

Public Document Pack



BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM THURSDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2016

A MEETING of the BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER,
NEWTOWN STREET, DUNS on THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2016 at 6.30 pm.

J. J. WILKINSON,
Clerk to the Council.
25 August 2016.

BUSINESS		
1.	Welcome and Introductions.	
2.	Apologies for Absence.	
3.	Order of Business.	
4.	Declarations of Interest.	
5.	Minute. (Pages 1 - 6) Minute of the meeting of Berwickshire Area Forum of 2 June 2016. (Copy attached.)	5 mins
6.	Note. (Pages 7 - 12) Note of the special informal meeting of Berwickshire Area Forum of 28 June 2016. (Copy attached.)	5 mins
7.	Raising Concerns About Alcohol in Your Community. Presentation by Ian Tunnah and Mike Wynne, Licensing Standards and Enforcement Officers, SBC.	20 mins
8.	Attainment in Schools. Presentation by Donna Manson, Service Director Children and Young People, Scottish Borders Council.	20 mins
9.	Police Scotland. Quarterly update report by Police Scotland.	10 mins
10.	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. (Pages 13 - 18) Quarterly update report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. (Copy attached.)	10 mins
11.	Open Questions. Opportunity for members of the public to raise any issues not included on the agenda.	10 mins
12.	Community Council Spotlight. Consider matters of interest to Community Councils.	10 mins
13.	Future Agenda Items - Open discussion to consider future agenda items.	10 mins
14.	Any Other Items Previously Circulated.	

15.	Any Other Items which the Chairman Decides are Urgent.	
16.	Dates of Future Meetings (Berwickshire Area Forum). Meetings of the Berwickshire Area Forum are scheduled to take place on:- 1 December 2016 2 March 2017 15 June 2017.	

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 M. J. Cook (Chairman), D. Moffat (Vice-Chairman), J. Campbell, J. A. Fullarton, J. Greenwell and F. Renton

Community Councils:-

Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston
 Ayton
 Burnmouth
 Chirnside
 Cocksburnpath
 Coldingham
 Coldstream and District
 Duns
 Edrom, Allanton and Whitsome
 Eyemouth
 Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton
 Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth
 Gordon and Westruther
 Grantshouse
 Greenlaw and Hume
 Hutton and Paxton
 Lammermuir
 Leitholm, Eccles and Birgham
 Reston and Auchencrow
 St Abbs
 Swinton and Ladykirk

Please direct any enquiries to Pauline Bolson. Tel: 01835 826503
 Email: pbolson@scotborders.gov.uk

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM**

MINUTES of Meeting of the
BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM held in
Council Offices, Newtown Street, Duns on
Thursday, 2nd June, 2016 at 6.30 pm

- Present:- Councillors M. J. Cook (Chairman), J. Campbell, J. Greenwell, D. Moffat, and F. Renton.
Community Councils:- Coldingham – Rhona Goldie; Duns – Anne Affleck; Edrom, Allanton & Whitsome – Trixie Collin; Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton – Howard Doherty; Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth – Keith Dickinson; Gordon & Westruther – Trevor Jones; Grantshouse – Kym Bannerman; Lammermuir – Mark Rowley; Reston and Auchencrow – David Torr; Swinton and Ladykirk – Bill Purvis.
- Apologies:- Councillor J. A. Fullarton.
Community Councils:- Burnmouth; Cockburnspath; Coldstream and District; Greenlaw & Hume; Hutton and Paxton.
- In Attendance:- Sergeant J McGuigan, Police Scotland; Station Manager M Acton, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; D Silcock, SB Local Area Manager; Democratic Services Officer (P Bolton).

Members of the Public:- 1

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. **ORDER OF BUSINESS.**

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

**DECISION
NOTED.**

3. **MINUTE.**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of 3 March 2016.

**DECISION
APPROVED the Minute for signature by the Chairman.**

4. **PENMANSHIEL COMPENSATORY PLANTING SCHEME**

- 4.1 The Chairman introduced Mr Andy Tharme, Ecology Officer at SBC and Mr Steven Adlard, Woodland Consultant with the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC Consultants) who were present to update Members on the Penmanshiel Compensatory Replanting Scheme. Mr Tharme explained the background to this Scheme, the Scottish Government/Forestry Commission Policy in relation to the Control of Woodland Removal and the need to compensate for the loss of woodland by the developer. This Scheme was as a direct result of the development of the Penmanshiel Windfarm and required that the area of woodland lost was replaced by the same area of replanting, ie 1ha for 1ha. Agreement was reached by SBC and the developer RES, with SBC leading the implementation of the Scheme under a Section 69 Planning Agreement. The target area was set at 110.1ha and would extend as far as 20ha around Penmanshiel, with areas for

the replanting of different species of tree being specified. The Scheme would be in place for 15 years, with planting taking place during years 1 - 5 and benefits would include biodiversity, water quality, flood protection, access, recreation, landscape and community engagement.

- 4.2 The Scheme was put out to tender in July 2015 and SAC Consulting was appointed and the Scheme was initiated in November of the same year. Community groups, landowners, tenants and organisations could make application to the tree planting grant scheme and assistance to complete their applications was available from SAC. There were criteria to be met to qualify for a grant and contract conditions applied to any agreement. Mr Tharme explained that a key decision was awaited in respect of the Basic Payment Scheme and this had necessitated a delay in the launch and publication of full details of the Scheme. Up to date information was available online and further publicity had been/would be delivered via road shows at Duns Show, Kelso Show and workshops across the area.
- 4.3 Mr Tharme and Mr Adlard answered a number of questions in relation to planting and fencing of individual schemes. With regard to connecting a number of different amenity areas, Mr Adlard advised that joined up schemes were more likely to score points in the recreational/community benefit category. Small schemes of 0.25ha would be considered under the Scheme however fencing costs for such areas were likely to be higher in comparison to the size of the scheme. It was noted that a particular challenge existed in evidencing that the present scheme delivered benefit additional to that deliverable through existing forestry schemes. Officers would reflect on this. After further discussion, it was agreed that an update presentation would be brought to the Forum in due course.

DECISION NOTED.

5. POLICE SCOTLAND.

Sergeant J McQuigan attended the meeting to present the Police Scotland report for Berwickshire for the period up to 25 May 2016. The report detailed the Ward Plan Priorities for East Berwickshire, namely Road Safety; Misuse of Drugs; Rural Thefts; and Antisocial Behaviour. For Mid Berwickshire the priorities were Road Safety; Inconsiderate Driver Behaviour; and Antisocial Behaviour. In terms of road safety and inconsiderate driver behaviour, the report indicated an increase in the number of drink driving detections in rural locations during this reporting period. An event for young drivers took place at Charterhall on 21 and 22 May with about 90 young people attending to experience and develop driving skills under the supervision of the emergency services. The Skills for Life programme, which had been reported to the Forum previously, was being delivered throughout May and June in Duns and currently seven young drivers were taking part. There had been 11 drugs-related offences detected in Berwickshire during the reporting period with one significant operation taking place in and around Duns. The report provided information about new legislation for air weapons which would come into effect on 1 July 2016 and which would require anyone who possessed an air weapon to hold a valid certificate of possession. An amnesty would be in place from 23 May until 12 June 2016 whereby people would be able to surrender their weapons at a nominated police station if they did no longer required or used them. People who already held a valid firearms licence were not required to re-licence their air weapon. However, they would be expected to include details of any air weapons they possessed within any future application. Further information was available at www.scotland.police.uk The report advised that during 2016, the public consultation by Police Scotland on identifying priorities for policing in local communities would be available online during and would be open for the whole year. The consultation could be accessed at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8LMB9WX Members were advised that Wardens were now in place and would visit areas only where there was dog fouling had been reported. Members' questions were answered in relation to fly tipping and the procedure for Police

reports being presented to the local Community Councils. The Chairman thanked Sergeant McQuigan for attending the meeting.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

6. DOG FOULING

The Chairman welcomed Mr Craig Blackie, SBC's Neighbourhood Area Manager to the meeting to provide an update on how the Council was working to decrease dog fouling in the area. 3GS was a private company now employed by SBC for a trial period of one year to reduce dog fouling. Two wardens were now in post and would operate on an intelligence-led basis, ie would respond to complaints of dog fouling at specific locations. A full report would be submitted to Council at the end of the trial. Mr Blackie explained how the wardens would operate and the facilities which were available to them. Problem with littering could also be dealt with by the wardens, again on an intelligence-led basis. Mr Blackie explained that a Green Dog Walker campaign was currently running in Newtown St Boswells. The project, which encouraged dog walkers to clean up where dog fouling had been left by others, had been successful so far and further information was available on the Council website. It was noted that clean up bags were not provided by SBC. Mrs Bannerman, who currently co-ordinated the Woofs Campaign in Berwickshire, asked whether funding could be provided to cover the cost of bags for Woofs for one year only to allow the payment system for subscribers to become fully operational. Mr Blackie advised that there was no budget within Neighbourhood Services however he suggested that there might be another option and Mrs Bannerman agreed to contact Mr Blackie directly to discuss this matter further. Discussion followed and a number of questions were answered by officers. The wardens' role in the trial year was to revitalise enforcement and identify the culprits. Depending on the outcome of the trial, there were other duties such as checking dogs for chipping which could be added to their remit. Mr Blackie confirmed that there was an on the spot fine of £80 for the dog owner for each offence. The costs for running the warden service would be covered by any fines and SBC and 3GS would receive an equal share of any remaining profit. The Chairman thanked Mr Blackie for attending the meeting.

DECISION

NOTED.

7. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE.

There had been circulated copies of a report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) informing the Forum of SFRS activity since 3 March 2016. The report explained that there had been 4 occurrences of fires in houses/buildings which had resulted in 2 casualties; 8 open fire incidents with no casualties; 10 Special Service incidents giving rise to 2 casualties; and 18 non-deliberate unwanted fire alarm signals. Station Manager Matt Acton went on to inform Members activity currently taking place in Berwickshire. In addition to free home safety visits throughout the year, Members were advised that, as part of the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership's Reducing Equalities Strategy, SFRS along with the Scottish Borders Safer Communities team would be jointly leading on the "Keeping People Safe" theme. Within the theme, it had been identified that older people were more likely to suffer a fall in the home which resulted in admission to hospital and of those, a high percentage were in the 75+ age group. A collaborative approach with other Community Partners would enable a more generic role to be adopted by SFRS and would allow officers to assess all aspects of risk within the home. This approach was being piloted in Cheviot area and further information would be provided in due course. Other work being progressed in Berwickshire included Firesharp; implementation of the Safeguarding Policy and Procedure for Protection of Children and Adults at Risk of Harm; development of a partnership with the local Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and involvement with the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC); delivery of road safety awareness sessions in secondary schools; participation in the event for Young Drivers in May; and fire safety audits. An update on the

partnership with the British Heart Foundation was provided and Station Manager Acton advised that all 356 of SFRS stations across the country were now equipped with training kit and would act as the base for local people to learn CPR skills. The Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest national trial was currently running at three stations within SBC area, one of which was in Coldstream. Further updates would be provided in due course. The summer Thematic Action Plan would focus on: Wildfire; rubbish and refuse fires; and outdoor safety and the Ward Plans for Berwickshire were available on the SFRS website. The Chairman thanked Station Manager Acton for his attendance.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

8. OPEN QUESTIONS.

There were no Open Questions raised at the meeting.

DECISION

NOTED.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- (a) Public Health Issues in Berwickshire – the Chairman would contact Mr Tim Patterson, Joint Director of Public Health.
- (b) Broadband Provision in Berwickshire – following a wide ranging discussion, it was agreed that a separate meeting dedicated to this issue be arranged for June 2016.

DECISION

AGREED.

10. COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT.

No items were raised at the meeting.

DECISION

NOTED.

11. BERWICKSHIRE FLAG

11.1 There had been circulated copies of a Briefing Paper by the Clerk to the Council advising of the options available in respect of flying a Berwickshire Flag on the north side of the Scotland/England border at Lamberton Toll. The Briefing Note explained the background to this item and the Chairman detailed the Coats of Arms which might be considered for use on a Berwickshire Flag, namely:

- (i) that no further action was taken in respect of a Berwickshire flag;
- (ii) the existing Berwickshire Coat of Arms and whether this should be the original County Arms or those of the District Council, bearing in mind that the old County Arms did not relate to the same boundaries as those of the existing Wards of East and Mid Berwickshire of Scottish Borders Council. It would be possible for Scottish Borders Council or another entity, such as the Berwickshire Civic Society, to petition for either of these.
- (iii) a new, non-heraldic flag (ie one with no heraldic symbols), with the final design being approved by the Lord Lyon, who would ensure that the design and colours were not in conflict with other flags and that the design also was a suitable representation of the area. Care would need to be taken to ensure that that all the communities within Berwickshire were supportive of such a flag. In designing a new flag, consideration would need to be given to simplicity, the use of meaningful symbols and colours, and how the flag would look either when flying from a flag pole in strong wind or conversely when hanging in windless conditions.

Further details were included in the Briefing Note in respect of what would be required to further progress a Berwickshire flag and the associated costs.

- 11.2 During the discussion that followed, Mr Silcock confirmed that consideration could be given to funding being granted from the Quality of Life Fund to cover costs associated with this project. The Chairman summarised the options for consideration. Community Council representatives were given the opportunity to air their views. However, the Chairman advised that they were non-voting members of the Forum. On this basis, Elected Members considered the following:
- (a) that no further action be taken in respect of a Berwickshire flag;
 - (b) that a community consultation be carried out to ascertain the views of all Berwickshire residents prior to any decision being made ; and
 - (c) that work be carried out to develop a Berwickshire Flag which would subsequently be flown alongside the Saltire and the Union Flag on the North side of the Scotland/England border at Lamberton Toll.
- 11.3 Councillor Moffat, seconded by Councillor Campbell, moved that a community consultation be carried out to ascertain the views of all Berwickshire residents prior to any decision being made.
- 11.4 Councillor Renton, seconded by Councillor Greenwell, moved as an amendment that work be carried out to develop a Berwickshire Flag which would subsequently be flown alongside the Saltire and the Union Flag on the North side of the Scotland/England border at Lamberton Toll.

VOTE

Motion: 2 votes.

Amendment: 3 votes.

The motion was accordingly carried.

DECISION

AGREED that work be carried out to develop a Berwickshire Flag and that Transport Scotland be approached for permission for the Berwickshire Flag to be flown alongside the Saltire and the Union Flag on the North side of the Scotland/England border at Lamberton Toll.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM).

Future meetings of the Berwickshire Area Forum were scheduled for:-

- 1 September 2016;
- 1 December 2016;
- 2 March 2017;
- 15 June 2017.

DECISION

NOTED.

The meeting concluded at 9.10 pm

This page is intentionally left blank

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM**

NOTE of Special Informal Meeting of the
BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM held in the
Council Offices, Newtown Street, Duns on
Tuesday, 28 June 2016, at 6.30 pm

-
- Present:- Councillors M. J. Cook (Chairman), D. Moffat (Vice-Chairman), J. Campbell, J. A. Fullarton and F. Renton.
Community Councils:- Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl & Preston – David Morrison; Ayton – J Slater; Cockburnspath – Pauline Hood, Neil Simpson; Coldingham – Rhona Goldie; Coldstream & District – Martin Brims; Duns – Anne Affleck; Edrom, Allanton & Whitsome – Trixie Collin; Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton – Howard Doherty; Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth – Keith Dickinson, Tim Jackson; Gordon & Westruther – Trevor Jones, Steven Morris; Grantshouse – John Prentice; Greenlaw & Hume – Gerry McCann; Hutton & Paxton – Ewan Miller; Lammermuir – Mark Rowley; Reston & Auchencrow – David Torr; Swinton and Ladykirk – Bill Purvis.
- Apologies:- Councillor J. Greenwell.
Community Councils:- Burnmouth; Chirnside; Eyemouth Town Council; Leitholm, Eccles & Birgham; St Abbs.
Calum Kerr, MP.
- Also Present:- John Lamont, MSP; Stephen Morris.
- In Attendance:- Community Broadband Scotland – Senior Community Broadband Scotland Advisor (Chantal Geyer); Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband – Senior Stakeholder Manager (Duncan Nisbet); SBC - Corporate Transformation & Services Director (Rob Dickson), Interim Head of IT (Bill Edwards), Senior Policy Advisor (Douglas Scott), Clerk to the Council (Jenny Wilkinson).

1. **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to continue a dialogue with the Council, Digital Scotland and Community Broadband Scotland, to establish the main issues for broadband provision in Berwickshire.

2. **BROADBAND PROVISION IN BERWICKSHIRE**

- 2.1 The Chairman invited Duncan Nisbet, Senior Stakeholder Manager with Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme (DSSB), to give a presentation to the meeting on progress with the Superfast Broadband programme. Scotland's digital vision was "For Scotland to become a world class digital nation requires that people living, working and visiting Scotland can communicate and connect instantly using any device, anywhere, anytime". This vision was underpinned by a future-proofed digital infrastructure. The aim of the DSSB programme was to increase fibre broadband to around 95% of homes and businesses across Scotland by the end of 2017. Community Broadband Scotland would support community led solutions in remote and rural areas where the marked or Superfast Broadband programme did not go. Phase II of the Superfast Broadband programme aimed to extend superfast broadband beyond 95% of homes and businesses. To improve mobile connectivity, the aim was to extend 4G mobile coverage beyond commercial plans while supporting 5G infrastructure requirements. These projects were about connectivity and not speed. There were a number of infrastructure constraints for broadband. The DSSB programme was an intervention project to address market failure and fund the gap between commercial cost and actual cost. There were few providers at the infrastructure level and while commercial coverage in Scotland stood at 66%, in the Scottish Borders as

a whole it was 39%, but this did not cover Berwickshire which had no commercial coverage. There was currently no Universal Service Obligation, although that was under discussion. The programme had to comply with State Aid criteria which meant costs were shared with the supplier, the programme was technology neutral, had open access, and promoted re-use of existing infrastructure where possible.

- 2.2 DSSB was one of the biggest programmes in Europe, just over half-way through delivery, reaching 590k premises so far. By March 2018 current expectations showed indicative coverage for Scottish Borders to be 87%. Solutions were also being deployed to address connectivity issues with exchange only lines. Ofcom Scotland figures for June 2015 showed 73% access across Scotland to superfast broadband. Speed tests and further information for the Borders area could be found at Thinkbroadband.com. Details of the status of each area within the Scottish Borders – accepting orders, coming soon, planned area, in contract/scope, exploring solutions - could be found on the Digital Scotland website. If an exchange was showing green on the interactive map then this meant there was some connectivity to properties in the area, but did not necessarily mean all were connected. There was an issue with ‘exchange only’ lines which required a complex re-design of the cabinets. Gainshare was built in to the contract whereby if BT made more profit from the contract than anticipated, this money could be clawed back for reinvestment. Scottish Borders was one of the 5 priority areas for this reinvestment and it was anticipated that the outcome of the modelling currently underway would be available late 2016 which would then be the subject of a public consultation. Mr Nisbet then referred to the Avanti next generation Satellite Pilot which was a subsidised satellite scheme aimed at those areas which had less than 2 MBs per second speed – currently there were 2 satellites in the Borders area.
- 2.3 Indicative funding (£21m from UK Government and £21m from Scottish Government) was now in place for Phase II of the DSSB programme, which looked to reach 100% coverage of ‘superfast’ broadband across Scotland by 2021. The Phase II programme was at an early planning stage and was running in parallel with the UK Government plans for a Universal Service Obligation by 2020. In summary, the DSSB deployment was ahead of schedule at the moment across Scotland, which would take coverage to around 95% of premises. Further work was planned to extend coverage, with mobile coverage key and Community Broadband Scotland well placed to deliver community solutions. Support was required from Local Authorities for any new build, but take up of services drove socio-economic development by protecting existing jobs and creating new ones; increasing GVA; and giving the potential to increase gainshare and thereby coverage. The digital connectivity path across Scotland showed 66% coverage from commercial operators (albeit none in Berwickshire), with DSSB planned coverage of 95% by the end of 2018 and Phase II anticipating 100% coverage by 2021. Alternative provision other than fibre was through satellite (from 2 mbps), Community Broadband Scotland, and private funding.
- 2.4 Questions were then asked of Mr Nisbet regarding various aspects of the presentation. While cabinets had been deployed in a number of areas in Berwickshire, and the map of postcodes showed that there was coverage, this did not apply to all premises within a postcode area. However, this did not preclude the possibility of other work being carried out within a postcode area in future to make further connections. Connectivity was measured to the cabinet and not to individual homes. The data on speed of download was still being collated and had not been robust enough to test adequately previously, but it was anticipated that information from BT Openreach would be reported to the Council by the end of July 2016. The UK Government definition of superfast broadband was 24MBps which was the rate included in the DBBS contract. European definition was 30MBps. On a show of hands, only 2 people present received 24MBps+ speed. In terms of ‘exchange only’ lines, Mr Nisbet explained that the government funded programme had enabled just under 600k lines, of which 200k were exchange only. Solutions for exchange only lines were significantly more complex and expensive to deliver. Reference was made to some villages in Berwickshire having 98% lines as exchange only, but Mr Nisbet

advised that the programme was only designed to influence the fibre part of the line and not the existing copper lines. In terms of other service providers, BT was obligated under the contract to make its infrastructure available to other suppliers at the same price as it did for its own provision. The proposed Universal Service Obligation was in its very early days and there was no indication at the present time on who would deliver this or how it would be done. In response to a question regarding the absence of a BT representative from the meeting, the Chairman advised he had decided that would not be appropriate at this stage to invite them, as the meeting was about gaining a sense of the issues for any future contract. Mr Nisbet further advised that as the infrastructure went further into rural areas, costs rose exponentially. There was value for money criteria built in to the current contract and that would be measured as the contract moved forward. However, a new approach may be needed in the future. Some research on premises in the Highlands and Islands had shown that even with 100% subsidy for installation of an infrastructure, there were not enough premises to cover the costs of future maintenance of such an infrastructure. Mr Nisbet emphasised the need for a different approach in future to the provision of broadband and mobile infrastructure to the more rural areas of the country, confirming that satellite broadband could be used but did have limitations. The DSSB programme had been set up to deliver superfast broadband and because of state aid requirements that was all it could deliver. The aim of the programme was to maximise resources to get 2MB speed up to 24MB speed wherever possible. Mr Lamont commented that broadband should be classed as simply another utility and expressed concern that the programme seemed to be playing catch up all the time; if the contract was to deliver the speeds of today in 4/5 years time, then the area would still be behind the rest of the country. There was also an issue with the data on the Broadband website as it showed Foulden with a commencement date but this had passed and nothing had happened. Mr Nisbet responded that BT was putting fibre deeper into communities and fibre was best for any future upgrades. BT was also looking at GFast which allowed network operators to bring the speed of fibre to copper lines in some instances.

2.5 Ms Chantal Geyer, Senior Community Broadband Scotland Advisor, then gave a presentation on Community Broadband Scotland. Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) had been set up by the Scottish Government to support those communities which would not benefit from the roll out of DSSB. A broad estimate was that across Scotland this would be around 120,000 premises. CBS would help communities develop affordable and robust infrastructure which was fit for the future. These communities could be geographic or communities of interest, but any undertaking a CBS project were required to set up as a legal entity to ensure in future they could take ownership of and manage the asset being developed. The community groups needed to ensure that they understood local demand and commitment to a non-BT fibre solution; had volunteer commitment, effort and energy; had representation from each geographical area; variant area expertise e.g. project management, financial, technical etc; and be fully committed to the idea of owning the infrastructure. CBS advisors provided support to help communities identify need and assess demand; technical design expertise to identify the most appropriate long term solution; procurement expertise to procure the best value option; project management advice and support to manage the process; and funding. In terms of funding, this was broken down into 3 stages: scoping and demand stimulation (100%); business planning, project planning and procurement support (100%); and capital funding for build and commissioning (89%).

2.6 There were several delivery models available. The proposed Berwickshire CBS broadband project group have favoured a 'turnkey' model which was one designed, built and operated by a supplier. Another model was one which was designed and built by a supplier but operated by a community. A third option was one where a supplier provided the design, support and training to a community which then built and operated the system. There could be variations on these models depending on market response and community commitment. One of the most important ways in which CBS operated was that communities needed to own the asset and, as such, were required to take the lead in making the decision to progress with a CBS project. CBS advisors did support this

process and helped communities to understand the technology solutions available which could include fibre to the home, wireless to the home, and hybrid fibre/wireless. The types of projects which resulted from this were very individual to local circumstances but account had to be taken of cost and value for money criteria. As CBS funding was public funding, the communities they worked with had to follow public procurement regulations, and any resulting technical solution had to be sustainable once in operation, and capable of upgrade/replacement in future. The Berwickshire CBS project had engaged the community; identified which community would lead the project; identified the project area; and had issued the demand survey. The scoping document was being completed and this would be followed by the technical survey and CBS project approval, state aid public consultation, definition of the project area, establishment of the community representative legal entity, procurement, de-scoping postcodes and network build. Finally, there were a number of challenges within the CBS projects. It was a lengthy process to adhere to state aid and procurement regulations; the lead time to build and deliver services involved planning consents, licences, etc.; backhaul affordability and availability; community volunteers time and effort; and retention of community engagement and commitment throughout the project.

- 2.7 Questions were then asked of Ms Geyer regarding various aspects of the presentation. Within the 7 postcodes of the Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton CC area, 2 or 3 would be covered by the DSSB rollout programme but others would not. Within these 2 or 3 postcodes two thirds were not within 1.2 km of the street cabinet so this represented an immediate divide in the community. Ms Geyer explained that CBS could only work in those full postcode areas which had no coverage from DSSB and it was recognised that this could be very frustrating. The street cabinet was sometimes placed away from the 'centre' of an area which could be a hindrance. Mr Nisbet explained that the majority of places with copper cabinets had fibre cabinets next to them and the programme was trying to use the infrastructure for telephony for broadband. BT needed to re-use the existing structure where possible but this was complex, involved additional costs, and had to show that it maximised speeds through the funding/infrastructure available. An example was then given by Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth CC of a company established through an EU Leader project which had brought broadband into the area. This gave a speed of 18MBps from a separate provider to BT which could only offer 0.2MBps. Experience had shown that the setting up of the infrastructure and implementing it was not where the issues arose, but 6 months into operation when levels of service could go down and communities had to speak to the supplier. That should not be a responsibility taken on by a community. Often there was patchy technical experience capacity within a community to take on such work. Ms Geyer advised that CBS did have advisers to support community groups through the project and procurement processes but would need to check on the availability of any post-implementation support. Reference was made to East Lothian Council which had taken a lead by sponsoring schemes and encouraging communities to get together to take forward projects, but this may not be practical in the much greater geographic area of the Scottish Borders. In terms of those postcode areas which only had some connectivity, Ms Geyer explained that it was possible to go out to open market review at premises level before state aid consultation to see what response was forthcoming from commercial suppliers. Depending on that response these 'grey' postcode areas could then be added in to CBS projects. CBS did not de-scope any postcodes until just before a project infrastructure build started. Such postcode areas would be looked at if CBS received a request from the community.
- 2.8 Mr Stephen Morris, a local resident who was involved in the Berwickshire CBS broadband project, then gave a presentation on a local wireless broadband project which had been completed for the Whitsome, Polwarth and Cothill area in 2013, with an EU Leader grant of £140,000, resulting in 70 connections. CBS had been involved in all discussions and meetings. Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth Community Council had then agreed to explore expansion options and 8 Community Councils had met in June 2015. Demand surveys had now been completed for 5 Community Council areas – Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl & Preston; Gavinton, Fogo & Polwarth; Gordon & Westruther; Grantshouse; and

Lammermuir. This was a typical rural environment, not especially remote. These surveys had involved the delivery of questionnaires to over 1,400 premises: 425 had been returned (30% return rate) and of these, 90% wanted faster broadband, 35% ran a business or worked from home, and 59% of respondents were in areas which would not be connected through DBBS, with the remaining 41% in areas which although the postcode showed DBBS connectivity, were not able to access this. In terms of broadband speeds, 43% had less than 2MBps, a further 32% less than 5MBps, and a further 21% less than 8MBps. No one received superfast broadband, and only 4% of premises could view HD video which required 8MBps. In summary, Mr Morris advised that the roll out to 94% of all premises by the end of 2017 gave a false picture as there were many rural areas not covered. While the CBS role was recognised, no projects had been delivered in Berwickshire in 4 years, and the CBS process was complicated, lengthy and required significant community input. Discussion then centred on the issues of connectivity which was not necessarily just due to distance from a street cabinet but also the age of the infrastructure from the cabinet to a house. Mr Nisbet advised that when someone signed up to a contract, the provider should let the person know what speed to expect; if that speed was not what had been expected then the supplier could be challenged.

2.9 Mr Rob Dickson, SBC Corporate Transformation and Services Director, then spoke of the Council's involvement in broadband connectivity. It had been very helpful for the Director to hear about the issues in Berwickshire and broadband connectivity, with this and download speed high up on everyone's agenda. This was a significant strategic priority for the Council. There was a huge amount of activity going on to try to get the service needed, but there were gaps between what was being promised and reality. A report had been presented to the Council's Executive Committee on 7 June 2016 which gave an update on the progress being made in delivering improved broadband services in the Scottish Borders. The Council had provided £8.4M over 2 years to help extend the roll out of DSSB as far as possible in the Scottish Borders to get a higher % of coverage. Progress had broadly been good and connectivity would be in place in cabinets but this would not give full household coverage. These limitations had been identified within the DSSB programme and the Council had worked with Dumfries & Galloway Council through the South of Scotland Alliance to make representations to Scottish Government Ministers about the inequity between digital connectivity in more densely populated areas and that available in rural areas. The CBS initiative and approach was commendable but very, very challenging for communities and expensive. A solution for the Scottish Borders was not obvious due to the distances involved. Within the next few weeks the South of Scotland Alliance representatives were due to meet with Scottish Government officials to try to find a solution for the 6% gap. The aim was to get some broadband service no matter where someone lived. It was important to tackle infrastructure now for a sustainable solution going forward, but there needed to be a reality check about the scale of the challenge being faced. The infrastructure for mobile telephony was also important and it was hoped to get a breakthrough within the next 12/18 months with mobile companies. There was market failure here and the government had stepped in but not to the level yet required so that gap needed to be addressed. Mr Dickson acknowledged that with hindsight it would have been good to start with those areas with the greatest need but the DSSB programme had been extremely beneficial for most areas and had now shown where the gap existed. The Council would look at those postcode areas with little or no connectivity and respond accordingly as without broadband this could impede economic development in the Borders going forward. All this hinged on discussions through the South of Scotland Alliance and Phase II modelling within the DSSB programme and the reinvestment of gainshare funding. Reference was then made to the massive difference between what speed appeared to be available at the cabinet and what speed people actually received at home.

2.10 In response to a question about the Council's recent contract with CGI, Mr Dickson advised that there was community gain within the contract and CGI was setting up a base in the Borders, employing 100 people to begin with and it was hoped this number would increase over time. Part of the contract was also to deliver increased fibre capacity to all

secondary and some primary schools in the Borders. This was currently being scoped and by autumn the Council would know which primary schools would be connected, although it was already known that some of these would be beyond the central Borders. BT did see this as a challenge to their infrastructure and it was hoped that this contract would benefit the Council and eventually communities. This work was on top of the existing Council connections through SWAN (Scottish Wide Area Network) which connected all Council properties back to Headquarters through fibre. Unfortunately, there were restrictions of the use of SWAN due to the way it was procured. However, CGI would bring new fibre assets. SBC Interim Head of IT advised that the key messages from the meeting were a clear understanding of the connectivity challenges in Berwickshire, although other areas in the Borders also had the same issues; work was ongoing to try to address these challenges, including looking at fibre beyond schools; and the need to maximise the potential for opportunities within the CGI contract. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for the constructive discussions which had taken place.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm



"Keeping People Safe"



**Berwickshire Area Forum 1st September 2016
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.**

(Station Manager Matt Acton)

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the Berwickshire Area Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last forum meeting on 2nd June 2016.

Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017 for the Scottish Borders, five priorities, and actions outcomes are identified;

1. Reduction of Dwelling Fires
2. Reduction of Fire Casualties and Fatalities
3. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting(Not including Dwellings)
4. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
5. Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions.

Response & Resilience activity in the Berwickshire Area

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House/Building	4	Cooking related Chip shop fire	1–slight smoke inhalation
Fire- Open	4	HGV alight Grass/refuse x3	
Special Service	16	RTC x8 Medical/ effecting entry x 4 Lift rescue x2 Flooding x1 Animal rescue x1	18 non-fatal. 1 fatal. 1
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	20	Non deliberate	

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Chemical Incident Exercise- Farne Salmon, Duns

Crews from Duns, Eyemouth, Coldstream and Lauder recently took part in an exercise at Farne Salmon, Duns. The exercise scenario was a response to a chemical spill with persons injured. This tested the joint emergency response procedures of the Service and Farne Salmon staff, and proved beneficial with positive joint working outcomes.

Partnership Working

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Community Action Team (CAT) within the Scottish Borders core work centres on the on-going delivery of the SFRS Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) policy. The team continues to expand its partnership working with key agencies including Police Scotland, Health, Social care and Housing in order to focus on members of local communities at High Risk from fire and achieve outcomes in helping to reduce overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires.

Command Officers within the Scottish Borders continue to attend the Safety Advisory Group meetings to ensure SFRS assist in the production of appropriate operational plans for special events taking place in the Scottish Borders.

Prevention and Protection

Fire prevention and protection activity over recent years has been key to reducing the number of fires, casualties and losses in Scotland thus minimising the economic and social impact of fire on communities. The seasonal community safety calendar provides the catalyst for a number of initiatives and schemes throughout the calendar year.

Activity which is ongoing now within the Berwickshire Ward area;

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff in all our local stations provide Home Fire Safety Visits all year round. These free visits provide the householder with a home visit, focussing on identifying and reducing the risks of fire in the home. Smoke detectors with a 10-year battery life are provided as part of this free service.
- **Living Safely in the Home.**

As part of the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership Reducing Inequalities Strategy, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and the Scottish Borders Safer Communities Team will jointly lead on the "Keeping People Safe" theme. Within this theme, it has been identified that older people are more likely to suffer an accident in the home resulting in an A&E admission to Hospital.

To put this into context recent figures indicate that in the Scottish Borders 64% of emergency admissions for adults were because of falls in the home. Further analysis shows that over 75% of these falls involved persons over 75 years of age. With an ageing population, this trend will only continue without increased prevention activities.

The SFRS have a proven record of prevention and reducing the risk of fire within the communities of Scotland. Through the SFRS Service Transformation project it has

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

been identified that there exists an opportunity to broaden the traditional preventative role of a firefighter and develop a holistic approach to safety in the home. By adopting a collaborative approach with Community Partners, SFRS staff can fulfil a generic role capable of assessing all aspects of risk within the home including fire, slips, trips and falls. Development of the holistic approach, which will initially be trialled in the Cheviot area, has the potential to include other risks such as fuel poverty.

- Firesharp is an initiative for Primary 6 pupils, providing face-to-face education within our local Primary schools on matters of fire risk and prevention.
- SFRS Safeguarding Policy and Procedure for Protection of Children and Adults at Risk of Harm was implemented to link into adult and child protection. The introduction of this policy has created closer ties with Social Services within Scottish Borders and ensures those people and families that fire crews identify as at risk are brought to the attention of Social Services. This has resulted in joint visits to homes to reduce risk to those occupiers.
- We are developing a strong partnership with the local Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and involvement in MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference). The Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) and Scottish Borders Station Manager for Prevention and Protection are fully involved in all local MARAC processes, attending the monthly conferences and all steering group meetings.
- Road Safety Scottish Borders Community Action Team (CAT) have been delivering road safety awareness to secondary schools throughout the Scottish Borders with the support of the local Whole time personnel from Galashiels and Hawick.
- Fire Safety Audits provide a targeted examination of a business premises and their relevant documents to ascertain how the premises are being managed regarding fire safety. The enforcement officer also engages with members of staff to confirm their level of fire safety awareness.
- Unwanted Fire Signals are being addressed by our phased intervention actions which identifies premises which are producing 'false alarms', provides guidance on how to reduce a reoccurrence, and can also evoke legislation if occurrences fail to reduce in number.
- In a pioneering partnership between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and British Heart Foundation (BHF), all 356 of SFRS's fire stations are equipped with BHF donated 'Call Push Rescue' training kit and each station will now act as a base for local people to learn vital cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills and potentially save someone's life if they go into cardiac arrest.

It takes just 30 minutes to learn CPR using the Call Push Rescue kit and community groups are able to contact their local fire station to arrange a time to go to a station, watch the training DVD, and practice with the kit.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- **Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest trial.**

A national trial and a first for Scotland involving Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to increase survival rate of patients who suffer out of hospital cardiac arrest went live on 29th October 2015.

The trial will run at seven fire stations across Scotland, with three of these being in the Scottish Borders: Hawick, Lauder and Coldstream.

Firefighters at these stations have received enhanced training in life-support, through a joint partnership approach with the Scottish Ambulance Service as part of a range of measures that it has in place across the country to target the condition and create a nation of life savers.

If a fire service resource with a crew who are trained to provide high quality CPR and have a defibrillator is nearer to a potential cardiac arrest than a local Community First Responder team, then Ambulance Control will dispatch them at the same time as the ambulance crew, so that they can provide these life saving interventions while the ambulance is on it's way.

The trials are part of SFRS's commitment to supporting the Scottish Government's Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy, which aims to dramatically increase patients' survival chances and save as many as 1,000 lives by 2020.

Thematic Action Plan

Crews are actively involved in the Summer Thematic Action Plan which is currently underway and focusses on the following areas of fire safety;

- Wildfire
- Rubbish and refuse fires
- Outdoor safety

We work closely with all our partners in the Scottish Borders Council Safer Communities Team, as well as local partnerships, to promote preventative work.

The LALO is in post within Scottish Borders Council HQ in order to improve partnership working, with a particular focus on the elderly and more vulnerable members of society. The primary aims of this partnership activity are to help ensure the safety and welfare of vulnerable persons throughout the community, and to seek to reduce the overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires, fire casualties and fire fatalities in homes.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Retained Duty system

Work is ongoing to improve recruitment and retention of Retained Duty System (RDS) firefighters, and local initiatives are currently underway.

A retained firefighter carries a pager and responds to emergency calls when required. Historically, many of our RDS staff worked within their local communities, providing emergency cover. However, over the years, change to local business industry has meant that more people have to commute out-with their local town for employment. On occasion, this has had an impact on our ability to ensure that all our community fire stations are staffed and available to respond 24/7, 365 days a year.

There are many benefits in becoming a RDS firefighter, including enhanced health and safety awareness, enhanced first aid skills, improved teamwork and confidence.

There are currently RDS Firefighter vacancies at Duns, Eyemouth and Coldstream. For further information on becoming a retained firefighter, please feel free to contact me directly.

Station Manager Matt Acton, 01361 884504, matt.acton@firescotland.gov.uk

Local Fire and Rescue Plan

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Scottish Borders 2014-2017 have been approved following its consultation period. The local plan sets out the priorities for the Fire and Rescue Service, and we will continue to work with our community planning partners and local communities to make the most efficient use of resources and contribute towards the shared priorities and actions within the community planning partnership and community safety arrangements. The subsequent Ward plan for Berwickshire is now complete and available to elected members and is available within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Web page.

Station Manager Matt Acton
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Duns Fire Station
Tel 01361 884504
Email: matt.acton@firescotland.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank