

A MEETING of the SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, NEWTOWN ST. BOSWELLS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS on THURSDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 2024 at 10.00 AM.

All Attendees, including members of the public, should note that the public business in this meeting will be livestreamed and video recorded and that recording will be available thereafter for public view for 180 days .

N. MCKINLAY
Director Corporate Governance,
18 January 2024

| BUSINESS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|--|------------------|--------|
| 1. | Convener's Remarks. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. | Apologies for Absence. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | Order of Business. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | Declarations of Interest. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | <p>Minute (Pages 7 - 18)</p> <p>Consider Minute of Scottish Borders Council held on 14 December 2023 for approval and signing by the Convener. (Copy attached.)</p> | 2 mins | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. | <p>Committee Minutes</p> <p>Consider Minutes of the following Committees:-</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">(a) Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership</td> <td style="width: 50%;">7 November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Selkirk Common Good</td> <td>13 November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(c) Jedburgh Common Good</td> <td>13 November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(d) Kelso Common Good</td> <td>14 November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(e) Eildon Area Partnership</td> <td>16 November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(f) External Services-Providers Monitoring Group</td> <td>21 November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(g) Peebles Common Good</td> <td>22 November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(h) Cheviot Area Partnership</td> <td>22 November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(i) External Services-Providers Monitoring Group</td> <td>28 November 2023</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | (a) Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership | 7 November 2023 | (b) Selkirk Common Good | 13 November 2023 | (c) Jedburgh Common Good | 13 November 2023 | (d) Kelso Common Good | 14 November 2023 | (e) Eildon Area Partnership | 16 November 2023 | (f) External Services-Providers Monitoring Group | 21 November 2023 | (g) Peebles Common Good | 22 November 2023 | (h) Cheviot Area Partnership | 22 November 2023 | (i) External Services-Providers Monitoring Group | 28 November 2023 | 5 mins |
| (a) Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership | 7 November 2023 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (b) Selkirk Common Good | 13 November 2023 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | <p>(j) Executive Committee 5 December 2023 (k) External Services-Providers Monitoring Group 5 December 2023 (l) Galashiels Common Good 7 December 2023</p> <p>(Please see separate Supplement containing the public Committee Minutes.)</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Scottish Borders Bus Network Review and Recommendations (Pages 19 - 74)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Infrastructure and Environment. (Copy attached.)</p> | 15 mins |
| 8. | <p>Scottish Borders Consultative Draft Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy 2024-2029 (Pages 75 - 240)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Infrastructure and Environment. (Copy attached.)</p> | 15 mins |
| 9. | <p>Council Tax - Second Homes (Pages 241 - 250)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Resilient Communities. (Copy attached.)</p> | 10 mins |
| 10. | <p>Non-Domestic Rates Empty Property Relief (Pages 251 - 266)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Resilient Communities. (Copy attached.)</p> | 10 mins |
| 11. | <p>Community Conversations 2023 Feedback (Pages 267 - 296)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Resilient Communities. (Copy attached.)</p> | 10 mins |
| 12. | <p>Place Based Investment Programme (Pages 297 - 304)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Resilient Communities. (Copy attached.)</p> | 10 mins |
| 13. | <p>Pension Fund Employers (Scottish Borders Council) Contribution Rate (Pages 305 - 314)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Finance and Procurement. (Copy attached.)</p> | 10 mins |
| 14. | <p>Public Space CCTV and Town Centre Connectivity (Pages 315 - 322)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships. (Copy attached.)</p> | 15 mins |
| 15. | <p>Reprovisioning of Night Support Service (Pages 323 - 370)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships. (Copy attached.)</p> | 10 mins |
| 16. | <p>Anti-Social Behaviour (Pages 371 - 378)</p> <p>Consider report by Chief Executive. (Copy attached.)</p> | 10 mins |
| 17. | <p>Scottish Borders Revised Admissions Policy (Pages 379 - 402)</p> <p>Consider report by Director Education and Lifelong Learning. (Copy attached.)</p> | 15 mins |
| 18. | <p>Draft Calendar of Meetings for August 2024 - July 2025 (Pages 403 - 408)</p> <p>Consider draft Calendar of Meetings for the period August 2024 to July 2025. (Copy attached.)</p> | 5 mins |

19.

Motion by Councillor Anderson

5 mins

Consider motion by Councillor Anderson in the following terms:-

“The Scottish Borders Council recognizes the ongoing transition towards a cashless society, primarily driven by Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs). This motion aims to address the social and financial implications associated with this transition. One major concern is the potential exacerbation of revenue inequality and the digital divide. It is crucial to ensure that vulnerable populations have equal access to digital financial services to prevent marginalization. Therefore, the Scottish Borders Council urges the UK Government to take necessary measures to mitigate these concerns and ensure a fair and inclusive transition to digital currency with the retention of cash based finances.

1. Acknowledging the Transition: The Scottish Borders Council acknowledges the ongoing transition towards a cashless society, primarily driven by the introduction of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs). SBC acknowledges the removal of cash will have a detrimental effect on our rural population.
2. Social and Financial Implications: Recognizing that the transition towards a cashless society has social and financial implications, including concerns related to revenue inequality and the digital divide.
3. Exacerbation of Revenue Inequality: The Council expresses concern that the transition towards a cashless society may exacerbate revenue inequality, as vulnerable populations may face difficulties in accessing and utilizing digital financial services. Which shows a need for cash based finances in rural areas.
4. Digital Divide: The Council acknowledges the potential for a digital divide to widen as a result of the transition towards a cashless society. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring equal access to digital monetary services for all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic status.
5. Preventing Marginalization: The Council emphasizes the need to prevent the marginalization of vulnerable populations during the transition towards a cashless society. It highlights the importance of providing adequate support and resources to ensure equal access and inclusion. The CBDC must be an addition to cash not a replacement to prevent marginalisation.
6. UK Government Action: The Scottish Borders Council urges the UK Government to take necessary measures to address the social and financial implications associated with the transition towards a cashless society. This includes implementing policies and initiatives that promote equal access to digital financial services and mitigate the potential exacerbation of revenue inequality and the digital divide.
7. Collaboration and Consultation: The Council encourages the UK Government to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, financial institutions, and community organizations, to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to the transition to a cash and CBDC society.
8. Reporting and Monitoring: The Council requests that the UK Government provide regular updates and reports on the progress made in addressing the social and financial implications of the transition towards a cash and CBDC society. This will enable transparency and accountability in the decision-

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| | <p>making process.</p> <p>9. Dissemination of Information: The Council emphasizes the importance of raising awareness among the public about the transition towards a cashless society and its potential Negative impact. It encourages the UK Government to engage in public participation events to ensure that individuals are given the chance to have their say and prepared for the changes ahead.</p> <p>10. Adoption and Implementation: The Scottish Borders Council calls upon all relevant authorities and stakeholders to adopt and implement the necessary measures to address the social and financial implications of the transition towards a cashless society, in line with the principles of equality, inclusivity, and social justice.</p> <p>By passing this motion, the Scottish Borders Council aims to contribute to a fair and inclusive transition towards a cash and digital currency-based society, ensuring that vulnerable populations are not marginalized and that equal access to digital financial services is guaranteed.”</p> | |
| 20. | Open Questions | 15 mins |
| 21. | Any Other Items Previously Circulated | |
| 22. | Any Other Items Which the Convener Decides Are Urgent | |
| | <p>(a) Urgent Motion by Councillor Leigh Douglas</p> <p>Consider Urgent Motion by Councillor Leigh Douglas in the following terms:</p> <p>“Acknowledging Finance Secretary Shona Robison's announcement of a 1,200 funded university places cut in Scotland due to financial constraints, the council expresses deep concern about the potential £28.5m reduction's impact on higher education stability and opportunities for our young population.</p> <p>Recognising the need for clarity, especially for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, this council urgently asks the leader to write to the Depute First Minister.</p> <p>We emphasise that this communication articulates the council's concerns and underscores the critical importance of understanding how these fiscal adjustments will affect the educational prospects of young people in the Scottish Borders.”</p> | 5 mins |
| 23. | <p>Private Business</p> <p>Before proceeding with the private business, the following motion should be approved:-</p> <p>“That under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the aforementioned Act.”</p> | |

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| 24. | <p>Minute (Pages 409 - 410)</p> <p>Consider private Section of Minute of Scottish Borders Council held on 14 December 2023. (Copy attached.)</p> | 1 mins | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25. | <p>Committee Minutes</p> <p>Consider private Sections of the Minutes of the following Committees:-</p> <table data-bbox="261 465 1225 636"> <tr> <td>(a)</td> <td>Selkirk Common Good</td> <td>13 November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b)</td> <td>External Services-Providers Monitoring Group</td> <td>21 November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(c)</td> <td>Peebles Common Good</td> <td>22 November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(d)</td> <td>External Services-Providers Monitoring Group</td> <td>28 November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(e)</td> <td>Galashiels Common Good</td> <td>7 December 2023</td> </tr> </table> <p>(Please see separate Supplement containing private Committee Minutes.)</p> | (a) | Selkirk Common Good | 13 November 2023 | (b) | External Services-Providers Monitoring Group | 21 November 2023 | (c) | Peebles Common Good | 22 November 2023 | (d) | External Services-Providers Monitoring Group | 28 November 2023 | (e) | Galashiels Common Good | 7 December 2023 | |
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NOTES

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

Please direct any enquiries to Declan Hall Tel: 01835 826556
