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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
THURSDAY, 18TH MAY, 2017

A MEETING of the SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER,

COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, NEWTOWN ST. BOSWELLS on THURSDAY, 18TH MAY, 2017 at

10.00 AM

J. J. WILKINSON,
Clerk to the Council,
11 May 2017

	BUSINESS	
1.	**Membership of Council** (Pages 1 - 6) Report by the Returning Officer. (Copy attached.)	2 mins
2.	**Apologies for Absence.**	
3.	**Order of Business.**	
4.	**Declarations of Interest.**	
5.	**Convener** Consider the appointment of the Convener.	5 mins
6.	**Leader** Consider appointment of Leader.	5 mins
7.	**Motion** (Pages 7 - 8) Consider Motion by Councillor Ballantyne, seconded by Councillor Aitchison. (Copy attached.)	15 mins
8.	**Amended Calendar of Meetings** (Pages 9 - 10) Consider amended Calendar of Meetings for June 2017. (Copy attached.)	5 mins
9.	**Any Other Items Previously Circulated**	
10.	**Any Other Items Which the Convener Decides Are Urgent**	

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.**

Please direct any enquiries to Louise McGeoch Tel 01835 825005
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ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS TO THE SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL ON 4 MAY 2017

Report by Returning Officer

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

18 MAY 2017

1   PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1   **This report gives details of those persons elected to serve as Members of the Scottish Borders Council, along with other aspects of the election.**

1.2   The election for Councillors to Scottish Borders Council took place on 4 May 2017, with the electronic count following on 5 May 2017. There were 110 polling places containing 151 polling stations staffed by 310 Presiding Officer and Poll Clerks, with all staff receiving training on their roles.

1.3   Over 90,000 ballot papers were printed, with 13,344 postal ballot packs issued, to ensure that the 91,060 electors in the Scottish Borders were able to cast their votes.   Postal votes were returned to Council Headquarters prior to polling day where the postal voting statements were verified and ballot papers put forward to the Count at Springwood Park. The electronic count at Springwood Park, Kelso involved registering and verifying ballot box contents, scanning ballot papers, first level adjudication and Returning Officer adjudication, before the results were collated and announced. The Count proceeded smoothly, with only a minor delay.

1.4   The Council website and social media were updated regularly both in the run up to the election, on polling day, and during the count. The Council's Communications Team provided regular short video clips and photographs of key moments of the Count using YouTube and Flickr.

1.5   The 34 Councillors elected are detailed in Section 4 of this report. As Returning Officer, I consider the management of the election to be a success.

2   RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1   **I recommend that the Council notes the details of those individuals elected on 4 May 2017 to serve as Members of the Scottish Borders Council for the period to the next Local Government Election in 2022.**

3   THE ELECTION

3.1   In preparation for the Local Government Election 2017, as Returning Officer, I appointed 4 Depute Returning Officers and an Election Project Planning Team. This Planning Team met on 10 occasions from September 2016, working to a Project Plan and Risk Register, to ensure all aspects of managing an election were taken into account and progressed accordingly.

3.2   There were 110 polling places containing 151 polling stations staffed by 310 Presiding Officer and Poll Clerks. All staff received training on their roles, including the completion of a multiple choice questionnaire and a ballot paper account exercise, both of which were marked and returned to them, with comments where appropriate. All Polling Stations were visited by Polling Station Inspectors to ensure that the polling process ran efficiently. Only a few minor issues were reported which were all dealt with at the time.

3.3   Over 90,000 ballot papers were printed, with 13,344 postal ballot packs issued, to ensure that the 91,060 electors in the Scottish Borders were able to cast their votes.   Postal votes were returned to Council Headquarters prior to polling day where the postal voting statements were verified and ballot papers put forward to the Count at Springwood Park. Over 300 postal votes were handed in to polling stations which required verification on the Thursday night at Springwood Park prior to the Count on Friday 5 May. The process for verifying postal votes is quite time consuming so it is always preferable that postal votes are sent back as early as possible so that the Count is not delayed unduly.

3.4   The Count took place on Friday 5 May at Springwood Park, Kelso, starting at 9.00 a.m. Almost 90 staff were in attendance to carry out the electronic count which involved registering and verifying ballot box contents, scanning ballot papers, first level adjudication and Returning Officer adjudication, before the results were collated and announced. Starting with Ward 1 (Tweeddale West), ballot boxes were processed in Ward order and results announced individually. The Count proceeded smoothly, with only a minor delay when a number from a ballot paper account had been inadvertently entered incorrectly into the system and technical advice was required from central support to amend this.

3.5   The Council website and social media were updated regularly both in the run up to the election, on polling day, and during the count. The Council's Communications Team provided regular short video clips and photographs of key moments of the Count using YouTube and Flickr. Electoral Registration staff provided electors' data for poll cards and postal votes, printed Registers for the Polling Stations and sorted out any queries on polling day. Customer Services staff also handled election related calls before and on polling day.

4   RESULTS

4.1   The Count at Springwood Park, Kelso on Friday 5 May 2017 resulted in the following candidates being elected as Councillors:-

Scottish Borders Council – 18 May 2017

Ward 1 – Tweeddale West
- Heather Anderson (Scottish National Party)
- Kris Chapman (Scottish Liberal Democrats)
- Eric Small (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)

Ward 2 – Tweeddale East
- Shona Haslam (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)
- Stuart Bell (Scottish National Party)
- Robin Tatler (Independent)

Ward 3 – Galashiels and District
- Andy Anderson (Scottish National Party)
- Euan Jardine (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)
- Sandy Aitchison (Independent)
- Harry Scott (Independent)

Ward 4 – Selkirkshire
- Michelle Ballantyne (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
- Elaine Thornton-Nicol (Scottish National Party)
- Gordon Edgar (Independent)

Ward 5 – Leaderdale and Melrose
- David Parker (Independent)
- Tom Miers (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
- Kevin Drum (Scottish National Party)

Ward 6 – Mid Berwickshire
- John Greenwell (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
- Mark Rowley (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
- Donald Moffat (Scottish National Party)

Ward 7 – East Berwickshire
- Jim Fullarton (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
- Carol Hamilton (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
- Helen Laing (Scottish National Party)

Ward 8 – Kelso and District
- Simon Mountford (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
- Tom Weatherston (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
- Euan Robson (Scottish Liberal Democrats)

Ward 9 – Jedburgh and District
- Scott Hamilton (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
- Sandy Scott (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
- Jim Brown (Scottish National Party)

Ward 10 – Hawick and Denholm
- Stuart Marshall (Independent)
- Neil Richards (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
- Clair Ramage (Scottish National Party)

Ward 11 – Hawick and Hermitage
- Watson McAteer (Independent)
- George Turnbull (Scottish Conservative and Unionist)
- Davie Paterson (Independent)

5   IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial
The costs of the election were funded by the election budget supported by government grant.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations
A Project Plan and a Risk Register were prepared and maintained for the Election as part of the planning and implementation process. This was part of the requirement for the Returning Officer to meet the Electoral Commission's performance standards for Returning Officers.

5.3 Equalities
There were no adverse equality implications.

5.4 Acting Sustainably
There are no economic, social or environmental effects of this report.

5.5 Carbon Management
There is no impact on the Council's carbon emissions as a result of this report.

5.6 Rural Proofing
All electors across the Borders were able to vote either at a polling station or through a postal or proxy vote. There were 110 polling places across the Borders covering both urban and rural areas.

5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation
No changes are required to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of this report.

6   CONSULTATION

6.1   The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, and the Chief Officer HR have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Tracey Logan   **Signature** …………………………………..
Returning Officer

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Jenny Wilkinson	Depute Returning Officer

Background Papers: Nil
Previous Minute Reference: Nil

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

Contact us at Jenny Wilkinson, Democratic Services, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA. Tel: 01835 825004 Email: jjwilkinson@scotborders.gov.uk

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Motion by Councillor Ballantyne, seconded by Cllr Aitchison:

"That Scottish Borders Council approves the following:

a) Changes to Senior Councillor Roles (in compliance with the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007) and appointments:

Ref	Position	Name
1.	Depute Convener & Executive Member for Adult Social Care	Cllr Weatherston
2.	Executive Member for Children & Young People	Cllr C Hamilton
3.	Executive Member for Finance	Cllr Turnbull
4.	Executive Member for Business & Economic Development	Cllr Rowley
5.	Executive Member for Transformation & HR and Locality Committee Chair: Cheviot	Cllr Mountford
6.	Executive Member for Roads & Infrastructure and Locality Committee Chair: Eildon	Cllr Edgar
7.	Executive Member for Culture & Sport	Cllr Jardine
8.	Executive Member for Planning & Environment	Cllr Miers
9.	Executive Member for Neighbourhoods & Locality Services	Cllr Aitchison
10.	Locality Committee Chair: Teviot & Liddesdale	Cllr Marshall
11.	Locality Committee Chair: Berwickshire	Cllr Fullarton
12.	Locality Committee Chair: Tweeddale	Cllr Tatler
13.	Police, Fire & Rescue & Safer Communities Board Chair	Cllr McAteer
14.	Chair of Audit & Scrutiny	Cllr Bell

b) That the Council continues to adopt an Executive/Scrutiny model of decision making, and that Area Forums are replaced by newly focused Locality Committees with greater powers to make relevant local decisions;

c) That the following amendments are made to the Scheme of Administration:
   (i) the existing constitution of the Executive Committee is changed to reflect the Senior Councillor Roles 1 to 13 above along with the Council Leader (noting that Opposition Councillors will no longer be Members of the Executive);
   (ii) the Scrutiny Committee is removed and a revised Scrutiny function is added to the functions of the Audit & Risk Committee, with an ad-hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committee appointed as required by the Audit & Risk Committee for particular reviews;

d) That the Clerk to the Council, in consultation with the Chief Executive, brings forward an Interim Scheme of Administration for consideration by Council on 25 May 2017, reflecting proposals a) to c) above, on the understanding that a final Scheme of Administration will be considered by Council no later than 30 September 2017."

DRAFT AMENDED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS MAY to JUNE 2017

DAY	DATE	MONTH	COMMITTEE	TIME
MON	15	MAY		
TUES	16	MAY		
WED	17	MAY		
THUR	18	MAY	**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL (SPECIAL)**	10.00 a.m.
FRI	19	MAY		
SAT	20	MAY		
SUN	21	MAY		
MON	22	MAY		
TUES	23	MAY		
WED	24	MAY		
THUR	25	MAY	**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**	10.00 a.m.
FRI	26	MAY		
SAT	27	MAY		
SUN	28	MAY		
MON	29	MAY		
TUES	30	MAY		
WED	31	MAY		
Jun-17				
THUR	1	JUN	PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS	10.00 a.m.
FRI	2	JUN		
SAT	3	JUN		
SUN	4	JUN		
MON	5	JUN		
TUES	6	JUN		
WED	7	JUN		
THUR	8	JUN	**UK PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION/SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT BY-ELECTION**	
FRI	9	JUN		
SAT	10	JUN		
SUN	11	JUN		
MON	12	JUN		
TUES	13	JUN		
WED	14	JUN	PEEBLES COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-COMMITTEE	5.00 p.m.
WED	14	JUN	TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM	6.30 p.m.
THUR	15	JUN	BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM	6.30 p.m.
FRI	16	JUN	LICENSING BOARD	10.00 a.m.
FRI	16	JUN	CIVIC GOVERNMENT LICENSING COMMITTEE	11.00 a.m.
SAT	17	JUN		
SUN	18	JUN		
MON	19	JUN	LOCAL REVIEW BODY	10.00 a.m.
TUES	20	JUN	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	10.00 a.m.
TUES	20	JUN	LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE GROUP	2.00 p.m.
TUES	20	JUN	LAUDER CGF SUB-COMMITTEE	2.00 p.m.
TUES	20	JUN	HAWICK COMMON GOOD FUND SUB-CTEE	4.00 p.m.
TUES	20	JUN	LOCAL LICENSING FORUM	4.00 p.m.
TUES	20	JUN	TEVIOT & LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM	6.30 p.m.
WED	21	JUN	JCG: STAFF	10.00 a.m.
WED	21	JUN	JCG: TEACHERS	2.00 p.m.
WED	21	JUN	SELKIRK CGF SUB-COMMITTEE	3.00 p.m.
WED	21	JUN	JEDBURGH CGF SUB-COMMITTEE	4.30 p.m.
WED	21	JUN	KELSO CGF SUB-COMMITTEE	5.30 p.m.
WED	21	JUN	CHEVIOT AREA FORUM	6.30 p.m.
THUR	22	JUN	PETITIONS & DEPUTATIONS COMMITTEE	9.30 a.m.
THUR	22	JUN	PENSION FUND COMMITTEE/PENSION BOARD	10.00 a.m.
THUR	22	JUN	COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC BOARD	11.00 a.m.
THUR	22	JUN	EMPLOYEE COUNCIL	3.00 p.m.
THUR	22	JUN	GALASHIELS CGF SUB-COMMITTEE	4.30 p.m.
THUR	22	JUN	EILDON AREA FORUM	6.30 p.m.
FRI	23	JUN		
SAT	24	JUN		
SUN	25	JUN		
MON	26	JUN	PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS	10.00 a.m.
TUES	27	JUN	**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**	10.00 a.m.
WED	28	JUN	AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE	10.15 a.m.
THUR(SH)	29	JUN		
FRI (SH)	30	JUN		

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