

A MEETING of the SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, NEWTOWN ST. BOSWELLS on THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY, 2019 at 10.00 AM

J. J. WILKINSON,  
Clerk to the Council,  
21 February 2019

<b>BUSINESS</b>		
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence.</b>	
2.	<b>Order of Business.</b>	
3.	<b>Declarations of Interest.</b>	
4.	<p><b>Fit For 2024</b> (Pages 7 - 22)</p> <p>Consider report by the Chief Executive launching the new Fit for 2024 programme which will support the delivery of the Revenue and Capital Financial Plan over the life of the 5 year revenue plan. (Copy attached)</p>	15 mins
5.	<p><b>Inspire Learning: A World Class Digital Learning Environment for the Scottish Borders</b> (Pages 23 - 46)</p> <p>Consider report by the Chief Financial Officer outlining the Council's strategic intent to create a world-class digital learning environment across the Scottish Borders that will reduce inequality and improve academic performance amongst our young people. (Copy attached.)</p>	15 mins
6.	<p><b>Budget Communication Strategy 2019/20</b> (Pages 47 - 62)</p> <p>Consider report by Chief Financial Officer on the steps taken to engage with stakeholders as part of consultation exercise on the budget. (Copy attached.)</p>	10 mins
7.	<p><b>Motion by Councillor Haslam</b> (Pages 63 - 66)</p> <p>Consider Motion by Councillor Haslam as detailed on the attached paper in terms of Standing Order 26, seconded by Councillor Aitchison and signed by Councillors Tatler, Carol Hamilton, Edgar, Turnbull and Richards. (Copy Motion attached.)</p>	15 mins
8.	<p><b>Financial Strategy &amp; Resources 2019/20</b> (Pages 67 - 90)</p> <p>Consider report by Chief Financial Officer on the financial strategy and</p>	10 mins

	estimated Financial Plan resources for the Council covering the period 2019/20. (Copy attached.)	
9.	<p><b>Capital Investment Strategy</b> (Pages 91 - 134)</p> <p>Consider report by Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for the Capital Investment Strategy 2019/20. (Copy attached.)</p>	10 mins
10.	<p><b>Treasury Management Strategy</b> (Pages 135 - 184)</p> <p>Consider report by Chief Financial Officer seeking approval for the Treasury Management and Investment Strategies 2019/20. (Copy attached.)</p>	10 mins
11.	<p><b>Financial Plan Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)</b> (Pages 185 - 198)</p> <p>Consider report by Chief Officer HR on potential equality impacts of the savings proposals. (Copy attached.)</p>	10 mins
12.	<p><b>Draft 5 Year Revenue and 10 Year Capital Financial Plans</b></p>	
	<p>(a) <b>Motion by Councillor Haslam</b> (Pages 199 - 228)</p> <p>The Conservative/Independent Alliance Administration recommend approval of the 5 year revenue budget and 10 year capital plan set out in document 12(a) and in doing so ask the Council to note:</p> <p>Despite being faced with significant financial challenges as a result of reductions in funding from the Scottish Government, this Administration is presenting a really exciting budget for the Borders, packed with huge investment plans at a truly vital time for our economy.</p> <p>Millions of pounds will be invested in new and improved schools as part of our 10 year capital plan, £16m being provided for a new of Eyemouth Primary School, £9m for a new Earlston Primary School, and funding for a new Galashiels Academy.</p> <p>The Conservative and Independent Administration has taken the difficult decision to raise council tax to 4% next year. This will provide match funding for a new Hawick High school and provide an extra £2.3m investment in our roads and pavements over the next 4 years. This administration also plans to transform Education in the Borders with a £16 million investment over a ten year period in a new 'Inspire Learning' programme across all primary and secondary schools in order to make sure children learn in the best possible environments with the latest technology at their fingertips. This will include iPads being provided to all P6-S6 pupils, and at a ratio of one per every five P1-P5 pupils from 2019/20. The rollout will completed within just two years.</p> <p>This Administration is committed to protecting the most vulnerable individuals, families and communities of the Borders. An additional £3million will be invested in new extra care housing for projects in Hawick, Kelso, Eyemouth and Peebles in addition to those already committed to at Todlaw, Duns and Langhaugh, Galashiels.</p> <p>We aim to make the Borders one of the best areas in Scotland to live, work and visit, and this proposal, alongside our other investment plans confirms our commitment to that."</p> <p>As part of these budget proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frontline services such as waste and recycling collections will remain unchanged.</li> </ul>	

- There will be no change to public toilet provision in 2019/20.
- A second Community Action Team (CAT) for the Borders will be permanently funded.
- A new recycling awareness campaign will be funded to encourage people to recycle properly in order to reduce landfill tax costs and pollution.
- More money than ever before will be available for communities to allocate as they see fit through a new £1.167m consolidated Community Fund. This will make it easier than ever before for communities to access funding and to have a say in how it is used in their area.
- An extra £2.3m will also be spent on roads and pavements with £86m investment for road/transport infrastructure over 10 years being planned.
- We will continue to invest in outdoor education to provide destination parks in all our major towns and provide facilities to encourage people of all ages to be active and stay healthy.
- £58m for flood protection including Hawick.

The council is also constructing the foundations of a more efficient council which can drive ever better outcomes for the people we serve. Fit for 2024 is a major new strategy forming a key part of our budget plans to improve wellbeing, drive out inefficiency and to do so on the basis of sustainable development.

The budget provides the funding for major projects that will regenerate our high streets, create new and high quality jobs and increase the number of tourists coming to the Borders as well as attracting people to come and live and work here.

This budget is bold, brave and builds the future prosperity of the Borders, placing us at the cutting edge of new developments in education, technology and care. It's a budget we can be proud of and members across the political spectrum can support our plans knowing they are voting for a budget that benefits the whole region.

(b) **Motion by Councillor Bell**

(Pages 229 - 258)

1. The Opposition Parties on Scottish Borders Council – the Scottish National Party and the Liberal Democrat Party - recommend approval of an alternative 5 year revenue plan of £1.4bn for the Scottish Borders and a 10 year capital plan of £347m; both as set out in document 12(b) and in doing so ask Council to note the following principles and proposals:

- This budget builds on opportunities and improves the lives of Borderers whatever their age. It focuses on delivering quality services, opportunities for all in a thriving economy, empowering communities and enabling people to live independently and achieve their goals.
- This budget rebuilds educational support, protecting teacher numbers, library services, school mental health services and frontline Council services; whilst also recognising that we must modernise service delivery and make efficiencies.
- The Opposition budget specifically proposes :-
  - £34m investment over ten years into new or refurbished Primary schools
  - To add to Government support in order to build 2 new

	<p>High Schools over the capital period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ £11.4m investment in a carefully introduced Digital Learning programme in schools</li> <li>➤ Investing £2.8m capital and £6.4m revenue in 2019/20 into Early Learning &amp; Childcare</li> <li>➤ To continue investment to a total of £58m in Flood &amp; Coastal Protection over the capital period</li> <li>➤ To continue the £0.282m funding for a community policing team to prevent low level criminal activity, and proposes that the Council starts a new initiative to control on-street parking</li> <li>➤ To earmark £2.4m contribution to re-establish Reston Station at a time that is in phase with the Transport Scotland investment</li> </ul> <p>2. The Opposition Parties also recommend that:</p> <p>Scottish Borders Council mainstreams funding – initially £1m - from September 2019 into Borders Decides. This will devolve decisions about road maintenance, traffic management and the environment to local level. Prioritisation of spend will be decided by the community through participative budgeting, and based on officer recommendations.</p>	
13.	<b>Any Other Items Previously Circulated</b>	
14.	<b>Any Other Items Which the Convener Decides Are Urgent</b>	

#### NOTES

1. **Timings given above are only indicative and not intended to inhibit Members' discussions.**
2. **Members are reminded that, if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item of business coming before the meeting, that interest should be declared prior to commencement of discussion on that item. Such declaration will be recorded in the Minute of the meeting.**

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