of the 2014 report, however any change in value will not affect the overall share of the local social care market being delivered by the Third Sector.

### 2 Background

- 2.1 At the Scrutiny meeting held on 24 March 2016, Members requested an explanation of the Council's commissioning arrangements with the voluntary and Third Sector. This related to a request from Greenlaw and Hume Community Council.
- 2.2 SBC has a long standing commitment to supporting its Third Sector with around 23% of the overall procurement spend being spent on Social Care services commissioned by the Council and delivered by Third Sector organisations. These figures were developed in July 2014 when Ready for Business published an independent report titled "*Purchasing from the Third Sector in Scotland*"<sup>1</sup>, (referred to as "the Report") providing analysis of public procurement spending by across Scottish local authorities. Scottish

<sup>1</sup> [http://readyforbusiness.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/lib-Council\\_Third\\_Sector\\_Procurement\\_Spend.pdf](http://readyforbusiness.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/lib-Council_Third_Sector_Procurement_Spend.pdf)

Borders Council, through the Procurement Service, was invited to participate in the research underpinning the report.

- 2.3 This analysis would not have been possible without the input of Ready for Business, as elements of the information required (such as company status) are not currently held within any of the Councils data systems.
- 2.3 Ready for Business LLP is a consortium (funded by the Scottish Government) whose work forms a key part of the government strategy to deliver knowledge and experience to support developing markets in the Third Sector.
- 2.4 This briefing paper highlights the findings of the Ready for Business research report of 2014 which details the extent of the Council's commissioning with the voluntary and Third Sector.
- 2.5 The outcome of that earlier Report remains consistent with the ongoing pattern of commissioning and associated spending trend with one key change - the establishment of an integrated Sport and Culture Trust (Live Borders) - this will have a positive impact on SBC's spend with the Third Sector from 2016/17 onwards. More details are provided in Section 5.1 (b) of this briefing paper.
- 2.6 For the purpose of this paper and to be consistent with the Ready for Business report, Third Sector providers are defined as community groups, voluntary organisations, charities, social enterprises, and community co-operatives.

### 3 Scottish Local Authority Purchasing from the Third Sector

- 3.1 The *Purchasing from the Third Sector in Scotland* study and Report explored the level and pattern of procurement with Third Sector suppliers across different parts of the country during 2012/13. The study used five local authorities to benchmark the scale, scope and characteristics of local authority procurement in this important sector. The Scottish Borders represented the 'accessible rural' authority (identified under Council D in the Report), with an in year procurement spend of around £110m.
- 3.2 The Report notes that local authorities use procurement and commissioning processes to buy the goods and services they need to provide public services, and therefore effective procurement supports the achievement of those positive public service outcomes, value for money and local community benefits.
- 3.3 The table below shows the proportion of suppliers and related spend with the Third Sector for this Council (in blue) with a comparison of the average values for the wider study. The data shows that, while there is a similar proportion of Third Sector suppliers to the study average, this Council spends a significantly higher proportion (23%) of its overall external third party spend with those suppliers than the average local authority.

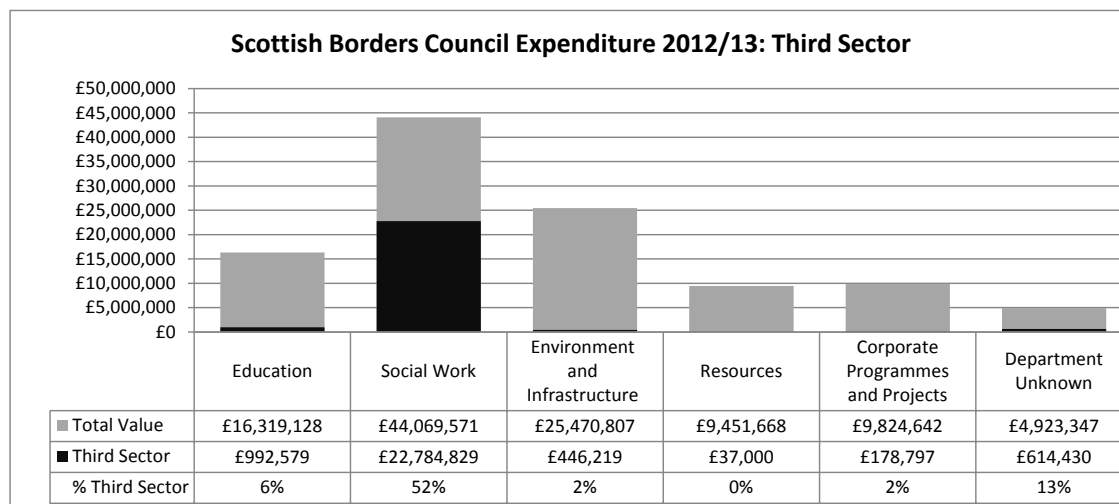
	Scottish Borders Council			Study Average	
	Total	Third Sector	% Third Sector	Third Sector	% Third Sector
Number of suppliers	4,014	456	11%	443	10%
Total Value	£110m	£25.1m	23%	£33m	18%

- 3.4 As noted, the value of the expenditure with the Third Sector is £25.1million - a significant sum. Of this total more than 50% (£13.25m) was spent directly with local suppliers, with the balance (£11.25m) spent with



national bodies whose headquarters may be out with the Scottish Borders but who often have local offices managing local service delivery - creating local employment and associated spending the local economy.

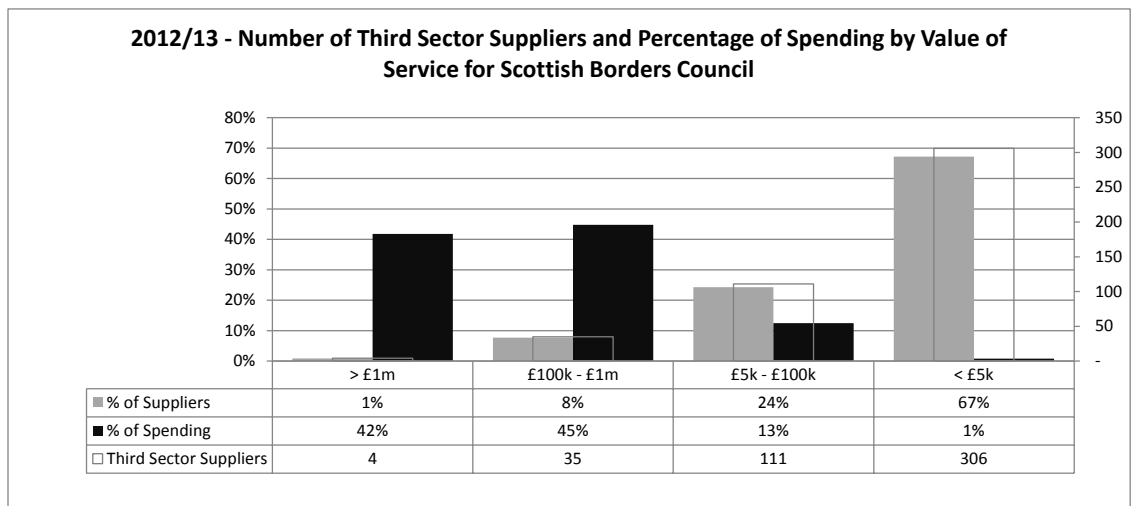
3.5 The data below shows the total Third Sector spend by Service. During the study period, over 90% related to services commissioned by Social Work. As can be seen, this was more than 50% of the total service expenditure. While efficiencies have been sought from all Social Care contracts in the intervening period (which may have created an associated change in value) these efficiencies will not affect the overall share of the local social care market.



3.6 During the study period, the Council worked with 456 Third Sector suppliers. The invoice value for transactions with these suppliers is shown below. To contextualise the value of the expenditure with the Sector, it should be noted that the average amount spent with *each* supplier (including non-Third Sector) was £27,419 while the same value for only Third Sector suppliers was much higher at £54,943. While the vast majority might be described low value transactions, a significant number of these suppliers receive more than £100,000, with 4 large Third Sector suppliers delivering services in excess of £1million annually. During 2012/13, these were;

- Brothers of Charity (Scotland)
- Eildon Housing Association
- Streets Ahead Borders
- The Ark Housing Association.

The above suppliers continue to transact at this level and during 2014/15 the number rose to 6 with Community Integrated Care and the Richmond Fellowship both also transacting beyond £1million.



## 4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The Ready for Business Report clearly demonstrates that the Third Sector are key suppliers to both the Council and other Scottish local authorities.
- 4.2 The Third Sector suppliers are well positioned to help deliver the Council's responsibilities. As they are likely to be locally based and generating local impact, these suppliers are also supporting economic growth within the area.
- 4.3 This research indicates this Council is engaged with the Third Sector beyond the Scottish average. This recognises our positive engagement through a sustainable and responsible procurement approach, particularly as part of the Social Care service commissioning strategy, as well as through Community Planning Partnership arrangements.

## 5 Examples of Local Third Sector Engagement

### 5.1 (a) Brothers of Charity (Scotland)

A key local supplier and a major provider of support in the Scottish Borders working actively in partnership with individuals, families, local communities, statutory and voluntary agencies to meet the needs of people living in the Borders. Their services include:

- Together Borders – a supported living service, which supports people in their own homes and local communities,
- Gattonside Residential Care Home - providing accommodation with twenty-four hour support and nursing care,
- Working Together Social Enterprises - "Green Works" and "Bread Works", Social Enterprises providing skills training and work experience for individuals living in the central Borders with a learning disability.

Various contracts are in place with this organisation, with a total value of £3.8million per year.

(b) **Live Borders**

An integrated trust providing culture, sport and leisure services across the Scottish Borders on behalf of the Council. These services include museums, libraries, arts development, public halls, Heart of Hawick, Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre, sport development, and fifteen sport and leisure centres offering swimming and fitness.

The contract to deliver these services was awarded this year with a total value over 20 years of circa £121million.

(c) **The Borders Green Team Enterprises**

The Green Team is a social enterprise providing employment and training for adults with learning disabilities in the Scottish Borders.

The business provides a range of garden services to our customers as well as garden furniture including benches, planters and bird boxes.

During 2013-14, the Council spent approximately £43,000 with this organisation and during 2014-15 the amount was £128,000.

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