

# SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

MINUTES of Meeting of the SCOTTISH COUNCIL held in Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Newtown St. Boswells on Thursday, 25 October, 2018 at 10.00 am

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Present:- Councillors D. Parker (Convener), S. Aitchison, A. Anderson, H. Anderson, J. Brown, S. Bell, K. Chapman, K. Drum, G. Edgar, J. A. Fullarton, J. Greenwell, C. Hamilton, S. Hamilton, S. Haslam, E. Jardine, H. Laing, S. Marshall, W. McAteer, T. Miers, D. Moffat, S. Mountford, D. Paterson, C. Penman, C. Ramage, N. Richards, M. Rowley, H. Scott, S. Scott, E. Small, R. Tatler, E. Thornton-Nicol, G. Turnbull, T. Weatherston

Apologies:- Councillors E. Robson

In Attendance:- Executive Director (P Barr), Service Director Assets & Infrastructure, Service Director Customer and Communities, Service Director Regulatory Services, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Officer - Education, Clerk to the Council

1. **CONVENER'S REMARKS.**  
There were no Convener's remarks this month.

**DECISION NOTED.**

2. **MINUTE**  
The Minute of the Meeting held on 25 September 2018 was considered.

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

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

Hawick Common Good Fund	21 August 2018
Police, Fire & Rescue & Safer Communities Board	31 August 2018
Pension Fund Committee	13 September 2018
Pension Fund Board	13 September 2018
Local Review Body	17 September 2018
Major Contracts Governance	18 September 2018
Civic Government Licensing	21 September 2018
Audit & Scrutiny	24 September 2018
Peebles Common Good Fund	25 September 2018
Planning and Building Standards	1 October 2018
Executive	2 October 2018

**DECISION APPROVED the Minutes listed above.**

4. **COMMITTEE MINUTE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 **Audit & Scrutiny Committee**

With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of 24 September 2018, it was recommended that items for the Scrutiny Work programme for 2018/19 be approved.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2018/19, as contained in the appendix to the Minute of 24 September 2018.**

**4.2 Executive Committee**

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of 2 October 2018, it was recommended that the new Dyslexia Policy 2018 be approved.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the new Dyslexia Policy 2018.**

**5. SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL BSL PLAN 2018-2024**

There had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director Customer and Communities seeking approval for the Scottish Borders Council British Sign Language (BSL) Plan 2018-2024, complying with the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015. A signer was at the meeting to assist with the presentation of this item. The report explained that the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 now required public bodies in Scotland to publish plans every six years showing how they would promote and support BSL. The overall aim of the Act was to make Scotland the best place in the world for BSL users to live, learn, work and visit. The Council had taken a holistic approach to developing its BSL plan, with a focus on embedding BSL within its approach to customer services, communication, and training, and working with relevant Community Planning Partners including the local See Hear Group and the local BSL community and online consultation. Two videos showing both the engagement process and the resulting action plan were shown. Both Councillor Mountford and Councillor Thornton-Nicol spoke in support of the plan, with Councillor Thornton-Nicol signing part of her support, and thanked the officers for their work on this policy. The Plan received unanimous support.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the Scottish Borders Council British Sign Language (BSL) Plan 2018-2024, as contained in Appendix 1 to the report.**

**6. MOTION BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON**

Councillor H. Anderson, seconded by Councillor Miers, moved the Motion as detailed on the agenda in the following terms:-

“Given the significant role farmers and food producers play within our rural economy and the current uncertainty they are facing, we ask SBC to convene an early meeting with key stakeholders in farming and rural civic society to explore both the important contribution they can make towards improving local prosperity and to identify potential barriers they may face.

It would be hoped that such a meeting would also strengthen the Council’s understanding of the key contribution these stakeholders can make towards the success of the South of Scotland Economic Agency and the potential Borderland Initiative.”

Councillor Anderson spoke in support of her motion which was unanimously approved.

**DECISION**

**AGREED the Motion as detailed above.**

**7. CHEVIOT AREA PARTNERSHIP**

It was reported that Councillor Mountford wished to stand down from being the Chairman of the Cheviot Area Partnership. Councillor Mountford, seconded by Councillor S. Scott, moved that Councillor S. Hamilton be appointed and this was unanimously approved.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to appoint Councillor S. Hamilton as the Chairman of the Cheviot Area Partnership**

**8. OPEN QUESTIONS**

The questions submitted by Councillors C. Hamilton, Richards, S. Hamilton, Ramage, Paterson, Thornton-Nicol, H. Anderson, Bell, Laing, Moffat, A. Anderson and H. Scott were answered. The Convener also allowed Councillor Ramage to ask a question at the meeting.

**DECISION**

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

9. **PRIVATE BUSINESS**

**DECISION**

**AGREED** under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the business detailed in Appendix II to this Minute on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 6, 8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

**SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS**

10. **MINUTE**

The private section of the Council Minute of 25 September 2018 was approved.

11. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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

***The meeting concluded at 11.20 am***