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BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2017

A MEETING of the BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER,
NEWTOWN STREET, DUNS on THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2017 at 6.30 pm

J. J. WILKINSON,
Clerk to the Council,
23 February 2017.

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 1 December 2016. (Copy attached.)	2 mins
6.	Berwickshire Flag. Update by the Chairman.	5 mins
7.	Health and Social Care Integration. Presentation by Elaine Torrance, Interim Chief Officer, Health & Social Care Integration.	20 mins
8.	Supplementary Guidance on Renewable Energy. Presentation by Charles Johnston, Principal Officer Plans & Research at Scottish Borders Council.	20 mins
9.	Preparation of the New Local Plan. Presentation by Charles Johnston, Principal Officer Plans & Research at Scottish Borders Council.	20 mins
10.	Police Scotland. (Pages 7 - 10) Quarterly update report by Police Scotland. (Copy attached.)	2 mins
11.	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. (Pages 11 - 16) Quarterly update report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. (Copy	10 mins

	attached.)	
12.	Open Questions. Opportunity for members of the public to raise any issues not included on the agenda.	10 mins
13.	Community Spotlight. Consider matters of interest to local communities.	10 mins
14.	Future Agenda Items. Open discussion to consider future agenda items.	10 mins
15.	Any Other Items Previously Circulated.	
16.	Any Other Items which the Chairman Decides are Urgent.	
17.	Date of Next Meeting of Berwickshire Area Forum. The next meeting of the Berwickshire Area Forum is scheduled to take place on 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

Please direct any enquiries to Fiona Walling. Tel:01835 826504
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**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM**

MINUTES of Meeting of the
BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM held in
Council Chamber, Newtown Street, Duns on
Thursday, 1 December 2016 at 6.30 pm

- Present:- Councillors M. J. Cook (Chairman), J. A. Fullarton and J. Greenwell.
Community Councils:- Ayton – John Slater; Cockburnspath and Cove – Pauline Hood; Coldingham – Rhona Goldie; Coldstream and District – Martin Brims; Edrom, Allanton & Whitsome – Trixie Collin; Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton – Howard Doherty; Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth – Keith Dickinson; Gordon and Westruther – Trevor Jones; Lammermuir – Mark Rowley; Reston and Auchencrow – Barrie Forrest; Swinton and Ladykirk – James Brown.
- Apologies:- Councillors D. Moffat, J. Campbell and F. Renton.
Station Manager M. Acton, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Mr J. Alexander, Scottish Ambulance Service; Ms T. Wintrup, Health and Social Care Integration Partnership.
Community Councils:- Burnmouth; Duns; Hutton and Paxton.
- In Attendance:- Inspector John Scott, Police Scotland; Mr A Pattinson, NHS Borders; Democratic Services Officer (P Bolson).

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 1 September 2016.

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

4. **BERWICKSHIRE FLAG - MATTER ARISING FROM MINUTE OF 13 DECEMBER 2015**

With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of 2 June 2016, the Chairman provided a verbal update on progress made for the development and flying of a Berwickshire flag on the north side of the Scotland/England border at Lamberton Toll. He explained that following email correspondence with officers at Northumberland Community Council (NCC), this matter was presented at its Area Committee North on 14 November 2016. Confirmation had now been received that the Area Committee was supportive of the proposal “that a degree of co-operation and co-ordination in our flag flying would be something that NCC would welcome and support.” The Chairman awaited an extract of the Minute of that meeting of 14 November and once received, would include it in his representation to Transport Scotland requesting authority to fly “other flags” in addition to a Saltire at Lamberton Toll.

DECISION

(a) **NOTED.**

(b) **AGREED that following receipt of the extract of the meeting of the Northumberland Area Committee North, the Chairman would make a submission to Transport Scotland in respect of flying flags on the north side of the Scotland/England Border at Lamberton Toll.**

5. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE ON HOUSING

The Chairman welcomed Mr Charles Johnston, Principal Officer Plans and Research to the meeting to give a presentation on the Council's response to the requirement from Scottish Government to propose sites to meet housing requirement. Mr Johnston explained that, following an examination report, a shortfall of 916 units had been identified in the Scottish Borders. The Reporter's recommendations had been incorporated in the Local Development Plan adopted by SBC in May 2016. There had been a total of 165 sites assessed which comprised those identified in the Local Development Plan and locations put forward by third parties. As a result of detailed assessment of potential sites and consultation with internal and external parties, a number of "preferred" and "alternative" sites had been identified and SBC subsequently approved draft Supplementary Guidance identifying proposed sites on 10 November 2016. A public consultation would take place from 5 December 2016 to 30 January 2017 and would provide an opportunity for comments to be submitted on the draft document. It was acknowledged that for those Community Councils that met less than monthly, the consultation period could be rather short. Mr Johnston confirmed that in such situations, an explanation along with comments submitted would be considered. He went on to explain the next steps following the consultation and it was noted that the findings and conclusions would be presented to SBC Elected Members during the summer of 2017. The presentation listed the identified sites within Berwickshire, giving details of the indicative capacity of each along with any particular site requirements. Mr Johnston explained that some sites had been categorised as "alternative" to provide other options should any of the preferred sites be removed or withdrawn. It was noted that there were 3 preferred sites across Berwickshire, namely Ayton (6 units); Coldstream (100 units); and Reston (38 units) with a further 3 alternative sites at Greenlaw (65 units); Reston (78 units) and Duns (100 units). Mr Johnston advised that the full draft Supplementary Guidance and further information was available on the Council's website and comments/responses to the public consultation could be submitted by email (localplan@scotborders.gov.uk) or in writing to the Planning Policy and Access Team at Council Headquarters. Mr Johnston then answered specific questions about the sites identified within Berwickshire. The Chairman thanked Mr Johnston for his presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

6. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015

6.1 The Chairman welcomed Clare Malster, SBC's Strategic Community Engagement Officer to the meeting to give a presentation on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. In her introduction Ms Malster explained that although the Act had received Royal Assent on 24 July 2015 it had been recognised that further regulations and guidance would be required for most parts of the legislation. Ms Malster advised that the Act comprised 11 parts in total but that she would highlight a few sections which would have immediate relevance to local communities. Part 2 related to Community Planning and more specifically, local organisations working to benefit the local community. This would be done through joint working, agreeing joint policies and making sure that all partners knew what the others was doing. A number of Community Planning Partners had a statutory duty in terms of Community Planning, namely Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, NHS Borders, Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Borders Council. The

Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) which replaced Single Outcome Agreements under the new Act, would include the outcomes for the Scottish Borders which had been identified as priority areas for the Community Planning Partnership. Appropriate community groups must be consulted when developing the LOIP and subject to approval of the Scottish Parliament, the legislation would come into force on 20 December 2016.

- 6.2 In addition to the LOIP, Locality Plans would focus on smaller areas ie the Area Forum regions and again appropriate community groups would be consulted during development of the Plans which would be published by the end of October 2017. Part 3 of the Act dealt with Participation Requests which were requests from the community that asked for them to be involved in a process that would improve an outcome which they would specify. It was noted that that all Participation Requests would be reported to the Scottish Government. Community Right to Buy had existed for some time and had now been extended under Part 4 of the Act. Communities with populations over 10,000 would now be able to use Community Right to Buy, thus enabling more community groups to purchase land in this way. Part 5 of the Act dealt with Asset Transfer Requests. The definition of an asset was land or buildings owned by public authorities and under the Act, public authorities would be required to publish a register of their assets. Groups which met the criteria would then be able to make a request for the transfer of ownership of such assets. Requests to lease any land or building owned by a public authority could be made by groups that met the relevant criteria, ie they had a written constitution; were open to all members of that community; were community-led; comprised mostly of members from that community; was for the benefit of the served community; and used surplus funds/assets within the community. Subject to approval of the Scottish Parliament, the legislation would come into force on 23 January 2017. It was noted that SBC currently published its Register of Assets on the Council website and that it was not required to include roads and sewage works. The presentation also included a list of public organisations to which Asset Transfer requests could be made. With regard to Common Good property, Part 8 of the Act states that all Councils would have to create and publish a list of all common good property and would be required to consult with Community Councils and other community groups before selling or changing the use of any common good property. Part 9 of the Act covered allotments, the way in which applications for use could be made and set the standard size for each unit to be 250 square metres. Public decision making was covered in Part 10 of the Act and laid down that Scottish Ministers would have the power to require that public authorities, such as Scottish Borders Council, promoted and supported the involvement of the community in the decisions and activities of the organisation. At the present time, Ministers had not set out exactly what this would mean but reserved the right to do so at a later date. In response to a question about guidance or regulations for pricing Asset Transfers, Ms Malster advised that the public authority could determine this to be a notional amount if this was deemed appropriate. Ms Malster also clarified that for the purpose of the Act, "Community" could apply to Berwickshire as a whole, as well as much smaller communities within the area. The Council's website at scotborders.gov.uk/communityempowerment contained a wide range of information on the new Act, including links to further data and to other organisations. Communities and individuals were encouraged to access this information or to contact the Community Engagement Team at communityengagement@scotborders.gov.uk or 01835 826626. The Chairman thanked Ms Malster for her attendance and suggested that further detail would be presented to the Forum at a later date.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

7. PENSION WISE

The Chairman welcomed Mr Iain Heard to the meeting to inform Members on Pension Wise. Mr Heard, a Pension Wise Guidance Specialist, emphasised that Pension Wise provided guidance rather than advice and went on to explain that it was a free and impartial government service which had been set up to help people to understand what

their options were in respect of defined contribution pensions (DCPs.) He advised that Pension Wise was established at the end of March 2015, to be in place in advance of the pension reforms and new freedoms which took effect in April of that year. A number of agencies were involved in Pension Wise – the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Citizens' Advice, the Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) – and the service was available to those individuals nearing and over 50 years of age with a DCP. Guidance sessions were arranged on a request basis and individuals received a letter summarising the discussion. Users of Pension Wise were happy with the service and satisfaction rates were currently in excess of 90%. Access to Pension Wise was provided online at www.pensionwise.gov.uk; by telephone to 0800 138 3944; and face to face by contacting one of the six local Citizens' Advice Bureau. In response to questions, Mr Heard advised that guidance sessions could be set up for groups but confidentiality requirements determined that individual circumstances would not be discussed in such a setting. Pension Wise was not remitted to give guidance on State Pension issues however CAB staff might be able to offer advice in some circumstances. The Chairman thanked Mr Heard for his presentation on what could be a complicated subject.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

8. DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACES

There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Officer Roads on proposed amendments to The Scottish Borders Council (Disabled Persons Parking Places) Order 2015. The report explained that the proposed amendment had undergone statutory consultation and details were included at Appendix A of the report. One comment had been received from Duns Community Council in respect of the two disabled parking spaces in Glebe Park, as detailed in Appendix B of the report. Ms Elliot advised that in this case, both of the original applicants referred to were still "qualifying persons" under the Act. Ms Elliot clarified a number of points raised by Members and confirmed that there were three spaces which were no longer required, namely one each at Winterfield Gardens, Duns; Queen's Road, Eyemouth; and The Avenue, Eyemouth. Information that assisted in maintaining up to date records of Disabled Parking Spaces was welcomed from local communities. The Chairman thanked Ms Elliot for her attendance.

DECISION

APPROVED the amendment of disabled parking spaces in the Berwickshire Area as detailed in Appendix A (as amended by removals) to The Scottish Borders Council (Disabled Persons Parking Places) Order 2015 as appended to this Minute.

9. POLICE SCOTLAND

There were circulated copies of the Police Scotland report for the period up to 30 November 2016. Inspector Scott advised that local Police Officers continued to carry out dedicated parking patrols to both enforce legislation and discourage inconsiderate parking. Road checks would increase in the lead up to Christmas in an effort to deter drink drivers and advice relating to inter driving would be available as necessary. During the current reporting period, there had been 11 drugs-related offences with 6 of these incidents resulting in the recovery of controlled drugs. Rural crime continued to cause concern among local communities and following attendance at a recent awareness day, local Police Officers had received training in data-tagging for plant and agricultural vehicles (not including quad bikes.) Further information was available from the local Community Police Office and online at enquiries@cesarscheme.org A Rural Crime Prevention Day was scheduled at Harbro near Duns on 2 December and would include general security advice as well as information on keeping horse tack secure. The report also provided information on how intelligence could be used to apprehend individuals involved in hare coursing across the Scottish Borders and on keeping safe throughout the festive season. The Chairman thanked Inspector Scott for his attendance.

DECISION
NOTED the report.

10. **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 1 September 2016. The Chairman reported that due to unforeseen circumstances, Station Manager Acton was unable to attend the meeting to present the report. In summary, there had been 8 occurrences of fires in houses/buildings with no casualties recorded; 8 open fire incidents with no casualties; 7 Special Service incidents again with no casualties; and 32 non-deliberate unwanted fire alarm signals. The report went on to inform Members of activity which had occurred and which was currently taking place in Berwickshire and the measures being taken to address issues identified within the area. The winter Thematic Action Plan was now underway, the focus of which was festive fire safety; electric blankets; portable heaters; and candles. The report also provided an update on the recruitment and retention of firefighters and it was noted that vacancies for Retained Duty Firefighters currently existed in Duns (3), Eyemouth (4) and Coldstream (3).

DECISION
NOTED the report.

11. **NHS BORDERS**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Alasdair Pattinson, General Manager - Primary & Community Services to the meeting. Mr Pattinson explained the current situation in respect of medical cover at Duns Community Hospital. He advised that notification had been received from the local GP practice of the non-renewal of the contract for coverage of the 18 beds within the hospital. NHS Borders now provided an enhanced medical cover directly. Members noted that development sessions were currently taking place in respect of the NHS Borders Locality Plan and would include: Clinical Strategy in the Borders; Winter Planning; Joint Integration Service for Older People; and GP Contracts and Services. Following on from the discussion, the Chairman advised the Forum of recent communication with Mr John Raine, Chairman of the Board of NHS Borders in relation to representation at Berwickshire Area Forum, noting that Board meetings coincided with those of the Forum. Mr Raine had indicated that he would look to resolve this issue as we moved into 2017 and the Chairman would update the Forum in due course.

NOTED.

12. **OPEN QUESTIONS**

12.1 A1

A request was made for representatives from Transport Scotland and Amey to be invited back to a meeting of the Forum to provide an update on progress and completion of work previously discussed. The Chairman would investigate the possibility and report back to the Forum as appropriate.

DECISION

AGREED that an approach be made to Transport Scotland and Amey regarding the possibility of representatives from each agency attending a meeting of the Berwickshire Area Forum to provide an update on progress and completion of work previously discussed.

12.2 SBConnect

Scottish Borders Council produced a regular information publication called SBConnect which was delivered to every household in the Scottish Borders. It was noted that Berwickshire did not have a high profile within SBConnect and discussion followed in respect of how this could be addressed. It was agreed that this matter would be referred to a future meeting of the Berwickshire Area Forum.

DECISION

AGREED that his matter be referred to a future meeting of the Berwickshire Area Forum.

12.3 Cheviot Pilot

SBC Elected Members were asked if there had been a progress report from the Cheviot Pilot and if it was in the public domain. The Chairman intimated that he was unaware of any report at this time. Following discussion, the Forum noted its support for Berwickshire participating in any further trial.

DECISION

NOTED.

13. **COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT**

Broadband Provision in Berwickshire

It was noted that Broadband provision in Berwickshire was still a matter for concern and this was not expected to be resolved into 2018. Further information about the Scottish Government Scheme was available on the web. There continued to be serious under-delivering of services and the discussion which followed raised questions relating to the way in which BT organised and delivered the service.

DECISION

NOTED:-

- (a) **the concerns raised; and**
- (b) **that further updates would be presented to the Berwickshire Area Forum in due course.**

14. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Items for future Agendas were discussed and reference was made to paragraphs 11.1; 12.1, 12.2; and 13 of this Minute. The items now listed for future meetings were:-

- (a) NHS Borders Locality Plan;
- (b) update on progress and completion of work on A1;
- (c) raising the profile of Berwickshire within SBConnect; and
- (d) Broadband Provision in Berwickshire.

DECISION

NOTED.

15. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

2 March 2017;
15 June 2017.

DECISION

NOTED.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED



Berwickshire Area Forum – Thursday 2nd March 2017

Police Report

Sergeant Jacqi McGuigan

East CPA (East and Mid Berwickshire Multi Member Ward Plans)

Purpose of the Report

To update the Berwickshire Area Forum on performance, activities and issues across the wards for the period up to 28th February 2017 and to look at events linking in with the ward priorities in the coming months.

Policing Plans

The Multi Member Ward plan priorities, which were obtained following the public consultation surveys in 2014 are published on the Police Scotland website. The plans focus the work of our officers on the issues that you have told us are important to the community.

Ward Plan Priorities:

East Berwickshire

1. Road Safety
2. Misuse Of Drugs
3. Rural Thefts
4. Antisocial Behaviour

Mid Berwickshire

1. Road Safety
2. Inconsiderate Driver Behaviour

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3. Antisocial Behaviour

Road Safety and Inconsiderate Driver Behaviour

Mobile Phone Fixed Penalty Increases

Driving a motor vehicle requires total concentration by the driver at all times, in order to ensure the safety of themselves, passengers and other road users.

At 00:01hrs on Wednesday 1 March 2017 legislation commences to increase the fixed penalty fine levels for road traffic offences involving the use of mobile phone and handheld devices as covered in Regulation 110 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.

This change in legislation means that this endorsable offence will increase from £100 and 3 penalty points to £200 and 6 penalty points.

Community and Roads Policing officers will be carrying out dedicated patrols in the coming months to target offenders in relation to this offence.

Over and above this, hand held radar checks continue to be carried out in towns and villages within East and Mid Berwickshire.

Misuse Of Drugs

There were 13 drugs related incidents in Berwickshire during the reporting period. 12 of these incidents resulted in the recovery of controlled drugs. We continue to rely on members of the public contacting us to pass information and intelligence in relation to drugs offences. This can either be passed to local officers or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800555111.

Antisocial Behaviour

Anyone who is the victim of antisocial behaviour should report this at the time of the incident to the police. If it is an ongoing issue, this can be reported to the Antisocial Behaviour Unit helpline on **0800 028 5711**.

If the antisocial behaviour involves a neighbour or neighbouring family then mediation can often help resolve the problem before it escalates. Mediation officers can also be contacted on the above **0800** number.

Rural Thefts

A rural event will take place at Duns Fire Station on Wednesday 22nd March from 1900 hours. This event is being run in partnership with NFU(S) and Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and will see community police officers and fire officers provide crime prevention and fire safety advice to the local young farmers group.

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Following on from the success of the Rural Crime Prevention day at Harbro in Duns in December, a further event will be held at Harbro in Earlston on Friday 21st April between 0900-1600 hours. Local community officers will be in attendance to advise on crime prevention in relation to rural premises. This advice will include the opportunity to have your horse tack marked and entered onto a national database, as well as general advice regarding security of premises and property.

Other Information

Sheep Worrying – Campaign

Monday 13th February 2017 saw the launch of a national campaign highlighting the responsibility dog owners or dog walkers have when taking their dogs into the countryside. A number of partners have come together on this campaign, which is aiming to raising awareness about the devastating effects of livestock worrying.

Police Scotland's advice is that dog owners who live in rural areas or anyone walking and exercising their dogs in the countryside should ensure that their dogs are under control at all times. They should avoid going into any field where livestock is grazing. This does not just relate to the physical harm a sheep can come to but also the financial cost to the farmer when livestock is killed or injured. This is particularly relevant at this time of year when the fields are full of pregnant ewes.

Farmers and land managers can download signs from the Scottish Outdoor Access Code website to make sure it's clear to dog walkers what areas they should avoid at this time of year. Dog walkers can also find a lot of practical tips on staying safe with their dog at www.Jessthedog.org.uk."

Police Scotland will fully investigate any reports of sheep worrying and charge individuals where there is sufficient evidence to do so.

Your View Counts – Public Consultation

We continue to ask communities to contribute to the Your View Counts consultation. We want to hear from all sections of the community including minority groups and young people (aged 13-16). Your views matter and can shape the future priorities of the police in the area.

The online consultation is open all year which allows you to take part when it suits you but also gives the flexibility of being able to re-submit the consultation if your priorities change.

The link for the survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8LMB9WX>

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Jacqi McGuigan
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Police Scotland Non Emergency number 101

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"Keeping People Safe"



Berwickshire Area Forum 2nd March 2017 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 1st December 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	10	House x 2 Deliberate x 2 Chimney fire x6	0
Fire- Open	8	Grass/woodland/refuse	0
Special Service	9	RTC x3 Effect entry x 2 Medical x 2 Hazmat x 1 Flooding x 1	3 casualties. 1 fatality.
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	20	Non deliberate- mixture of residential and commercial	0

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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 (LSITH).**

The LSITH initiative is a collaborative approach with community partners and SFRS staff, who fulfil a generic role capable of assessing all aspects of risk within the home including fire, slips, trips and falls and fuel poverty.

There have been a number of referrals made by the SFRS to community partners and an evaluation of this trial is now underway. After this evaluation, it is the aim of the SFRS and other partners within the LSITH group to rollout this work to another locality area (identity still to be confirmed) with the aspiration to have it mainstreamed throughout the Scottish Borders.

Fire crews have been trained to assess the environment of the home for signs of Fuel Poverty, looking at that persons home environment for example are they living in the one room, house is cold, size of property is it single occupancy etc. A referral process is in place for those identified as being at risk from fuel poverty where they are signposted to Heat Energy Scotland, where further support and guidance on fuel poverty is provided.

Examples of fuel poverty identified include; use of candles and propane cylinders to provide heating in the home, which present a fire risk.

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- **Farm Fire Safety**

We are currently looking at new ways to engage with the farming community to provide advice and guidance regarding farm fire safety and security. Work has taken place in partnership with Police Scotland, the NFU, NFU Mutual and the Scottish Association of Young Farmers, where we have identified a number of positive engagement opportunities.

These include farm walk and talks, attending agricultural shows, markets and auctions, and engagement with young members of the farming community.

As part of this initiative, Reston Young Farmers will attend Duns Fire Station on Wednesday 22nd March for a tour of the fire station and to take part in presentations from firefighters and colleagues from Police Scotland. A review will take place following this, with a view to rolling this out across the YAC clubs across the Borders.

- 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

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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.

- **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 its 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

The Winter Thematic Action Plan has recently closed and an evaluation of this is now underway. This focussed on the following areas of fire safety;

- Festive fire safety
- Electric blankets
- Portable heaters
- Candles

Crews will now move on to the Spring Thematic Action Plan which focusses on the following areas of fire safety;

- Grass and Wildland fires
- Deliberate fires

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

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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.

Retained Duty System (RDS)

RDS recruitment is progressing well across the Berwickshire area and applications have been received for Duns (2), Eyemouth (4) and Coldstream (3).

These applicants are at various stages in the recruitment process. Two candidates have progressed to a formal offer of employment and they start their initial training course in March.

There are still vacancies, and anyone interested in joining are welcome to meet the local crews during their weekly training nights, which take place as follows:

Duns Fire Station:	Monday, 1900-2100hrs
Eymouth Fire Station:	Monday, 1830-2030hrs
Coldstream Fire Station:	Thursday, 1900-2100hrs

Further details on vacancies are available on the My Job Scotland website:

www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/emergency-services

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.

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