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AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE THURSDAY, 14 JANUARY 2021

A MEETING of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE will be held VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS on THURSDAY, 14 JANUARY 2021 at 10.00 am

J. J. WILKINSON,
Clerk to the Council,

8 January 2021

BUSINESS		
1.	Apologies for Absence.	
2.	Order of Business.	
3.	Declarations of Interest.	
4.	Minute. (Pages 3 - 10) Minute of Meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 10 December 2020 to be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Copy attached.)	5 mins
SCRUTINY BUSINESS		
5.	Petitions	60 mins
	(a) Petitions Procedure at Committee (Pages 11 - 14) (Copy attached.)	
	(b) Save Scott Park - Galashiels (Pages 15 - 46) (i) Petition - Save Scott Park – Galashiels. (Copy attached.) (ii) Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure. (Copy attached.)	
6.	Child Poverty (Pages 47 - 78) Consider report by Service Director Customer & Communities on actions the Council is taking to tackle Child Poverty. (Copy attached.)	
7.	Any Other Scrutiny Items Previously Circulated.	
8.	Any Other Scrutiny Items which the Chairman 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.**

Membership of Committee:- Councillors S. Bell (Chairman), H. Anderson, J. A. Fullarton, J. Greenwell, N. Richards (Vice-Chairman), E. Robson, H. Scott, E. Thornton-Nicol and S. Scott

Please direct any enquiries to Jenny Wilkinson, Clerk to the Council
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**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MINUTE of Meeting of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 10 December 2020 at 10.00 am

Present:- Councillors S. Bell (Chairman), H. Anderson, J.A. Fullarton, J. Greenwell, N. Richards, E. Robson, H. Scott, S. Scott, E. Thornton-Nicol.
In Attendance:- Executive Director Finance & Regulatory, Clerk to the Council, Democratic Services Officer (F. Henderson).

AUDIT & SCRUTINY BUSINESS

1. MINUTE

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 22 October 2020.

DECISION

APPROVED for signature by the Chairman.

SCRUTINY BUSINESS

2. PETITION

2.1 Petitions Procedure

There had been circulated copies of an extract from the Audit and Scrutiny Committee Petitions procedure and the Chairman asked for this to be noted. The Chairman welcomed to the meeting lead petitioner Mr Malcolm Campbell and also Alison Campbell.

2.2 Petition – Removal of Scottish Flags from Henderson Park, Coldstream

There had been circulated copies of a petition entitled “Stop Scottish Borders Council removing Scottish Flags from Henderson Park, Coldstream”, which had received the required 10 signatories. There had also been circulated a Change.org petition with over 3,000 signatures, although not all those signing were from the Scottish Borders. These petitions were in response to the Council’s decision to have the flags removed from Henderson Park, Coldstream. There had also been circulated copies of a briefing note by the Service Director Assets and Infrastructure in response to the petition. It was stated within the petition that “Scottish flags had been put in by an individual in Coldstream to cheer us all up during the Covid outbreak when we should have been celebrating our Civic Week but could not. As Coldstream was the ‘first true Border town’ it was entirely appropriate that Scottish flags be flown proudly in Henderson Park and tourists and residents have been pleased to enjoy these flags over the years.”

2.3 The Chairman invited the petitioner to present the petition via Microsoft Teams. Mr Campbell introduced himself and explained that he wanted the Committee to understand how important these flags were to the community. The flags had first been put up in Henderson Park in 2014 following a request from Scottish Borders Council to the Community Council to decorate the park to mark the Commonwealth Games being held in Scotland and the baton being carried through the town by Olympic athletes. Mr David Shepherd had been asked to create a display, as he had experience in creating displays which complied with Health and Safety legislation, and to make the town more attractive. The flags had been erected in Henderson Park every year since to mark the town’s Annual Civic Week (first full week in August) and remained up until after the anniversary of Flodden Day on 9th September. On 7 September 2020, Mr Shepherd was advised that a complaint had been received about a saltire flag attached to Council property and that the flags should be removed with immediate effect. Despite requests, no reason was given at the time although there had been a series of e-mail exchanges to the nature of

the complaint and the flags were removed on 7 September 2020 (and therefore not flying on Flodden Day for the first time since 2014). Scottish Borders Council had since gone on record in a Freedom of Information (FOI) request that there was no complaint, merely an enquiry and that the 'flags were erected/attached to Council Property with no prior permission'. The FOI response continued: "whilst these may have been erected in this location in previous years to mark Coldstream Civic Week, this year they had remained in place for over a month.....This decision was taken by Officers and was solely related to these items being on Council property and was in no way related to the type of flag flown".

2.4 Mr Campbell went on to explain that the Tourist Information Service was moved out of the town and Scottish Borders Council was at pains to reassure the town that Coldstream would be promoted strongly as a Gateway centre but none of that had happened. Coldstream had good community spirit and many events had been held over the years, and flags were part of that. It was important to residents but also a gateway to Scotland. Visitors would have their photographs taken on the bridge and also of the flags. Henderson Park was a stunning view point and the flags helped brighten it up. Mr Campbell expressed sadness that Scotland's 'first true Border town' had very little to attract the kind of tourists who were happily having their photos taken next to the flags even as they were being removed. From online research, it was clear that the Council had a protocol for 'Flying of flags from Council buildings' which (from the Equality Impact Assessment on line) appeared to have been last updated in April 2016. The document suggested that it was reviewed every two years so perhaps a review now might allow for arrangements in terms of flags being flown at Henderson Park between Civic Week and Flodden Day to be formalised. The decision making on flag flying appeared to be reserved to the Convener per the protocol itself and information on his involvement in the complaint/enquiry, if any had been requested. Mr Campbell highlighted that the Equality Impact Assessment prepared re the Flag Protocol talked about 'the many benefits that help Scottish Borders Council contribute well to its obligations under the Equality Act. Examples include:-

- Ensures Scottish Borders Council demonstrates dignity and respect of the tradition of flag flying within the United Kingdom
- Encourages Flag Flying which allowed Scottish Borders Council to promote positive messages including pride, inclusiveness, respect and celebration.

2.5 In conclusion, Mr Campbell requested to know why this year the people of Coldstream had not been allowed to have a flag flying on the anniversary of the Battle of Flodden in 1513. Why a complaint was suddenly not a complaint? And, whether the Council would like to work with the community to formalise what it had previously accepted as the norm (and in actual fact itself commissioned in 2014). The Chairman thanked Mr Campbell for his presentation, confirmed that the meeting discussion would focus on how the Council could work with the Coldstream community to formalise arrangements for flag flying, and invited questions from members of the Committee. It was pointed out that due to Covid restrictions, Coldstream did not currently have a Community Council at the moment, and without that leadership, the protocol on the flying of flags and how to seek permission from the Council was not well known. In response to a question about the flying of the Flag of St George, Mr Campbell advised that the Saltires were being flown in Coldstream as it was a gateway town to Scotland and he was quite content for the Flag of St George to be flown on the English side of the bridge. Mr Campbell also suggested that any procedure for applying for permission for flag flying should be clear and easy to use. In response to a question about the online petition, Ms Alison Campbell commented that this was an American App and therefore open worldwide for signatures. It had attracted 375 signatures from the Borders, with a further 3019 from across the world. It was noted that the flags flown at the A1 and the Carter Bar came under the jurisdiction of Transport Scotland as these were on Trunk routes.

2.6 In attendance to present the Council's response to the petition, were the Mr John Curry, Service Director Assets & Infrastructure; Mr Jason Hedley, Chief Officer Roads; and the

Parks & Environment Manager, Mr Craig Blackie. The Briefing paper by the Service Director Assets and Infrastructure, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, summarised the content and context of the petition received by the Council for the Audit and Scrutiny Committee. A further document entitled 'Flag Gate' was also submitted with the petition and this was attached to the Briefing paper as Appendix 1. Mr Hedley started first of all by offering a wholehearted apology to the petitioners and 'Presenting Coldstream', advising that it was never the intention to disrespect the flag or the people of Coldstream. He then went on to present the Briefing paper. In September 2020 Scottish Borders Council received an enquiry about flags flying at Henderson Park, Coldstream. Following a review, officers from the Parks and Environment team found that the flags had been installed by Presenting Coldstream but were unable to establish that the correct permissions had been obtained from the Council to fly the flags. Subsequently officers contacted Presenting Coldstream and requested that the flags be removed, which was carried out in a timely manner. The "Flag gate" document introduced additional background information on the flying of flags at Henderson Park, dating back to 2014 and the celebrations associated with the Commonwealth Games of that year. It set out that since that date the flags had been erected to coincide with Civic week (first full week of August) and they stayed in place until Flodden day 9th September. The report detailed the Flag Flying Protocol contained in the document "The Flying of Flags from Council buildings And Arrangements for Books of Condolence", appendix 2 to the paper. This set out prescribed locations/procedures for flag flying, and the due process for discretionary decision making regarding flying of flags out-with these prescribed locations/procedures. Mr Hedley went onto explain that the matter had never been a complaint, but an enquiry for a service, and as such Officers should have advised the Coldstream Community what was required to rectify the situation. This had been an oversight by officers and should not have happened, and Mr Hedley apologised for this. The Service Director Assets and Infrastructure added that the Council was committed to working with communities on a range of matters and particularly, making access to services easier. The Chairman thanked officers for their forthright apology and clarification about the complaint.

- 2.7 Councillor Robson requested that any amended protocol for flag flying should also include local Members and other relevant local organisations, and it had been unfortunate that the Community Council election had coincided with lockdown. Councillor Harry Scott also commented that the SBC local Elected Members would have been available to assist at the time. The Chairman advised that there seemed to have been a whole series of misunderstandings. Mr Campbell questioned why the Council had made contact by e-mail and not telephone and the Service Director acknowledged that a phone call would have been more appropriate. Mr Curry further advised that any review of the Flag Flying Protocol would also need to take account of flag flying out-with specific circumstances and not only on buildings. Members of the Committee discussed how best to take matters forward in terms of flying flags at Civic Week, Flodden Day, and beyond. Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Greenwell, moved that the matter be referred to the Service Director Assets & Infrastructure to develop a straight forward protocol – in consultation with Presenting Coldstream, for flying flags at Henderson Park, Coldstream over an agreed period of time each year. Councillor Fullarton moved as an amendment that no further action was required but, as there was no seconder, the amendment fell. The Chairman thanked Mr Campbell and Ms Campbell for taking the time to organise the petition and for their helpful input at the meeting.

DECISION

AGREED to refer the matter to the Service Director Assets & Infrastructure to develop a straightforward protocol - in consultation with Presenting Coldstream - in respect of flying flags in Henderson Park, Coldstream over an agreed period of time each year.

3.0 BALANCE BETWEEN 20MPH SPEED LIMITS AND STREET ARCHITECTURE

- 3.1 There had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director, Assets and Infrastructure which provided details to members on the balance between 20mph speed limits and the use of street architecture, and an update on the 20mph experiment across settlements in the Scottish Borders. Ms Gilhooly, Project/Road User Manager, explained that there was a variety of traffic calming features available for construction. However, research into the efficacy of these in general was very dated, and in rural settings, was extremely rare. The most commonly used traffic calming features were:
- Signing
 - Lining and Surface Treatments
 - Humps and Bumps
 - Variable Message Signs
 - Islands, Chicanes, Build Outs
 - Protected Parking and Realignment
 - Light Controlled Crossings
 - Roundabouts, Gateway Treatments and Transition Buffers
 - Shared Spaces (moratorium at present)
- 3.2 Each traffic calming feature came with its own advantages and disadvantages and some worked in tandem better with others. Costs varied depending on the interventions, with some having ongoing maintenance issues and others causing problems on bus routes and emergency access roads, with noise and vibration frequently cited as intolerable by residents. It was rare for an individual traffic calming feature to be successful in the longer term, and it was generally accepted that a mix and match of features was the most appropriate. Also worth bearing in mind was that some traffic calming features had a very localised effect, and consideration was needed into possible adverse effects elsewhere and unintended consequences. The Council's traffic and road safety team had successfully applied to the Transport Scotland Road Safety Research fund for '*The Eddleston Study*' into traffic calming features. This research involved Edinburgh Napier University conducting a worldwide literature review of the effects of traffic calming as well as an analysis of recently introduced local traffic calming features in Eddleston. An assessment of the strengths of traffic calming measures was detailed in the report. In the context of Eddleston village, where Dragon's teeth at the speed limit change were introduced first, followed by Vehicle Activated Signage (VAS), the evidence from this Literature Review was that careful selection of additional traffic calming measures may provide a synergetic effect in bringing down motor vehicle speeds as they enter and proceed through the village. Further application of traffic calming measures on the approach or at the village gateways, plus the potential for further measures in the village itself, would look to be the approach needed. There was a range of options which included, for example, installing VAS at or close to each gateway and changes in road surface colour, potentially with the 30mph speed limit painted onto the red surfacing. The potential for speed tables and chicanes may be limited by the proximity of residential properties and geometry but may be worth exploring as they were both reported as achieving relatively high speed reductions. There was a need to keep traffic moving within the speed limit, with drivers preferring to keep moving rather than stop/start, which could lead to faster speeds at places within the limit.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 27 August 2020, Council had agreed to implement a Sustrans/Transport Scotland "Spaces for People" externally funded £1.2M trial of 20mph across all streets in settlements with existing 30mph speed limit in the Scottish Borders. Ms Gilhooly advised that this involved 97 settlements in total, including 8 trunk road towns and the timetable for the work was detailed in the report. From December 2020 through to February 2021, an analysis of traffic surveys and determination of possible traffic calming features would be carried out in discussion with Elected Members and Police Scotland. From June to August 2021, further consultation would be carried out with Elected Members on options to be presented to Council in September 2021. Depending on the decision of Council at that time, from October 2021 to May 2022, the statutory process would take place to introduce any retained 20mph schemes, and decommission others. A marketing strategy for the current scheme was ongoing with radio, internet, social media updates and

advertising. The Council website FAQ was updated regularly to reflect questions from the public and all primary aged children had been issued with high viz vests. An Evaluation group was being set up, consisting of SBC Officers, Edinburgh Napier University academics, Sustrans and Transport Scotland.

- 3.4 As expected, there had been a mixed reaction to the widespread introduction of the 20mph schemes. Some communities warmly welcomed the trial, while others were unhappy over a lack of consultation at the outset. Some had reservations on the need for all streets to be included, and there had been a number of queries over justification, based on very few injury accidents and questions of over funding, even though the scheme was fully externally funded. It would appear that some drivers were concerned over the additional drive time, and conversely some pedestrians were happier with the change in driver behaviour. Some residents were finding noise disturbance reduced by slower moving vehicles. Early discussions from both local Police Sergeants had not seen a spike in complaints over speeding or driver behaviour, with complaints over non-compliance and poor driving similar to locations when a 30mph was the speed limit in place and police were not surprised with the level of compliance so far. A questionnaire on the 20mph speed limit had been circulated to Community Councils and 34 responses received to date. Members commented on the more pragmatic view being taken by some members of the public since the initial opposition; the need to take account of the business community, with potential impact on costs and delays in deliveries; whether arterial routes should be included; and how to engage Community Councils going forward. The Chairman commented on the “living areas” in Holland whereby street architectural measures such as changes in road surface, bends, footways melding with roadways, produced a cultural change and almost incidental to that a reduction in speed. Members thanked Ms Gilhooly and her Team for managing to complete the work in all 97 locations. In response to questions about the funding of such a project when residents were concerned about the general repair of footpaths and potholes, Ms Gilhooly advised that the installation work had been undertaken by local companies.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

4. POLICE COMMUNITY ACTION TEAMS GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of 22 October 2020, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Executive Director, Finance & Regulatory, which provided further details of potential amended governance arrangements for the Police Community Action Teams (CATs). As had been reported previously, the performance monitoring of the CATs could be moved from the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group to the Executive Committee and be reported through the Executive Committee on a quarterly basis. This would allow a more public view of the work of the CATs, with reports being published committee papers and available on the Council website. A workshop could be held for members of the Police, Fire & Rescue, and Safer Communities Board to explain the process used to decide on the work of the CATs, including when issues are passed to Police Scotland. This would allow members of that Board to gain an insight into the governance of the CATs. It may also be helpful to consider whether the CAT Oversight Group and the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board should meet informally, in private, once per year to discuss the work of the CATs and raise any concerns. The Clerk to the Council explained the potential amendments contained within the report and, following discussion, Councillor Harry Scott sought to simplify the recommendations as follows:-
- 4.2 Councillor Harry Scott, seconded by Councillor Anderson proposed the following motion:-
- (i) that the tasking of the Police Community Action Teams remains with the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group.
 - (ii) that the performance monitoring of the Police Community Action Teams be moved

from the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group to the Executive Committee, with reporting on a quarterly basis; and

- (iii) that a workshop be held for members of the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board to explain the process of tasking for the Police Community Action Teams.

4.3 Councillor Fullarton, seconded by Councillor Greenwell, proposed as an amendment that the recommendations contained within the report be approved as follows:

- (i) Notes that those involved in the current CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group consider it to be working effectively, therefore it remains the officer view that no changes are required to the governance arrangements.
- (ii) Agrees to make recommendations to Council on the current Police Community Action Teams governance arrangements, potentially:
 - (1) that the tasking of the Police Community Action Teams remained with the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group;
 - (2) that the performance monitoring of the Police Community Action Teams be moved from the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group to the Executive Committee, with reporting on a quarterly basis; and
 - (3) the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board and the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group meet informally, in private, on an annual basis, to discuss the work of the Police Community Action Teams.
- (c) Agrees to recommend that a workshop be held for members of the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board to explain the process of tasking for the Police Community Action Teams.

VOTE

As the meeting was conducted by Microsoft Teams members were unable to vote by the normal show of hands and gave a verbal response as to how they wished to vote the result of which was as follows:-

Motion – 4 votes

Amendment – 4 votes

Abstain – 1 vote

As there was an equality of votes, the Chairman exercised his casting vote in favour of the amendment.

The amendment was accordingly carried

DECISION

- (a) **DECIDED to NOTE** that those involved in the current CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group consider it to be working effectively, therefore it remained the officer view that no changes were required to the governance arrangements.
- * (b) **DECIDED to RECOMMEND** to Council the following changes to the current Police Community Action Teams governance arrangements:

- (i) that the tasking of the Police Community Action Teams remained with the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group;**
 - (ii) that the performance monitoring of the Police Community Action Teams be moved from the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group to the Executive Committee, with reporting on a quarterly basis; and**
 - (iii) the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board and the CAT Member/Officer Oversight Group meet informally, in private, on an annual basis, to discuss the work of the Police Community Action Teams.**
- * (c) DECIDED to RECOMMEND that a workshop be held for members of the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board to explain the process of tasking for the Police Community Action Teams.**

The meeting concluded at 11.55 am

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**Scottish Borders Council
Audit & Scrutiny Committee Petitions Procedure**

Part of the remit of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee is to consider petitions submitted to the Council in accordance with the Council's approved petitions procedure, outlined below, and to determine the appropriate action to be taken within the terms of the procedure.

Petitions

1. Petitions should raise issues which relate to matters within the responsibility of Scottish Borders Council or the general well-being of the residents of the Scottish Borders. Petitioners should be able to demonstrate that there is a public interest in the issue that they are raising.
2. A petition should be on a standard form, titled and should include a clear statement (no more than 250 words) which covers the main subject. Any further information, for example, about measures already taken or approaches made to other bodies, should be included but limited to no more than 4 sides of A4 paper.
3. Petitions should be accompanied by at least 10 signatures in total, from persons aged 16 and over, resident in the Scottish Borders. The signatures must be from a minimum of 3 separate addresses. The principal petitioner should be on the Register of Electors for the Scottish Borders Council area.
4. Petitions from local businesses shall be accepted where there is support from at least 5 businesses on the Valuation Roll for Scottish Borders Council.
5. Elected Members may not be a signatory on a petition and no petition will be accepted from a political party.
6. Where there are already regulatory procedures in place or the matter relates to individuals, then it would not be appropriate to accept such petitions, therefore petitions shall not be accepted:
 - (i) about planning, licensing, or other matters where there are already regulatory procedures in place;
 - (ii) about personal or business issues;
 - (iii) about commercially sensitive or confidential material;

- (iv) about individual Councillors, members of Council staff, or other individuals who may easily be identified;
 - (v) about employees' terms and conditions of employment;
 - (vi) about information which is protected by an interdict or court order;
 - (vii) about an allegation that someone has broken the law;
 - (viii) which contain language which is defamatory, offensive, provocative or otherwise inappropriate;
 - (ix) which relate to a complaint or grievance (which should be handled through the Council's complaints procedure);
 - (x) which relate to a decision made by the Council or a committee during the preceding six months; and
 - (xi) which are identical or similar to other petitions made within the preceding twelve months.
7. The Clerk to the Council, or her representative, shall ensure petitions keep to procedures and are admissible. All valid petitions, with accompanying information if any, shall be passed to the next scheduled meeting of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee. Petitions which are the same, or substantially similar, shall be considered together.
 8. A summary report shall be prepared for the Committee by the Clerk to the Council about any petitions received during the period that are considered inadmissible for any of the reasons listed in paragraph 6 above. The Committee will make the final decision as to whether these are valid.

Meetings of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee

9. When hearing a petition the relevant Director(s), Executive Member(s) and Community Planning Partner representative(s) shall be invited to attend the meeting to provide further information, as appropriate.
10. The principal petitioner should indicate on the form whether or not he/she, or a named deputy, wish to have the opportunity to make a statement at the meeting of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee where their petition is being considered. It would be normal practice to allow the principal petitioner or a deputy to speak, but this is at the discretion of the Chairman of the Committee.
11. No deputation to the Meeting of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee shall exceed 10 in number and, at the discretion of the Chairman, only one speaker shall be heard by the Committee. The time allowed to present the petition shall not exceed 10 minutes, except at the discretion of the Chairman. The speaker should also be prepared to answer questions.

12. Notice of petitions scheduled to be considered by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee will be through the usual on-line public access facility to committee papers, with a link from the petitions "page" on the Council website. Those signing petitions should be made aware that the detail of the petition, with their name and address (but not signature), will be published on the Council website as part of the agenda pack for the meeting of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee.
13. For the moment, no "e-petitions" will be facilitated, or comments from the public accepted on petitions scheduled for consideration by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee.
14. The procedure at the meeting, for each petition considered, shall be as follows:
 - (i) the meeting shall be in public unless the subject matter of the petition would be deemed to be confidential under the terms of Section 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973;
 - (ii) the principal petitioner, or named deputy, shall give a statement in explanation of the petition;
 - (iii) there will be an opportunity for Members of the Committee to ask questions of the petitioner or their named deputy;
 - (iv) there will be an opportunity for any Director(s), Executive Member(s) and Community Planning Partner representative(s) present to ask questions of the petitioner or their named deputy;
 - (v) a response to the petition may be heard from a Director, Executive Member and/or Community Planning Partner representative present at the meeting;
 - (vi) there will be an opportunity for Members of the Committee to ask questions of any Director, Executive Member(s) and Community Planning Partner representative(s) present at the meeting;
 - (vii) there will be an opportunity for the petitioner or their named deputy to ask questions of any Elected Member, Director or Community Planning Partner representative present at the meeting;
 - (viii) Members of the Committee shall then discuss the information available and consider their findings. The Committee may defer a decision should further information be required.

Note: any contribution on behalf of the petition from a second or other speaker(s) shall be at the discretion of the Chairman. The public will not be allowed to speak at the meeting unless invited to do so by the Chairman.
15. The Audit & Scrutiny Committee shall agree to one of the following:-

- (i) refer the petition to another Committee or Director, with or without a recommendation or comment. That Committee or Director shall then make the final decision which could include taking no further action;
 - (ii) refer the petition to the relevant Community Planning Partner, with or without a recommendation or comment, if appropriate;
 - (iii) that the issue(s) raised do not merit or do not require further action.
16. The decision of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee, and any reason for that decision, shall be recorded in the Minute of the Meeting and a copy of the Minute shall be sent to the principal petitioner by Democratic Services staff. Where the petition is referred to a Director or another body, the responsibility for communicating the final outcome of the petition is also referred. Updates on these outcomes will be provided to the Audit & Scrutiny Committee.
17. There will be no right of appeal in response to a final decision made in response to a petition.
18. The usage and effectiveness of the petitions procedure shall be reviewed on an annual basis.

Reference (official use)



Petitions – submission form

If you wish to submit a petition for consideration by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee, please complete the form below. You are advised to refer to the Guidance Questions and Answer sheet provided.

Details of Principal Petitioner

Please enter the name and contact details of the person raising the petition. *The Principal Petitioner must be on the Register of Electors for the Scottish Borders Council area.*

Name:	DR STUART GORDON
Address:	7A SCOTT CRESCENT
	GAASHIELS.
Postcode:	
Telephone no:	
Email:	

Title of Petition and Petition Statement

Please enter the title of the Petition and a statement to cover the main subject of the Petition or the action you would like the Council to take.

Title: SAVE SCOTT PARK - GAASHIELS

Statement (no more than 250 words):

SEE ATTACHED STATEMENT

SAVE SCOTT PARK – GALASHIELS

From a presentation given by Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to local residents, it is clear that SBC is currently developing its preferred option for the new Galashiels Academy, and if given planning consent, this proposal will place the new campus within Scott Park.

Although we agree that the construction of a new school and associated sporting and community facilities would be of great benefit to Galashiels, we strongly oppose locating the campus within our park.

Scott Park is one of our few remaining open spaces in the town, which provides a safe and natural environment that is used widely by families and for a range of social events and sporting activities.

We insist that the Council develop an alternative option to their proposed plan that will make use of the existing seven hectare site to accommodate the new campus buildings and pitches.

Council policies include reference to Key Greenspace and Scott Park is identified as such. The policy offers protection to these spaces and we would ask that the Council respect this policy and endeavour to deliver a new campus within the existing school grounds that sits alongside and in harmony with our park.

We are presenting this petition to save one of the best open spaces in Galashiels.

Further information.

Please enter below any measures already taken, or persons/organisations approached to attempt to resolve the issues. Attach additional sheets to this form if required but please note that this information must be limited to no more than 4 sides of A4 paper.

- # A DETAILED RESPONSE LETTER WAS SUBMITTED TO THE SERVICE HEAD FOR ASSET & INFRASTRUCTURE - DATED 3RD NOV'20 - LETTER CONTAINED 13 SIGNATORIES.
- # CHRISTINE GRAHAM MSP HAS WRITTEN TO SBC SEEKING ANSWERS.
- # JOHN LAWTON MP HAS BEEN APPROACHED FOR SUPPORT.
- # FIVE COUNTESS HAVE BEEN APPROACHED, CURS, SCOTT, JARDINE, AITCHISON, ANDERSON & PARKER VIA EMAIL.
- # ITEMS HAVE BEEN BROADCAST BY RADIO BORDERS, BBC RADIO SCOTLAND & ITV BORDER.
- # ALSO EMAILS TO SCOTTISH LAND COMMISSION & PAS.

Presentation of petition to the Committee.

Please indicate below if you would like the opportunity to make a statement at the meeting of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee when your petition is considered. Whether or not you will be invited to do so will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

*I do/~~do not~~ wish the opportunity to make a brief statement about the petition.

*I would like my deputy named below to make a statement on my behalf.

Name of deputy

N/A.

Contact details

Signature of deputy.....

* please delete as appropriate

Signature of Principal Petitioner.

If you are satisfied your petition meets all the requirements as stated in the Guidance Questions and Answers please add your signature and date below.

Signature of Principal Petitioner..

Date 30th NOV 2020

Accompanying signatures.

Your petition must be accompanied by at least 10 signatures in total, from persons aged 16 and over, resident in the Scottish Borders. The signatures must be from a minimum of 3 separate addresses.

Please be aware that if the petition is on the agenda for a meeting of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee the names and addresses, but not signatures, of all signatories will be published on the Council website.

	Name	Address	Signature
1	BETH Wilson	38 KILNKNOWE PLACE GALASHIELS	
2	DOUGLAS TAYLOR.	30. SCOTT CRES GALASHIELS	
3	BRIAN ALESTER	5A SCOTT CRESCENT GALASHIELS	
4	COL. → M'GREGOR	15, SLEBE PLACE GALASHIELS	
5	PIERS MACRAIS	11 SCOTT CRESCENT GALASHIELS	
6	DUNCAN THOMSON	13 SCOTT CRESCENT	
7	ANNE MACFADYEN	15 SCOTT CRESCENT GALASHIELS	

8	MacFadyen Iain D	15 Scott Crescent, 1 D Melrose Galashiels	
9	Richard Lee	17 Scott Crescent Galashiels	
10	AUSON GORDON	7A SCOTT CRESC	

Attach additional sheets of signatures if you wish.

Please submit this form and any additional sheets to:-

Clerk to the Council, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown
St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA,

or email to:

committeepapers@scotborders.gov.uk

Recipient: **Scottish Borders Council**

Letter: **Greetings,
Save Scott Park - Galashiels**

Signatures

Name	Location	Date
Stuart Gordon	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
Piers Marais	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
Stewart Ramsay	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Dawn Hedderly	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	2020-11-14
Bryan Scott	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Cara Bertram	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Emma Jeffrey	UK	2020-11-14
Susan Burrell	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Graham Borthwick	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
Kirsty Forrest	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Kat Peddie	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
Lynda Clark	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Monique Sinclair	Melrose, UK	2020-11-14
Bethan Sarah Rowan	Kirkintilloch, UK	2020-11-14
Hilary Downie	UK	2020-11-14
Gordon Saunders	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
James Hamel	London, UK	2020-11-14
Karen Renton	Dunfermline, UK	2020-11-14
Janette Weir	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
Christina Svanberg Johnsson	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14

Name	Location	Date
Eileen Frame	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Eamonn Iiddle	galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
George Young	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
Marlyn Anderson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Dave Robertson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Robert Thomson	Duns, UK	2020-11-14
Lucy Marais	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
May Shanks	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Ruchard Taylor	Cardiff, UK	2020-11-14
Sheila Shaw	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Margaret Mackintosh	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Veronica Blackwood	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Kirsty Pearson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Davidina Taylor	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Jeff Moore	Stevenage, UK	2020-11-14
Ruth Renton	Scotland, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
James Blackie	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Jenny Livingston	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Christopher Bunting	Newton Aycliffe, UK	2020-11-14
Janet Mills	London, UK	2020-11-14
Moireen Anderson	Ely, UK	2020-11-14
Henry Shepherd	cambridge, England, UK	2020-11-14

Name	Location	Date
Kathleen Miller	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Gaelle Biron	London, UK	2020-11-14
Keith Crichton	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Elaine Young	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Karin Marais	Highgate, UK	2020-11-14
Kathleen Kerr	earlston, UK	2020-11-14
Brian Herbert	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Mary Gammie	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Edith Moody	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
Lyn Aitken	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Letitia Renton	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Jacqueline Affleck	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
John Thomson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Leyla Guler	UK	2020-11-14
Luci Wilkinson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
elaine antonacci	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
Keiron Cameron	Selkirk, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
Patricia Affleck	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Lynne McCudden	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	2020-11-14
Aileen Hastings	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	2020-11-14
Caroline Clarke	Glasgow, UK	2020-11-14
Karen Skene	Tweedbank, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14

Name	Location	Date
JANINE OLIVER	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-14
Trish Cowan	Melrose, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
megan armstrong	aberdeen, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
Gail Holmes	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
sorrell west	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
Dawn Walker	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Susanne Pugh	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
George Cairney	Brisbane, Australia	2020-11-14
Hazel Dunbar	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Kevun Ferry	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Sara Dick	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Steve Currie	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Pauline Grigor	Spennymoor, England, UK	2020-11-14
Kelly Scott	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
gavin beveridge	london, UK	2020-11-14
carol trotter	Greenlaw, Berwickshire, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
Callum Call	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-14
David inches	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-14
Donnie Gordon	Sittingbourne, UK	2020-11-14
Maureen Love	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-15
Tazz Douglas	UK	2020-11-15

Name	Location	Date
Sylvia Magowan	Leeds, UK	2020-11-15
Peter Finn	Stockport, UK	2020-11-15
Susan Noble	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Peta Bernard	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Mandy Cleghorn	Australia	2020-11-15
Gill Donn	East Linton, UK	2020-11-15
louisa Marston	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-15
Robert Holmes	Lynn, UK	2020-11-15
Natasha Call	GalashielsGalashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-15
Abby Allen	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Kris Robinson	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-15
Mark Donaldson	Peebles, Scotland, UK	2020-11-15
Dylan Corrin	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Colette O'Leary	London, England, UK	2020-11-15
Stuart Burns	Dundee, Scotland, UK	2020-11-15
Margaret Sinclair	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Dianne Ramage	Tweedbank, Scotland, UK	2020-11-15
janine Mchutchon	Edinburgh, Scotland, UK	2020-11-15
Mark Sinclair	Gala, UK	2020-11-15
Nazera Rutherford	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Jason Graham	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-15
Rosemary Hamilton	Sacrison, UK	2020-11-15

Name	Location	Date
Katherine Awlson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Ros Ferguson	Hawick, UK	2020-11-15
Leigh Dickson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Lydia Friend	Somerset, UK	2020-11-15
Douglas Taylor	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Mike McEwan	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-15
Lisa Durno	Glasgow, Scotland, UK	2020-11-15
Zoe Manthorpe	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Maggie Stead	Leeds, UK	2020-11-15
Alan Scott	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-15
Jim Turnbull	Selkirk, UK	2020-11-15
John Rogerson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Donald Young	Chorley, UK	2020-11-15
Vicky Cunningham	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
carrie young	Stoke-on-trent, UK	2020-11-15
Edward Smith	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	2020-11-15
Maureen Ramage	Basingstoke, UK	2020-11-15
Richard Lees	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-15
Kate Marsh	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Kathleen Wilson	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-15
Aude Le Guennec	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Laura Thomson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15

Name	Location	Date
Maureen Watt	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-15
Stephen Thompson	Romford, UK	2020-11-15
Avril Baird	UK	2020-11-15
Thomas Hardie	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-15
Michael Hillier	Totnes, UK	2020-11-15
Alexandra Watson	South Shields, England, UK	2020-11-15
Thomas Meacher	Cambridge, UK	2020-11-15
Maria Schiller	Teddington, UK	2020-11-15
Joan Palmer	Greater London, UK	2020-11-15
John Stephenson	Ivegill, UK	2020-11-15
Donna Allen	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-15
Andrew Ainsworth	Crewe, UK	2020-11-15
stella shackle	Blofield, UK	2020-11-15
Elizabeth Bailey	Plymouth, UK	2020-11-15
John McClure	Kettering, UK	2020-11-15
Stella Grumann	Colchester, UK	2020-11-15
William McCulloch	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	2020-11-15
Pete Rendall	Bristol, UK	2020-11-15
M Heals	Bromley, UK	2020-11-15
Coleen Thomas	London, England, UK	2020-11-15
Chris Twilley	Addlestone, UK	2020-11-15
Natalie Gray	Bromsgrove, UK	2020-11-15

Name	Location	Date
eric hart	Ilkeston, UK	2020-11-15
Kelvin Cooper	Hove, UK	2020-11-15
Kevan Crossin	Kelty, UK	2020-11-15
Ivor MOODY	Sheffield, UK	2020-11-15
marc antony	Ilford, UK	2020-11-15
John Parker	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	2020-11-15
Iain D MacFadyen	Galshiels, UK	2020-11-15
Joshua Curphey	Peterborough, UK	2020-11-15
Dennis Driver	Mitcham, UK	2020-11-15
David Mackenzie	Newcastle upon Tyne, UK	2020-11-15
Robin Smart	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-16
Vasileios Grigoriou	Birkenhead, England, UK	2020-11-16
Ezra Sutcliffe	Warrington, UK	2020-11-16
Stephanie McCormick	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-16
Denise Baker	London, UK	2020-11-16
Noela Coles	Orchard Hills, Australia	2020-11-16
mandy brown	Weymouth, UK	2020-11-16
Martin Nicholson	Burton, England, UK	2020-11-16
Ian Chambers	Bristol, UK	2020-11-16
Peter Vacara	Stroud, UK	2020-11-16
Lynda Philip	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-16
kenny craigie	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-16

Name	Location	Date
Pamela Christie	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-16
Diane Fearn	Birmingham, UK	2020-11-16
Robert Bell	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-16
Ruth Pilkington	Huntingdon, UK	2020-11-16
Watson Crawford	Newstead, UK	2020-11-16
Morag Crawford	Bradford, UK	2020-11-16
Seb Watson	Ipswich, England, UK	2020-11-16
Lesley Clark Ogilvie	Livingston, UK	2020-11-16
Josephine Keys	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-16
Chie Dunford	London, UK	2020-11-16
alexander orman	Southwick, UK	2020-11-16
Tracey Murray	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-16
Christina White	Bexhill-on-Sea, UK	2020-11-16
Margaret Moore	London, UK	2020-11-16
Neil Small	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-16
Martin Gem	Wallington, UK	2020-11-16
Joanne Van Ness	Luton, UK	2020-11-16
John Light	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	2020-11-16
Moira Pflug	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-16
Emily Jenkins	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-16
Sue Musk	Burwell, UK	2020-11-16
karen rathbone	Birmingham, UK	2020-11-16

Name	Location	Date
Katharine Barrett	Bath, UK	2020-11-16
Stuart Corrin	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-16
Fiona Booth	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-16
Joseph Wood	Livingston, Scotland, UK	2020-11-16
Mairi Verrecchia	Dalkeith, UK	2020-11-16
Megan Reid	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-16
Susan Basak	Glasgow, UK	2020-11-16
Angela Laidlaw	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-16
Rob Wilson	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-16
Billie Pflug	Midlem, UK	2020-11-16
Mike Johnston	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-16
Nicole Mullen	Kelso, Scotland, UK	2020-11-16
neil wilson	Millom, UK	2020-11-16
Laura Thomson	Duns, UK	2020-11-16
David Brown	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-16
Shirley Sandison	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-16
Jess Marais	London, UK	2020-11-16
Stephanie Lewis	Brighton, UK	2020-11-16
Matthew Marais	Glasgow, UK	2020-11-16
Iain Laidlaw	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-16
Colin Grzybowski	Loanhead, UK	2020-11-17
Edwina Cameron	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-17

Name	Location	Date
Wendy Forster	UK	2020-11-17
Lesley Rendall	Selkirk, UK	2020-11-17
Ashley Temple	Fauldhouse, UK	2020-11-17
Elizabeth Dalziel	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-17
Susan Thomson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-17
Jacqueline Ormiston	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-17
Elizabeth Mitchell	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-17
Jaz Smith	South Shields, UK	2020-11-17
John Booth	Clapham, UK	2020-11-17
Anne Wilson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-17
Lisa Davidson	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-17
Ann Dixon	London, UK	2020-11-17
kevin easterbrook	kilmarnock, Scotland, UK	2020-11-17
Noelle Perrett	Cockenzie, Scotland, UK	2020-11-17
trev bees	CATERHAM, England, UK	2020-11-17
Kenneth Philip	Glasgow, UK	2020-11-17
Jane Grieve	UK	2020-11-17
John Philip	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-17
Michael Grieve	Ashkirk, UK	2020-11-17
Elizabeth Sanderson	Melrose, UK	2020-11-17
Iona Duncan	Selkirkshire, UK	2020-11-17
Norrie Smith	UK	2020-11-17

Name	Location	Date
Joanna Wilson	UK	2020-11-17
Sandra Craig	Heiton, UK	2020-11-17
David Aitken	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-17
Alison Brownlee	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-17
Pauline Callaghan	Clovenfords, Scotland, UK	2020-11-17
Linda Kinsman Blake	Jedburgh, UK	2020-11-17
Marion Stirling	Coatbridge, UK	2020-11-17
Alison Hore	Selkirk, Scotland, UK	2020-11-17
Katherine Ainslie	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-18
Veronica H	London, UK	2020-11-18
Alison McKenna	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-18
Jermaine Bromfield	Watford, UK	2020-11-18
Anne MacFadyen	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-18
T Malins	Wilnecote, UK	2020-11-18
Susan Avery	High Wycombe, UK	2020-11-18
Vivienne Purves	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-18
William Curry	Newcastle upon Tyne, UK	2020-11-18
Trish Gray	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-18
Liz-Anne Maben	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-18
Neil Tough	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-18
Michael Douglas	Livingston, UK	2020-11-18
Carol Carrick	Melrose, Scotland, UK	2020-11-18

Name	Location	Date
Julia Roberts	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-18
Claire Alexander	Saint Albans, UK	2020-11-18
allan wood	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-18
Janet McDougall	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-19
Louise Hollywood	Glasgow, UK	2020-11-19
Paul Gibson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-19
Jeffrey Wrack	Scunthorpe, UK	2020-11-19
Pat Floate	Peebles, Scotland, UK	2020-11-19
Ian Rae	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-19
Dawn Beckley	Gosport, UK	2020-11-19
Hannah Adams	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-19
David Hollins	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-19
Ross Petrie	Edinburgh, Scotland, UK	2020-11-19
Jackie Cameron	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-19
richard clark	Cowdenbeath, UK	2020-11-19
Lisa wardle	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-19
Lynda Parks	Melrose, Scotland, UK	2020-11-19
Angela Kara	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-19
Patricia Mosel	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	2020-11-19
Paul Bartlett	Birmingham, UK	2020-11-19
Emma Noble	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-19
Mike Burn	Durham, UK	2020-11-19

Name	Location	Date
Jim Aitchison	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-19
John Goskirk	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-19
Janet cleghorn	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-19
Steven Gbson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-19
G Forsyth	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
laura clayton	aberdeen, UK	2020-11-20
Kirsty Speed	Leuchars, Scotland, UK	2020-11-20
Ross Gardiner	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Laurence Reid	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Alexander Jones	Kelso, UK	2020-11-20
Gavin Whitelaw	Braintree, UK	2020-11-20
Nohea Gender equality	Glasgow, UK	2020-11-20
Shirley Li	UK	2020-11-20
Derek Calder	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-20
Les Allan	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Paul Overton	Camberley, UK	2020-11-20
Norman Robertson	Newcastle, UK	2020-11-20
Ian Walker	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Giselle Fox	London, UK	2020-11-20
Sarita Curnow	Neston, UK	2020-11-20
Sebastian Sanchez	Clacton on sea, UK	2020-11-20
MARGARET WHYTE	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20

Name	Location	Date
John Brewer	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
James Simpson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Fiona Stewart	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Mary McLaren	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Mandy Mclean	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Callum Gourdie	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Nicola Strother	Hampton, New Hampshire, US	2020-11-20
Linda Norrie	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
James Mclean	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
James Scott	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Graham MacDonald	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Ena Scott	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Anne roy	galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Tracy Luke	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Jon Mclean	Durham, UK	2020-11-20
Bess MacArthur	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Dalvender Singh	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
RICHARD CLARK	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Roy Thomson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Doreen Thomson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Raymond Law	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Shaun Law	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-20

Name	Location	Date
Lynn Law	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Kerry Wood	Edinburgh, Scotland, UK	2020-11-20
Fiona Aitchison	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Sandra Mcgurn	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
David Hughes	Dunfermline, UK	2020-11-20
Angie Carmichael	Linlithgow, Scotland, UK	2020-11-20
Sandra Lunt	Cambridge, UK	2020-11-20
Julie Mein	Dumfries, Scotland, UK	2020-11-20
Rachel Winwood	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-20
Lucy Boyd	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Johanne Gardiner	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-20
Anne Cuerden	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Shona Cowe	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-20
Ryan Farrell	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Sandy Grieve	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Brian Docherty	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Jill MacDonald	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Karen Currie	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Lily Roberts	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Diane MacDonald	Peebles, UK	2020-11-20
Amber Baillie	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-20
Connor Milburn	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-21

Name	Location	Date
Annmarie Robertson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-21
grant mcculloch	galashiels, UK	2020-11-21
Gloria Ross	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-21
carol denovan	Lauder, Scotland, UK	2020-11-21
Jade Milne	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-21
Joanne Sinclair	Stevenage, UK	2020-11-21
Kim lawlor	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-21
Sonay Borucu	Doncaster, UK	2020-11-21
R Robson	Beaconsfield, UK	2020-11-21
Linda Doughty	Peterborough, UK	2020-11-21
Margaret Ross	Nottingham, UK	2020-11-21
Ben Brinton	Plymouth, UK	2020-11-21
Amber Mae	Stoke-on-trent, UK	2020-11-21
Ann Soy	Havant, UK	2020-11-21
Cecily Overli	Cranleigh, UK	2020-11-21
jill Zucker	London, UK	2020-11-21
Janet Sandford	Dorchester, UK	2020-11-21
Virginia Harrow	Croydon, UK	2020-11-21
Raluca Cristian	Doncaster, UK	2020-11-21
Ella Thursby	Balham, UK	2020-11-21
Ike Apakama	Nuneaton, UK	2020-11-21
Barbara Freeburn	Brecon, UK	2020-11-21

Name	Location	Date
Victor Bratu	East Ham, UK	2020-11-21
Manuela Sellitti	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-21
Susan Collins	Markinch, Scotland, UK	2020-11-21
Jean Brady	Leeds, UK	2020-11-21
Tonie Putter	Germany	2020-11-21
gillian shepherd	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-21
Neil Miller	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-21
Lee Joselyn	Thatcham, UK	2020-11-21
Steve Crisp	Plymouth, UK	2020-11-21
Tracy Cussell	Diss, UK	2020-11-21
Hayley Walker	Linlithgow, UK	2020-11-21
Heini Apajainen	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-21
William Pflug	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-22
Shaun Craig	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-22
Eve.lyn Paterson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-22
michelle stamp	Hawick, Scotland, UK	2020-11-22
Raymond Kerr	Netherraw, UK	2020-11-22
Jim Wilson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-22
keith farmer	penicuik, Scotland, UK	2020-11-22
George Johnston	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-22
emma li	galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-22
John Wood Wood	Broxburn, UK	2020-11-22

Name	Location	Date
Lesley Brown	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	2020-11-22
Ann Craig	Dalkeith, UK	2020-11-22
E Glass	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-22
Rosanne McGillvary	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-22
Arthur Smith	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-22
William Paterson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-22
Marc Williams	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-22
Mimi Paterson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-22
Aiden Craig	Alloa, UK	2020-11-22
Isobel Cleghorn	Selkirk, Scotland, UK	2020-11-23
s Littlefield	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-23
Graeme Burton	Bathgate, UK	2020-11-23
John Hardie	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	2020-11-23
George Henry	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-23
Laura Thomson	Peebles, Scotland, UK	2020-11-23
Glen McGillivray	Hawick, UK	2020-11-23
Annabelle Lugton	Tweedbank, UK	2020-11-23
Claire Kent	Stonehaven, Scotland, UK	2020-11-23
Maggie Trevelyan	Kiltarlity, Scotland, UK	2020-11-23
john ruddiman	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-23
James Mzee	UK	2020-11-23
Leanne MacDonald	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-24

Name	Location	Date
Gary Cleghorn	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-24
Veronica Bailey	Inverness, UK	2020-11-24
Elizabeth Robson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-24
Brian Leitch	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-24
Anne Laidlaw	Musselburgh, Scotland, UK	2020-11-24
John Lees	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-24
Frank Winfield	Trowbridge, UK	2020-11-24
A James	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-24
Chelsie Miller	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-24
Diane Baker	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-25
Tom Cass	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	2020-11-25
Patricia McMorran	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-25
Caroline Bailey	Aberdeen, Scotland, UK	2020-11-25
Joyce Biggar	Earlston, UK	2020-11-25
Suzanne Little	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-25
Emma Ward	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-25
Hugh Chalmers	melrose, Scotland, UK	2020-11-25
Judith Heap	Manchester, UK	2020-11-25
Alan Simpson	Washington, UK	2020-11-25
Stewart Cheyne	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-25
Billy Duffy	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-25
Mel Duncan	Durham, UK	2020-11-25

Name	Location	Date
Lara Faris	Penicuik, UK	2020-11-25
Leanne Haining	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-26
Andrea Rae	East Lothian, UK	2020-11-26
Miss claudia Miller	Plymouth, UK	2020-11-26
Sabir Ali	London, UK	2020-11-26
diehardsteven diehardsteven	Falmouth, UK	2020-11-26
Maureen Wade	Bristol, UK	2020-11-26
Janette Townsend	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-26
HR Nichol	Galasheils, UK	2020-11-26
Marta Walejewska	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-26
edward adamson	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-26
Anna Russell	Gateshead, UK	2020-11-26
George Watson	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-26
Ruth Taylor	Edinburgh, Scotland, UK	2020-11-27
Susan Henry	Saint Albans, UK	2020-11-27
Jessie Harrington	GALASHIELS, Scotland, UK	2020-11-27
doreen hollywood	Ayrshire, UK	2020-11-27
Mathew Whittles	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-27
Alice Haining	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-28
Karen Lawson	Edinburgh, UK	2020-11-28
Lidija Livesey	Galashiels, Scotland, UK	2020-11-28

Name	Location	Date
Karen Maitland	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-29
David Little	UK	2020-11-29
Ann Adam's	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-29
Andrew Haining	Galashiels, UK	2020-11-29
Monica riddell	Barking And Dagenham, UK	2020-12-01
Dominic Livesey	Galashiels, UK	2020-12-01

GALASHIELS COMMUNITY CAMPUS

Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure

AUDIT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 January 2021

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides a briefing and response to a petition dated 30 November 2020 in connection with the development of the Galashiels Community Campus and its impact on Scott Park.**
- 1.2 The report to Council on 28 November 2018 recommended that individualised delivery plans should continue to be prepared for Galashiels, Hawick, Selkirk and Peebles HS. The report identified that the new secondary school for Galashiels should remain the Council's priority.
- 1.3 During 2019 and 2020, design progress has continued to be made within the capital budget allowance. During the course of 2020, the project team were identifying that the preferred location for the new building would be on part of Scott Park.
- 1.4 As part of the normal project process to understand below ground risks, a site investigation survey work was undertaken in and around the existing Galashiels Academy.
- 1.5 This resulted in local and community based interest in this work, including an awareness of the likely impact on part of Scott Park from which the petition titled 'Save Scott Park – Galashiels' has been prepared and submitted to the Council.
- 1.6 A report to Council on 17 December 2020 identified the range of options considered to replace the existing Academy and recommended that a consultation process should commence. A recommendation within the report indicates that the Council has identified that the preferred location for the new building is on part of Scott Park.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Over the last 15 years or so, the Council has replaced 5 out of 9 secondary schools with more modern and fit for purpose facilities. All 5 of these replacement schools have been new builds on new sites, to allow the education provision at the existing school to be maintained with the minimum disruption to the learners as possible.
- 2.2 The report to Council on 28 November 2018 identified that the preferred location for the replacement Galashiels Academy should be focused on the existing school site. It was agreed at that time that the secondary school in Galashiels should form the Council's priority education project. The report also included very early concept work for a school design at the

existing Academy.

- 2.3 It is noted that the School Premises (General Requirements and Standards) (Scotland) Regulations 1967 identifies that the site of a 1000 pupil school should not be less than approximately 6 hectares including associated roads and paths. The existing Galashiels Academy site is approximately 7.14 hectares of which 5.46 hectares is what usable. It can be seen from this that there is little free space within the existing site.
- 2.4 The Capital Investment Plan in 2019 and 2020 has included budget to allow for early design development work to take place. During 2019 and 2020, a design team was appointed to develop a building design to accommodate the forecast roll of 1000 pupils.

3 OPTION APPRAISAL OF BUILDING LOCATION

- 3.1 The report to Council on 17 December 2020 identified that 5 locations for the new building and the associated external sports facilities had been developed. These 5 options were assessed as part of an options appraisal process where the advantages and disadvantages of each option was considered.
- 3.2 The project delivery team has analysed a range of different locations for the main replacement building and that of the associated external sports facilities and parking. The analysis has concentrated on the positive and negative elements of each option.
- 3.3 Of the 5 locations considered, 4 of these were able to be constructed with minimal impact on the existing Academy building, with the fifth involving a significant temporary decant.
- 3.4 Option 3 within that appraisal required that the building portion of the overall replacement facility should be located on part of Scott Park. Following the completion of the new building, the existing building would be demolished and external sports facilities provided to complete the project.
- 3.5 The report identified that this option required building on part of Scott Park and acknowledged its Local Development Plan designation as key greenspace. A mitigation strategy was developed to provide for a replacement and enhancement of the loss of this key greenspace. A technical feasibility study and independent planning advice was included as an appendix to the report.
- 3.6 Overall, and following a review of all viable options, Officers considered that Option 3 provided for the most advantageous range of benefits and should be taken forward as the preferred way forward to the subsequent consultation stage. The report was approved by Council on 17 December 2020.
- 3.7 It is noted and acknowledged above that a ground investigation survey was prepared and undertaken so as to inform and finalise the option appraisal process. To take advantage of the school holiday period, the survey was completed in October 2020. A total of 18 trial pits and 19 boreholes were completed during that survey. 10 of these were within the existing Academy boundary and the remaining 27 were located within Scott Park.

4 COMMENTARY ON THE 'SAVE SCOTT PARK' PETITION

- 4.1 The petition as lodged on 30 November 2020 requests that the Council take

- steps to provide the new Community Campus without impacting on Scott Park.
- 4.2 Section 2 above identifies that the Council decision on 29 November 2018 resulted in the need to develop a proposal for the new Galashiels Community Campus while keeping the existing Academy operational. This would be referred to as a 'tandem build' arrangement. This was a key criteria of the options considered.
 - 4.3 Section 3 above identifies that the report to Council on 17 December 2020 describes the option appraisal process undertaken on 5 viable locations for the new Galashiels Community Campus. The report on 17 December 2020 concluded that the most advantageous option considered should be on Scott Park. The report acknowledged that this will have an impact on Scott Park and its key greenspace designation. Council approved the report on 17 December 2020.
 - 4.4 Considering this key greenspace designation, independent planning advice was obtained which identified that there would be prospects to promote a planning application for the new Community Campus. The planning advice identifies that, subject to justification, replacement greenspace adjacent to the development would be considered material to a planning application. The appendix to the report to Council on 17 December 2020 identified landscape proposals that re-provide and enhance Scott Park. These proposals will be developed in more detail as part of the ongoing design process to improve access, usability and the overall environment of the park.
 - 4.5 The report to Council on 17 December 2020, identified the range of options considered; identified a preference for Option 3; and agreed to take the project to public consultation. At the present time, public consultation material is being prepared with the intention of commencing early February 2021.
 - 4.6 The public consultation is intended to be structured under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. Within this legislation, the Council is required to consult on a 'relevant proposal'. While the consultation material will show and describe all options considered, it is intended that the 'relevant proposal' will be Option 3 as contained within the report to Council on 17 December 2020.
 - 4.7 It is relevant to note that the project will cover an area greater than 2 hectares and as such a 'Proposal of Application Notice' (PAN) will be required under planning legislation. This process will take place prior to a full planning application. This was discussed within section 5 of the report to Council on 17 December 2020.
 - 4.8 In preparation for the Audit & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14 January, Officers have reviewed the requirements of the PAN and intend delaying this consultation process until after the consultation which is being prepared under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
 - 4.9 It should be noted that the Council has now been given confirmation from Scottish Government that the bid for funding support for Galashiels Community Campus and Peebles High School have been successful. It is expected that the funding conditions will require the Council to make demonstrable efforts to complete the projects as swiftly as possible.
 - 4.10 It is also noted that it is normal practice for building and infrastructure projects to undertake ground investigation works. This work ensures that

below ground risks that could affect the construction process are understood. This can have the advantage of increasing the cost certainty for projects. It is noted that the survey work was devised and prepared based on the Council's preferred option. Again, this is normal practice.

- 4.11 It is acknowledged that this survey work appears to have been the catalyst for local and community based opposition to a proposed development that impacts on Scott Park. Prior to the petition being received on 30 November 2020, Council Officers across a number of services have been dealing and addressing the issues being raised. Officers have taken steps to meet groups, including the nearby Scott Crescent residents, in an attempt to be proactive and engage with the community.

Approved by

John Curry

Service Director Assets & Infrastructure Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Steven Renwick	Projects Manager – 01835 826687

Background Papers: Report to Council – 17 December 2020

Previous Minute Reference: Nil

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Contact us at PlaceProjects@scotborders.gov.uk



TACKLING CHILD POVERTY

**Report by Service Director Customer & Communities and
Service Director Young People, Engagement & Inclusion**

AUDIT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 January 2021

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report provides an overview of the evaluation of the actions that Scottish Borders Council and Partners are taking to tackle Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders.**
- 1.2 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan, Report and an Annual Progress report. A Report, Action Plan and Annual Progress Report for both 2018/19 and 2019/20 were agreed by the Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board, submitted to Scottish Government and published on the Council's website. A current Report and Action Plan for 2020/21 has also been agreed and published with an Annual Progress Report to follow in April 2021.
- 1.3 Annual Progress Reports provide updates from the Council, NHS Borders and other partners on the actions set out for the year and allows evaluation to take place in terms of how effective they are in tackling Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Audit and Scrutiny Committee notes the methodology and reporting approach taken towards evaluating actions of Scottish Borders Council and Partners in tackling Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders.**

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government's statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030. Local Authorities and Health Boards are required to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Report (including an Action Plan) and subsequently an annual progress report by the end of June each year.

3.2 The Child Poverty Planning Group (CPPG) manages the implementation of the Plan and is accountable to the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership (CPP). The CPPG is a strategic group with senior multi-agency membership and exists to plan actions, undertake actions, and monitor and report actions to the CPP. Membership of the CPPG is shown in Appendix 1.

3.3 Action Plans are prepared within themes and outline the activity taking place, which partners are involved, which poverty driver the action seeks to improve, intended beneficiaries/target groups and how the impact will be assessed. The Annual Progress Reports also show an update on each action.

3.4 The Poverty and Inequality Commission published a review of the Local Child Poverty Action Reports 2018/19 in December 2019. <https://povertyinequality.scot/publication/review-of-the-local-child-poverty-action-reports/>
A recommendation that was highlighted for local action was 'to review how data and evidence is used to measure progress and ensure effective evaluation and monitoring methods are in place'. Our approach to this recommendation is outlined in Paragraph 7.

3.5 Annual Progress Reports were submitted to Scottish Government in June 2019 for 2018/19 (attached as Appendix 2) covering the period of April 2018 to March 2019, and in September 2020 for 2019/20, covering the period of April 2019 to March 2020 (link below). These reports contained updates on actions taken by Scottish Borders Council, NHS Borders and other Partners towards tackling child poverty.

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/7569/child_poverty_annual_report_2019-20

3.6 The Scottish Borders Local Child Poverty Report and Action Plan for 2020/21 was endorsed by the Community Planning Strategic Board in November 2020 and submitted to Scottish Government thereafter.

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/7696/child_poverty_annual_report_2020-21

4 ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018/19

- 4.1 Work undertaken to mitigate the impact of Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders in 2018/19 included:
- (i) Modern Apprentice opportunities created by Scottish Borders Council and Housing Associations.
 - (ii) Targeted support and intervention to close the poverty related attainment gap by making use of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) locally where it is needed most.
 - (iii) Active promotion of free school meal entitlement, clothing grants and educational maintenance allowances to ensure children and families claim these where appropriate.
 - (iv) Early Years Pathway Project providing advice and access to benefits information through SBC's Financial Inclusion Team.
 - (v) Development of the Rapid Re-housing Transition Plan to assist those at risk of homelessness.

5 ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019/20

- 5.1 Good progress has been made against the actions set out in the 2019/20 Action Plan. Highlights include:
- (i) Creating apprenticeships and training opportunities for young people through commissioning of new and existing home investment. Eildon Housing Association and Harts Builders working in partnership to create apprenticeships and training opportunities through the delivery of affordable housing projects. Eildon and Harts Builders have jointly funded a Community Benefits Officer.
 - (ii) Inspire Learning is a £16million 1:1 education transformation programme which Scottish Borders Council has centrally funded prior to COVID19. By March 2020 every secondary pupil had their own managed iPad to take home, by July 2020 iPads were provided to primary pupils in classes P6-P7, and by the end of 2020 all pupils in P4 and P5 had their own devices for the academic year 2020/21. This initiative has assisted greatly with the avoidance of digital exclusion and the widening of access via the provision of technology and equipment has been very well received by schools, students and their families.
 - (iii) Early Years Pathway Pilot Project – improving access to benefits information, advice & support for early years families. The advice facility at Health Centres was arranged as part of the NHS "Pathway initiative" where Midwives are encouraged to refer expectant mothers for benefit advice. Uptake of the service was slow at the outset however as

communication of the service improved so did the take up. The advisor now has regular referrals from Health Visitors, Nurses and new and expectant mothers as well as telephone and email messages requesting advice. The number of enquires during the first 6 month period totalled 39, resulting in an increase in benefits of £76,000. The majority of enquiries concerned pre-birth issues but many of the mothers involved said that they would be contacting the advisor again when the baby was born to ascertain their revised entitlement at that time. A few weeks into the project, the Scottish Social Security Area manager attended a Centre to discuss the new Scottish Best Start and Best Food grants and during that meeting they had the opportunity to help three expectant mothers to claim their grants.

6 2020/21 REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

6.1 The 2020/21 Local Child Poverty Action Report and Action Plan sets out proposed actions to tackle Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders, including actions to address the impact of Covid-19 locally. Action Plan highlights include:

- (i) A Money Worries App is being developed to signpost people to find services to help with issues such as money, housing, health and work. The App will be launched in Spring 2021.
- (ii) Successful applications have been made to the Connecting Scotland Programme by a range of partners, enabling families, care leavers and vulnerable people to get online through the provision of a device.
- (iii) Individual school plans for targeted intervention are being developed to close the poverty related attainment gap. The tailored plans enable children to gain skills in numeracy and literacy.
- (iv) Families in crisis can benefit from accessing emergency funds via routes such as Borders Children's Charity, Cash for Kids and other specific funds.
- (v) Delivery of new affordable housing during 2020/21 which benefits all families and young people in housing need.

7 METHODOLOGY AND REPORTING APPROACH

7.1 The Poverty and Inequality Commission recommendation to 'review how data and evidence is used to measure progress and ensure effective evaluation and monitoring methods are in place' (see Paragraph 3.4) has been, and continues to be considered in Child Poverty Reporting in the Scottish Borders.

7.2 Evaluation and monitoring methods continue to be strengthened and are reviewed by the Child Poverty Planning Group to ensure

that they are effective in providing an update on tackling child poverty.

- 7.3 Within the Action Plans, there is a column to indicate how the impact of each action will be assessed. This is provided by each relevant partner and is a mixture of evaluation, statistical information and local reporting.
- 7.4 Partners are invited to provide an update for the reporting period (year), and this is used to inform the CPP of progress made against each action.
- 7.5 Some actions are monitored and reported for specific purposes to other organisations e.g. Scottish Welfare Fund. Where this is the case, the same data and information is used for Child Poverty Reporting and evaluation.

8 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

8.2 Risks and Mitigations

Risks associated with this report relate to the deepening problem of child poverty as a result of COVID-19. Families already experiencing poverty before COVID-19 are likely to face further difficulties and new families will be identified as in poverty.

The 2020/21 Report and Action Plan focus on the impact of COVID-19 to ensure that an appropriate response is made to the unprecedented challenge facing the Local Authority, Health Board and Partners.

Effective evaluation and monitoring processes are key to contributing to mitigating the risks presented.

8.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

There are no equalities issues associated with this report.

8.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no economic, social or environmental effects associated with this report.

8.5 Carbon Management

There are no effects on carbon emissions as a result of this report.

8.6 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation as a result of this report.

9 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 This report is to provide information to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on the methodology and reporting approach taken towards evaluating actions of the Council and Partners in tackling Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders, therefore no consultation is required.

Approved by

Jenni Craig
Service Director Customer and Communities

Signature

Lesley Munro
Service Director Young People, Engagement and Inclusion

Signature

Author

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Janice Robertson	Strategic Planning & Policy Manager, Ext 5511

Background Papers: N/A

Previous Minute Reference: N/A

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Contact us at Scottish Borders Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, Tel 01835 824000, performance@scotborders.gov.uk.

Appendix 1

Membership of Child Poverty Planning Group
Customer & Communities - Scottish Borders Council
Children & Young People - Scottish Borders Council
Housing Strategy - Scottish Borders Council
Corporate Policy - Scottish Borders Council
Public Health – NHS Borders
Child Health – NHS Borders
Health Improvement – NHS Borders
Borders College
Volunteer Centre Borders
South of Scotland Enterprise
Live Borders
Scottish Borders Housing Association
Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Service
Citizens Advice Bureaux
Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Centre
The Bridge
Youth Borders

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SCOTTISH BORDERS CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN

Introduction

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government's statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030.

The national Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-2022, Every Child, Every Chance recognises that poverty comes about as a result of three main drivers: household income, living costs, social security arrangements. The Delivery Plan takes these three drivers as the focus for action. It also recognizes the importance of preventative measures to improve children's quality of life and help families manage the impacts of poverty. Even if these actions have no immediate impact on the targets, building children's resilience in the face of poverty and other adversity is expected boost their long-term outcomes.

Although the greatest impact on child poverty will occur through nationally set policies and strategies, it is recognised that local agencies and communities have much to contribute to achieving the outcomes desired. As a result, the Act requires local authorities and Health Boards to prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report. Annual progress reports, the first of which is due June 2019, are expected to describe activities undertaken and planned locally to contribute towards the child poverty targets set out in the Act.

This Local Action Plan for Scottish Borders outlines the challenges faced, how this plan links to existing activity, what we are committed to delivering over the 2018/19 financial year and areas we would like to develop further in the future. We recognise that partnership is key to the achievement of the outcomes we want for our children, young people and families in Scottish Borders.

National Context and Targets

After housing costs, data for the period 2015-18 suggests 240,000 children were living in poverty in Scotland. This is equivalent to one in every four children. In Scotland, around 7 in 10 children living in poverty live in a household where at least one adult is working, and 10% of children are living in persistent poverty (living in poverty in 3 of the last 4 years)¹.

¹ Source: Scottish Government (2018) Poverty and Income Inequality: 2014-17

To address child poverty in Scotland, the Scottish Government has set itself ambitious targets to reduce poverty by 2030. The four key measurements, after housing costs (AHC) are as follows:

- less than 10% of children live in relative poverty (relative poverty is less than 60% of average UK household income for the year taking account of the size and composition of the household)
- less than 5% of children live in absolute poverty (absolute poverty is less than 60% of average UK household income for the financial year beginning 1 April 2010)
- less than 5% of children live in combined low income and material deprivation (low income is defined as less than 70% of average UK household income for the year, material deprivation is when families are unable to afford three or more items out of a list of basic necessities)
- less than 5% of children live in persistent poverty (persistent poverty is where a child has lived in relative poverty for three out of the last four years).

The most up to date national figures² for these 4 targets are:

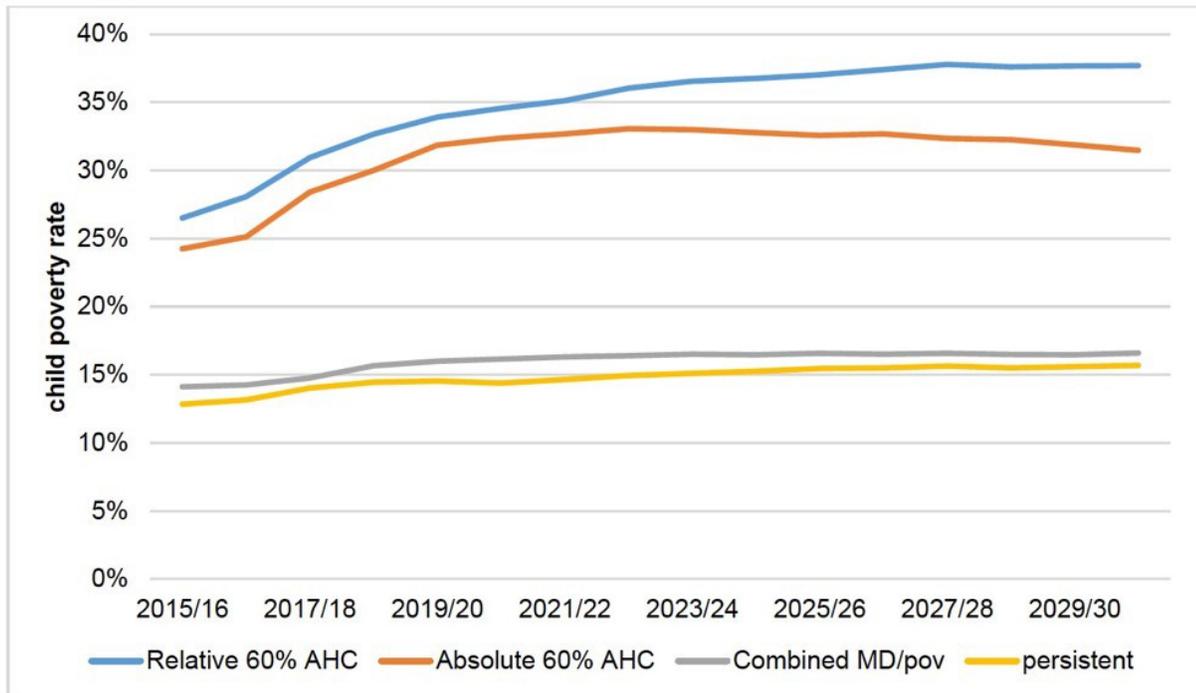
- In 2016/17 an estimated 23% of children were in relative poverty
- In 2016/17 an estimated 20% of children were in absolute poverty
- In 2016/17 an estimated 11% of children were in combined low income and material deprivation
- In (2012 to) 2016 an estimated 10% of children were in persistent poverty

Without intervention and mitigation at both a national and local level, Figure 1² forecasts that child poverty will increase across all 4 measures to 2030 and affect one in three children.

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/03/3017>

² <https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00533142.pdf>

Figure 1 - Headline child poverty rate forecasts



The projected increase in child poverty trends is linked to wider issues such as economic uncertainty associated with Brexit, welfare reform measures and rise in living costs (for example energy and fuel prices, transport and food). Recognising the external factors likely to impact on child poverty and the significant gap between existing poverty levels and the 2030 targets, the Scottish Government has set the following interim targets to be achieved by April 2023:

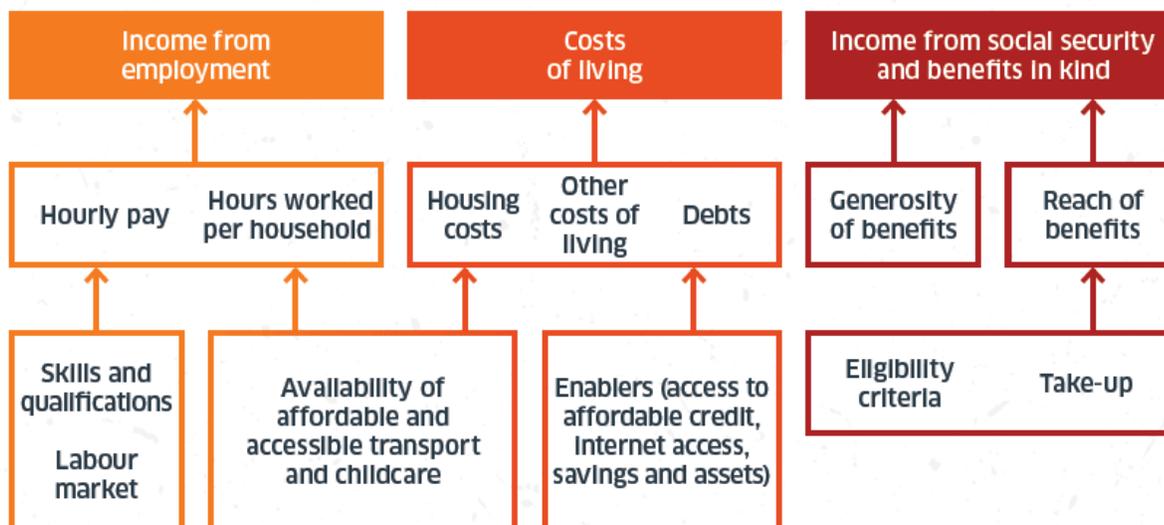
- Less than 18% of children are in relative poverty
- Less than 14% of children are in absolute poverty
- Less than 8% of children are in combined low income and material deprivation
- Less than 8% of children are in persistent poverty

Drivers of Child Poverty

The direct drivers of poverty fall in to three main categories – income from employment, costs of living and income from social security. The relationship of those drivers to wider thematic areas is summarised in Figure X

below.

Figure 2 - Drivers of child poverty



Key risk groups and targeted interventions

Child poverty action reports are expected to describe measures taken in relation to children living in households where income and / or expenditure are adversely affected as a consequence of a member or members in a household having one or more protected characteristics. The national Child Poverty Delivery Plan also identifies certain priority groups to be targeted as beneficiaries (see Figure X below), and notes the need to take account of local geography and demographic profile. For Scottish Borders, rurality is a key factor. Poverty can be both a cause and consequence of adversity and an understanding of the impact of adverse childhood experiences needs to be reflected in planned actions.

Recognising the nature of the distribution of risk associated with child poverty across the population in the Scottish Borders (i.e. protected characteristic groups, the risk groups identified in Figure X and the features of our rural area), the activities within this plan include both:

- Targeted efforts through programmes and interventions focused on particular groups
- Steps to ensure the accessibility of the wide range of activities that CPP partners undertake that contribute to the tackling poverty for all sectors of the population

Figure 3 - Nationally identified priority groups at high risk of poverty

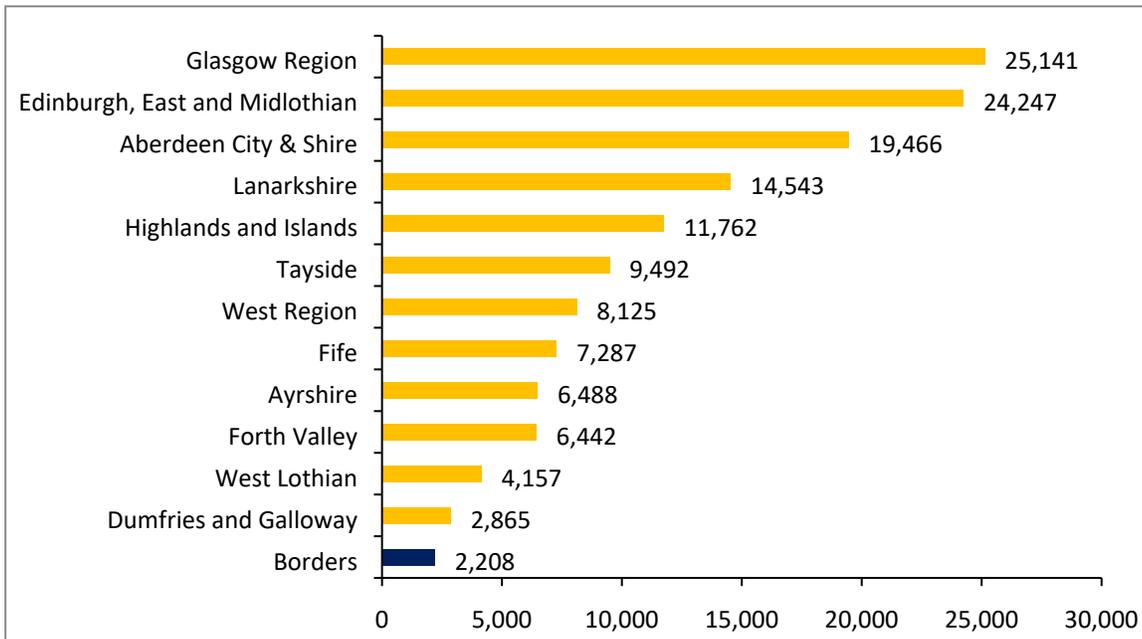


Child Poverty in Scottish Borders Local context

Scottish Borders faces some significant economic challenges that in turn affect family income and prospects. The structure of the economy locally is predicated on a heavy reliance on the public sector, manufacturing, farming and service industries. This means that many jobs tend to be lower paid than in other areas of Scotland (who benefit from sectors such as finance and media). Gross Value Added (GVA) is an economic measure used to show the monetary value for the amount of goods and services that have been produced/ provided in an area - the higher the value of the goods and services, the higher the GVA. The difference between Borders and many other regions in Scotland can be seen below:

Figure 4 - Gross Value Added (GVA), Regional Comparison 2024 (£million, constant 2013 prices)³

³ Source: Skills Development Scotland, Oxford Economics analysis



As a consequence of the types of jobs available, median full-time gross weekly earnings (by place of work) in the Scottish Borders continue to lag behind Scotland at £467 compared to £526 (Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, April 2017) and are the fourth lowest in Scotland. This has been the case for some time (see figure below) and has obvious impacts on children and families, with many families in the Borders who have two parents in full time employment, 'just getting by'.

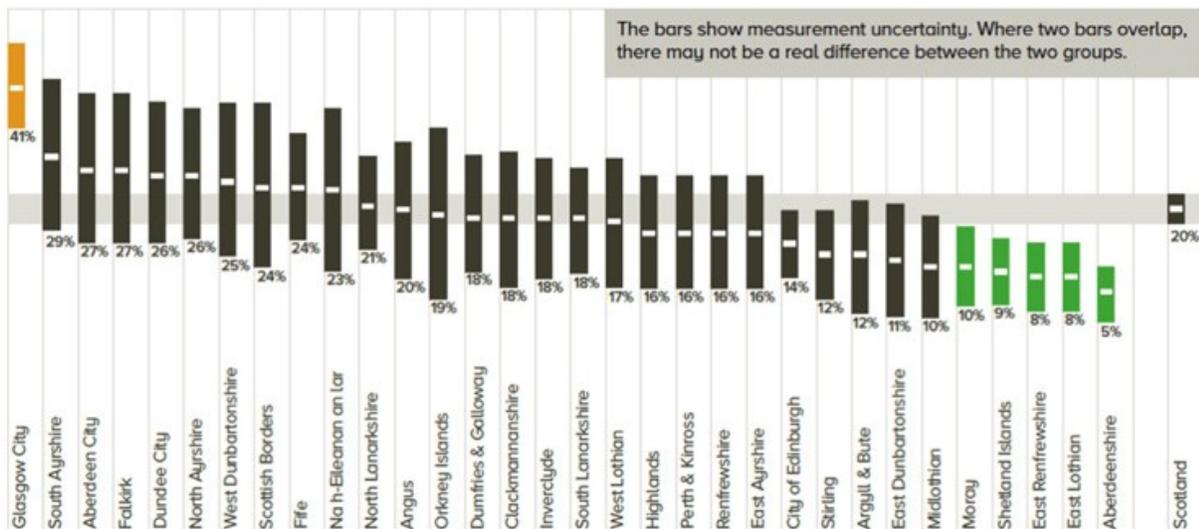
Figure 5- Workplace based gross median weekly pay 1997 to 2015, Nomis



A recent Scottish Government report entitled 'Children in families with limited resources 2014 - 2016' shows that 24% of children in the Scottish Borders live in families with limited resources (see graph below).

Surprisingly, this report shows that the percentage of families in the Scottish Borders is higher than in many other comparable rural local authorities, which means that our children are more likely to be in poverty compared to, for example Moray and East Lothian.

Figure 6: Percentages of Children Who Live In Families with Limited Resources by Council Area



HMRC child poverty data (2015) show increases in levels for the Scottish Borders as a whole (12.1% up from 10.9% in 2012), and for Scotland at 16.3% (up from 15.3% in 2012). A breakdown of data at intermediate data zone (i.e. at smaller areas such as wards) indicates that some parts of the Scottish Borders have child poverty levels as high as 33.6%. A snapshot is provided below.

Figure 7 - % Children in low income families August 2015 Snapshot: HMRC

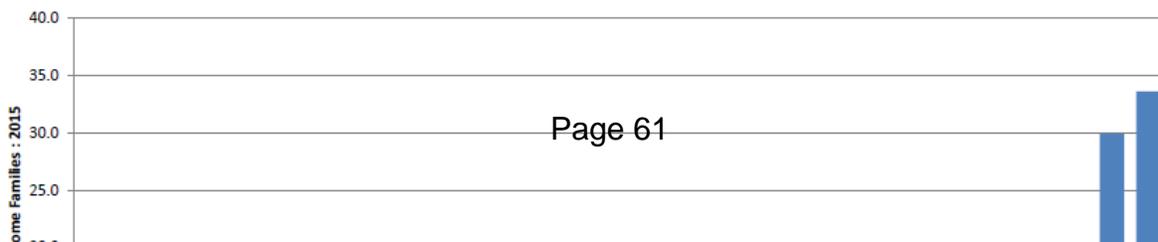


Figure8: Child poverty levels after housing costs in 2018

Local Authority	Number of children	% of children	Number of children	% of children
Scottish Borders	4390	18.5%	5903	25%
Ward				
Tweeddale West Ward	Number of children	% of children	Number of children	% of children
Galashiels and District Ward	211	14.2%	247	17%
East Berwickshire Ward	762	25.3%	973	32%
Hawick and Hermitage Ward	324	17.2%	497	26%
Mid Berwickshire Ward	226	17.0%	331	25%
Kelso and District Ward	409	17.8%	628	27%
Jedburgh and District Ward	298	15.6%	474	25%
Leaderdale and	296	17.5%	429	25%
Melrose Ward	415	17.5%	424	18%
Tweeddale East Ward	593	16.6%	649	18%
Hawick and Denholm Ward	532	23.7%	766	34%
Selkirkshire Ward	357	18.1%	465	24%

Child Poverty Action 2019: HMRC and Labour Force Survey Data

Additional challenges also exist in relation to the funding that SBC receives from the Scottish Government to tackle inequality and deprivation. For example, in order to address the Closing the Gap agenda, Pupil Equality Fund (PEF) is awarded to all local authority areas. Allocations for 2017/18 and 2018/19 were made Free School Meal entitlement data and resulted in the allocation for Scottish Borders being significantly lower than some other areas where a lower proportion of families are deemed to be in the “Limited Resources” category (Fig X).

Inequality, poverty and deprivation in the Scottish Borders can remain hidden when looked at in a one-dimensional way i.e. using only Free School Meal entitlement. With this in mind, SBC developed a Child Poverty Index (CPI) when planning the roll out of the expanded early years provision in 2017/18, leading up to full implementation from August 2010. The CPI was intended to ensure that a more rounded and representative approach was taken, by providing additional insight into child poverty in the Scottish Borders. The index is derived from a score based on data related to four components for each of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders. These components are:

- Percent of children in Low Income Families (CiLIF) 2015 from HMRC
- Percent of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) 2018 from SBC’s SEEMIS
- Percent of pupils in receipt of Clothing Grant (CG) 2018 from SBC’s SEEMIS
- Percent of pupils aged 16+ in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) 2018 from SBC SEEMIS

This index illustrates that there are families in poverty in every intermediate zone in the Scottish Borders, and each of the five localities has a proportion of children which score highly i.e. experience greater poverty. (See appendix) .

Other local management information from services adds further detail to the picture of child poverty:

- 5% of households in the Borders are single parents with dependent children and in 2016, 120 homeless applications were submitted from single parents
- On average, there are 135 pregnancies each year in the Borders in women under 20. In 2013 (the most recent data available), there were 65 deliveries to mothers under 20 years of age
- There are approximately 550 children for whom English is an additional language
- 250 children and young people are looked after, 100 in foster care

Linkage with other strategic plans and priorities in Scottish Borders

The Scottish Borders Community Plan (known under the Community Empowerment Act as a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan) is based around four themes:

1. Our Economy, Skills and Learning: How do we build and improve our economy, skills and learning?
2. Our Health, Care & Wellbeing: How do we promote and improve our health, care and wellbeing?
3. Our Quality of Life: How do we protect and improve our quality of life?
4. Our Place: How do we develop and improve our place?

A key priority for the CPP within the Community Plan is reducing inequalities i.e. closing the gap between our least and most disadvantaged in our communities. The priorities in the integrated Children and Young People’s Plan 2018 – 21 are:

Figure 9: Priorities in Children and Young People’s Plan

PRIORITY 1 Keeping children and young people safe	OUTCOME More children and young people will be protected from abuse, harm or neglect and will be living in a supportive environment, feeling secure and cared for.
PRIORITY 2 Improving health and well-being and reducing inequalities	OUTCOME Inequalities in the health and wellbeing of young people are reduced
PRIORITY 3 Targeting support to maximise life experiences and opportunities and ensuring inclusion	OUTCOME Life experiences and opportunities are improved for children and young people who require our targeted support
PRIORITY 4 Increasing participation and engagement	OUTCOME All our children and young people will be encouraged to be involved in the planning, provision and delivery of services and their rights respected

The Reducing Inequalities Delivery Team, chaired by the Service Director Children & Young People, is committed to taking an early intervention and prevention approach across the four community planning themes.

Monitoring and reporting

The Child Poverty Action Planning process relates directly to the work of the Community Planning Partnership and the integrated children’s services planning. Progress of the Child Poverty Local Action Plan will be monitored through a multi agency planning group and reported through the CPP. The reporting cycle aligned with the reporting on the Integrated CYP Plan.

Monitoring will be aligned with the indicator set currently in development for local use through the Improvement Service. This set includes indicators on: the local context (egg % children in low income families); key drivers (egg % employees earning less than the Living Wage); and people (e.g. % of adults reporting a long term physical or mental health problem – household with children).

Current and planned activity to address child poverty in Scottish Borders

In developing this plan we recognise that partners are already undertaking a wide range of activities and delivering projects to prevent or mitigate the impact of child poverty. Table 1 outlines the main current areas of activity in 2018 – 19.

Table 2 sets out the actions we plan to take in the 2019 /20. Both the local authority and NHS Borders are required to report on income maximisation measures taken in the area to provide pregnant women and families with children with information, advice and assistance about eligibility for financial support; and assistance to apply for financial support. This includes work by the NHS Borders and partners to embed financial inclusion referral pathways in health care settings, as well as other settings.

Table 1 Work undertaken to mitigate impact of child poverty in Scottish Borders in 2018 – 2019

Activity	Who is carrying out this action (partners involved)	Poverty driver	How will impact be assessed?	Intended beneficiaries / target group
Employability		Income from employment		
SDS employability – collaborative approach to capture participation in employment, education and training among 16-19 year olds.	Skills Development Scotland (SDS) Schools	Income from employment	SDS Annual Participation Measure Report % 16-19 year olds participating in education, training or employment (currently 92.8% for 2018) % 16-19 year olds unemployed and seeking or not seeking employment (currently 2.2% for 2018) % 16-19 year olds with unconfirmed status (currently 5% for 2018)	Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation
Regional Skills Investment Plan for the South of Scotland Education and Skills partnership. This is recommendations around 6 themes and associated actions.	SoSEP Executive	“	Action Plan being developed	Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation
Modern Apprenticeship opportunities employed by Council MA progs (key themes – construction, care, office based roles, IT)	DYW, SDS RLS	Income from Employment	2017/18 performance – 17 apprentices in SBC 2 per annum	Age, disability

Creating apprenticeships and training opportunities through commissioning of new and existing home investment	All RSLs	Income from Employment	Annual evaluation 2019-20 Community Benefits for all contract work over £50k – resulted in local activity and sports clubs benefitting from improved facilities and other economic, social and environmental improvements. Development contractors took on 1 skills seeker, who has secured FTE with Harts Builders.	Young and long term unemployed people
DYW: Jobs Fair	DYW Industry Group SDS	“	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of events held per year. • Attendance at events • Number of vacancies • DYW Employer feedback 	
Activity Agreement - for young people aged 16-19 who have left school and require significant support to progress to a positive destination of formal learning, training or employment	Opportunities for All group	Income from employment	2018/19 performance data tbc	Age, disability
Employability Fund - targeted at young people aged 16-19 at stages 2 and 3 of the employability pipeline. Programme includes a mix of on- to-one support, accredited learning and work placement opportunities which take place both	Opportunities for All group	Income from employment	2018/19 performance data	Age, disability

within the Council and with local employers.				
Volunteering Opportunities – Tenants Organisations /Panels, Scrutiny Projects, Board Membership, Men’s sheds funding, befriending project (Berwickshire HA)	All RSLs	Income from Employment	BHA programme for tenants and others on low income on cooking on a budget BHA community fund to support local groups e.g. sports groups, guides, scouts etc.	All
Schools Programmes – construction awareness, tenancy sustainment, jobs in housing and Job Fairs	All RSLs	Income from Employment	Number of events held per year BHA Next Steps programme held annually in both Berwickshire Schools. Presentations at DYW events and attendance at local schools fairs. Construction partners offer apprenticeships and work placements	Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation
Education				
Expansion of ELC for all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 yr olds	SBC Funded providers in the Private and Voluntary sectors	Income from employment Cost of living	National target: 85% achieve developmental milestones at 27–30 m Local target- Deliver 1140 hrs of ELC to all children by 2020, phased prioritisation in areas of deprivation National evaluation methods are likely to be developed – local assessment will look at the number of eligible children accessing their entitlement and	Families with children under school age

			the number of parents able to access training/employment due to the expansion	
Promotion of Free School meal Entitlement, Clothing Grant and Educ. Maintenance Allowance	SBC Education	Costs of Living	Local target – 100% of schools actively promoting benefits. Increased uptake of benefits	Children and families
Poverty proofing school day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimising costs • Equalising access to opportunities • Reducing stigma 	SBC Education	Costs of Living	Local target – 100% schools considering cost of the school day and taking measures to reduce costs	Children and families
Targeted support to close attainment gap	SBC Education	Income from Employment Costs of Living	Local Target-100% of benefiting schools, using PEF and SAC to provide targeted interventions intended to raise attainment and close the poverty related attainment gap.	Children and families
Maximising financial support packages available for further and higher education students: I, Bursary, EMA and SAAS funds	Borders College	Income while studying and gaining new skills	Scottish Government participation and performance indicators	Low income threshold families Care experienced young people Single parent families
Access to discretionary funds/ childcare funds to support income shortfall	Borders College	Income while studying and gaining new skills	Scottish Government participation and performance indicators	Low income threshold families Care experienced young people Single parent families
Mentoring programme to assist young people most at risk from disengaging in education to transition from school to college	Borders College	Improving qualifications, skills and knowledge	Scottish Government participation and performance indicators	Care experienced Rural/social isolation Learning needs
Tea & Toast breakfast	Borders College		Student feedback	Low income families

drop in				Those travelling long distances to study
Customer info & signposting				
Wellbeing and welfare advisory service	Borders College	Improving access to and raising awareness of wellbeing and welfare support available Advocacy service to support contacts		Low income threshold families Care experienced young people Student Carers Single parent families Rural/social isolation Learning and or Disability needs
Welfare Benefits Advice, Financial Inclusion, Tenancy Sustainment & monitoring and evaluating the impact of welfare reform	RSLs	Costs of living Income from Employment Income from Social Security and Benefits in Kind	Total amount of debt managed on behalf of clients Estimated additional benefits received by clients supported by the information Hub UC impact analysis BHA generated over £800k in 18/19 through Financial Inclusion Team supporting our households and families to maximize their income potential.	Low income families and those dealing with financial changes or debt.
Early Years Pathway Pilot Project – improving access to benefits information, advice & Support for early years families	SBC Financial Inclusion Team NHS ELC	Income from benefits	Referral rates Income generated	Early Years Families

Early Years Assistant alert new mothers and expectant mothers to their benefit entitlement at each stage during their journey from pregnancy to parenthood.	SBC Financial Inclusion Team	Income from benefits	Income generated	Early Years Families
Scottish Welfare Fund Awareness Sessions	SBC Scottish Welfare Fund Team Leader	Cost of living Tenancy sustainability	SG Return	Low income individuals & families
Increase awareness and training for CASS front line staff in relation to the advice and assistance available for benefit advice in the early years.	SBC	Income from benefits		Early Years Families
Home Energy Advice & Effective referrals	Home Energy Forum (SBC, All RSLs, Changeworks & Energy Saving Trust	Cost of living Income from benefits	Annual report by HEF & referral numbers captured across housing tenures.	All with some targeting through key frontline services
Support to Refugees/minority ethnic families resettled in Scottish Borders	SBHA, Waverley and Eildon	Cost of living	Referral numbers captured	Race and religion
Housing				
Assessment of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Young People to inform the development of an Action Plan	LHS Partnership Group (SBC/RSLs/H&SC)	Cost of living	Action plan to address identified needs and priorities LHS Annual Progress and Monitoring Report	All young people aged between 16-34
Development of the Rapid Re-Housing Transition	Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic	Cost of living	Annual Reporting against KPIs established in the Action Plan	All, particularly those at risk of Homelessness

Plan	Partnership & LHS Partnership Group			
Value for Money in Rents	RSLs	Cost of Living	Annual assessment of rent levels against the SFHA Rent Affordability Tool.	Groups impacted on e.g. families, single young people etc.
Transitions for Looked After Young People	SBC & SBHA	Cost of living Income from employment & benefits	Annual evaluation of the project	Looked after young people supported in sustainable tenancies.
Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Efficiency Strategy	LHS Partnership Group & The Borders Home Energy Forum	Cost of living Income from benefits	LHS Annual Progress and Monitoring Report	All, but with some targeting toward those experiencing fuel poverty, or thought to be at risk of experiencing fuel poverty
Strategic Housing Investment Plan and supply of new Housing (particularly affordable/social rented)	LHS Partnership Group & The Borders Housing Alliance	Cost of living	SHIP Annual Progress and Monitoring Report	ALL
Improving House condition standards in the private sector through advice and assistance	SBC	Cost of living	LHS Annual Progress and Monitoring Report	ALL
Achievement of the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (ESSH) by December 2020	All RSLs	Costs of Living	% of homes meeting ESSH Target and those planned by 2020	Whole community and those in rural areas
Housing Contributions Statement (as part of the H&SC Strategic Plan)	H&SCP			
Health and Wellbeing				
Promoting awareness of ACEs and interaction with child poverty across sectors	NHS, SBC, ADP, Borders College, voluntary sector	Cost of living Wider adversities	No of participants in awareness raising sessions Reported impact on practice	Children and families services Adult services

NHS promotion of entitlements to Best Start Grant	HI, NHS HV and MWS	Income from benefits		Early years families Eligible families
review of current Holiday programmes	CLD, HI, Live Borders	Cost of living	Participant rates Community feedback	Families in targeted low income communities (E / BF / LL / Selk)
Free access to sanitary products to all students	Borders College	Cost of living	Government indicators	All menstruating students.
Free access to sport and leisure facilities for looked after children and young people	SBC / LB	Costs of Living	Scheme now live and leisure cards issued to all looked after young people in SB	Age, disability

Table 2 New / planned activities to impact of child poverty in Scottish Borders 2019 – 20

Activity: new services, planned improvement	Who is carrying out this action (partners involved)	Poverty driver	How will impact be assessed?	Timescale for action	Intended beneficiaries / target group
Employability					
Creating apprenticeships and training opportunities through commissioning of new and existing home investment	All RSLs	Income from Employment	Annual Evaluation	2019-20	Young and long term unemployed people
Development of City Deal workstream on housing, construction and infrastructure skills gateway	Citydeal Joint Committee	“	tbc	2019 – 20	Disadvantaged groups
Develop links with	Borderlands lead	“	tbc	2019 – 20	Disadvantaged groups

relevant Borderslands programmes					
Education					
Free access to sanitary products in schools and SBC workplaces	SBC	Cost of living	SG return	Local Target-100% of schools actively promoting benefits. Increased uptake of benefits.	Women and girls
Customer Info Signposting					
Easier and wider access to information, assistance and applications beyond free school meals and clothing grants, via increased digitalisation and self serve work programme.	SBC	Cost of living / income from benefits	Uptake rates	Ongoing	all
Avoidance of digital exclusion via advice and training rolled out as part of the digitalisation and self serve work programme, and the widening of access via provision of the technology and equipment necessary to take advantage of digital options	SBC	Cost of living / income from benefits		Ongoing	all
Better signposting	SBC	Cost of living /		Ongoing	all

and cross cutting advice on related topics being included as part of consistent digital offering		income from benefits			
Early Years Pathway Pilot Project – improving access to benefits information, advice & Support for early years families	SBC Financial Inclusion Team NHS	Income from benefits	Referral rates Income generated	May/June 2019	Early years families
Scottish Welfare Fund Awareness Sessions	SBC Scottish Welfare Fund Team Leader	Cost of living Tenancy sustainability	SG Return	Ongoing	Low income individuals & families
Fareshare Food distribution project – reduce food insecurity. Looking at creation of two new food distribution hubs Hawick and Peebles.	SBC Fareshare	Reduce food insecurity		Ongoing	Low income individuals & families
Promotion of CAB Financial Health Check service	SBC CAB	Income from benefits		Ongoing	All
Increase awareness and training for CASS front line staff in relation to the advice and assistance available for benefit advice in the early years.	SBC	Income from benefits		Ongoing	Early Years Families
Mitigate the impact of Universal Credit through joint working,	SBC, RSLs and Third Sector	Cost of living Income from Benefits	???	2019-20	Families and young people on low incomes

advice and support					
Housing					
Deliver 209 new homes by 2021 (Berwickshire)	SBC and All RSLs	Cost of living	SHIP return	2019-21	All families and young people in housing need
Delivery of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Young People five year Action Plan	LHS Partnership Group (SBC/RSLs/H&SC)	Cost of living	LHS Annual Progress and Monitoring Report	tbc	All young people aged between 16-34
Wheelchair Accessible Homes Study	Borders Housing Alliance(SBC/RSLs/H&SC)	Cost of living	No. of wheelchair accessible homes	tbc	People with disabilities that require wheelchair access
Implementing the Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan	Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership & LHS Partnership Group	Cost of living	Annual Reporting against KPIs established in the Action Plan	2019 - 21	All, particularly those at risk of Homelessness
The Regeneration of Beech Ave	Waverley Housing, Scottish Borders Council	Cost of Living	More people living independently in affordable and sustainable homes; More people able to afford to heat their homes.	Refurbishment Programme – 2019/2020; Demolition and new build 2021 – 2024.	Waverley Housing tenants and families (existing and future).
Health and Wellbeing					
Improvement of financial inclusion pathways: referral tools, improved monitoring, staff awareness and training	NHS ELC	Income from benefits	Referral rates Income generated		Early years families
Coordination & development of Holiday programmes	CLD, HI, LB	Costs of living	No of prog No of Participants	2019 – 2020	Targeted communities
Expansion of access to	PH, ELC, LB	Costs of living	tbc	2019 -20	Targeted young people

no / low cost physical activity opportunities for young people in low income households					
Development of Citydeal workstream on intensive family support	Citydeal Joint Committee	Multiple adversities	Positive destinations for YP Sustained employment opportunities for adults	2019 -20	Targeted families

