

## Discussion Output: Economy, Skills and Learning 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

Summary/Area of Discussion:

### Employment & Enterprise (incl. Tourism)

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 1<sup>st</sup> February meeting):*

- Services closing – Post office, banks
- Where's Scottish Enterprise? Not visible at these meetings
- Opportunity for Tourism, Tracing ancestors – Windfarms have caused an issue
- Anniversary of the Battle of Carham a Tourist opportunity
- Marine Reserve at St Abbs must be a tourism opportunity
- Berwick has lost 2-3 business as well
- Need well paid jobs in the area
- Agriculture becoming more robotic, computer skills are required
- Care and Tourism are low paid sectors
- Everything has gone to Galashiels
- Business premises too expensive. Gunsgreen Farm split into smaller cheaper business units
- Encourage cruise ships
- Opportunity to work with the Harbour Trust to develop the Harbour
- Public more accessible to small business eg SBHA/SBC
- Tourism – push Walking, fishing, Golf, Biking tracks
- Re vamp the town trail
- Tourism- cliff climbing, Kayak, Fishing – Outdoor activity centre
- Construction apprenticeships – Trades!
- Low wage economy, agricultural industry. No good quality employability, lack of opportunity
- Business start-ups – lack of premises and units, lack of infrastructure and no incubation space
- Economy in Eyemouth needs investment. Fishing industry has gone what is replacing them?
- Lack of apprenticeships
- Need to take steps to encourage grocery retailers other than Co-op, only supermarket in Berwickshire
- Grow the economy
- Need to attract employers that aren't low wage
- Tourism signage throughout, not just coastal routes
- Loss of banks is a major problem for the economy and town centres
- Coastal path should be integral to economy
- Agriculture and fishing missing from Community Plan

*"Priority" Post-its:*

- Build on Border Heritage/Tourism
- Co-ordinator to work with businesses
- Build on Modern Apprenticeships
- Increase employment opportunities (micro businesses through to large companies)
- Resource community innovations
- Grow small businesses – spend public procurement locally, cheaper business premises, smaller flexible premises, develop MA's
- Identify new economies to replace fishing/farming for example surfing

*"Solutions/Actions" Post-its:*

- Eyemouth needs to build on its reputation for good food
- Get young people ready for work, flexible curriculum, lifeboat crew could mentor
- Need to find an identity for the area
- Identify industrial space for business development

*Key Areas for Berwickshire*

- **Tourism opportunities: marine reserve, coastline, heritage etc.**
- **Business start-ups & investment; suitable business premises**
- **Apprenticeships**

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Connectivity (incl. Digital & Transport)**

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 1<sup>st</sup> February meeting):*

- Reliable fast broadband across the area – at the moment it will put businesses off
- Improve physical infrastructure
- Cost of public transport
- People feel isolated from the rest of the Borders. Isolating older people who are no IT/B'band literate
- No bus service to Borders College
- No transport to the BGH, Jed Sheriff Court. Two hours on a bus to Edinburgh and it is expensive
- Reston train station should be re opened
- Border Buses – a fresh approach and community focus
- Make signage on the A1 better
- Distance to college to support apprenticeships is too far – local delivery?
- Access to information
- Ultrafast digital connectivity, aim 100% and 4G 5G mobile
- Digital communities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor rural broadband and phone signal</li> </ul>
<p><i>“Priority” Post-its:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Reston Station being opened</li> <li>• Dual the A1</li> <li>• Address isolation</li> </ul>
<p><i>“Solutions/Actions” Post-its:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport links to the BGH and College</li> <li>• Berwickshire Wheels needs expanded on</li> </ul>
<p><i>Key Areas for Berwickshire</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rural isolation – economically, socially, education/learning</b></li> <li>• <b>Reston station and wider transport links (cross-Border and North/South)</b></li> </ul>

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Young People**

<p><i>Post-it Notes (incl. from 1<sup>st</sup> February meeting):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited employment opportunities for young people</li> <li>• 30 year decline in parenting skills</li> <li>• What works well? – Greenvale, bring back careers service, with a bit of support kids do really well!!</li> <li>• Exodus of young people – will they come back and to what?</li> <li>• Lack of opportunities for young people</li> <li>• Young Scot Card doesn’t work in England</li> <li>• Young people need to be taught life skills ie cooking, budgeting</li> <li>• Improve attainment</li> <li>• Schools good, children coming from Berwick to Berwickshire schools, young people moving away from the area to find work, no large employers, low wage economy</li> </ul>
<p><i>“Priority” Post-its:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><i>“Solutions/Actions” Post-its:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mens shed could bring young people in to learn skills</li> <li>• SFRS Cadet programme can provide opportunities</li> </ul>
<p><i>Key Areas for Berwickshire</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Creating opportunities for young people – employment, socially, life skills etc.</b></li> </ul>

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Learning**

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 1<sup>st</sup> February meeting):*

- Education changing – attention paid to getting pupils through exams rather than general skills inc communication. Too much attention to league tables
- No access to education beyond school age, need to go to Galashiels but transport is an issue
- More remote learning facilities
- Teachers too busy being social workers to teach pupils
- Transport impossible for young people to attend college
- Teachers are not putting forward opportunities to pupils
- Resilient schools not working
- College campus needed in East Berwickshire
- Families may move to allow young people to access further and higher education
- Can Eyemouth High be used to access further education skills
- Need to protect sea knowledge and skills for the next generation
- Broader set of subjects in school being delivered
- Lot of focus on central Borders in terms of educational opportunities
- Spaces for people to learn not just online
- Eyemouth High School, increase learning opportunities for students
- Lack of college tuition in Berwickshire
- Lack of maths teachers
- Adult learning facility missing. Lifelong learning plan focus on young people

*“Priority” Post-its:*

- Education
- Schools made more community focussed and welcoming
- Digital skills; continuous training
- Broadening the learning opportunities through digital technology
- Make High School s IT hubs for use by businesses and communities
- Learning hubs
- College campus at Eyemouth
- More use of school conservation areas – rural skills
- Adult learning/evening classes for 50+
- Harbour investment and sea skills – local learning programmes

*“Solutions/Actions” Post-its:*

- Borders college needs a residential campus
- College campus in Eyemouth
- Post school training – care opportunities
- Hospitality/Tourism/Care courses

*Key Areas for Berwickshire*

- **Better access and wider subject range of learning: in Berwickshire, remotely (online), across all ages etc.**
- **Transport issues**
- **Make better use of existing learning facilities (e.g. High Schools) – create learning hubs**

**Summary/Area of Discussion:**

**Housing** (Will be part of “Our Place” themed discussion at a future Area Partnership meeting)

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 1<sup>st</sup> February meeting):*

- Capitalise on lower house prices – attract businesses
- House prices are rising. Housing needed for older people
- Outsiders get housing before locals – more housing needed

*“Priority” Post-its:*

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*“Solutions/Actions” Post-its:*

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*Key Areas for Berwickshire*

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**Summary/Area of Discussion:**

**Care (incl. Social Care & Child Care)** (Will be part of “Our Health, Care & Wellbeing” themed discussion at a future Area Partnership meeting)

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 1<sup>st</sup> February meeting):*

- Need to improve/enhance attitude to the care sector. Seen as low paid and unattractive career
- How do we fund care to the level that will be required in the future – tax?
- Need to think differently – Micro businesses as care providers rather than relying on large companies
- Need infrastructure to enable carers to visit clients
- Lack of political will to support care services
- Child care an issue, not enough, too expensive, full up, no places

*“Priority” Post-its:*

- Care provision – children and elderly

*“Solutions/Actions” Post-its:*

- Care Work – no incentives for young people – low wages, unsociable hours. Image of career needs improved
- Access to education to caring
- Respect for elderly
- Nursery provision from age 12months upwards
- Borders College needs to offer child care courses in the Eyemouth area

*Key Areas for Berwickshire*

- **Care provision for children and older people (incl. how to incentivise people to work in the sector)**

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Community Facilities & Capacity**

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 1<sup>st</sup> February meeting):*

- Heart of Duns could buy volunteer hall for an outreach service and learning hub
- Support communities to form companies to deliver services in their area – care; community led services
- Active Communities Eyemouth – no one from SBC attends these meetings when invited
- Most projects run by volunteers who are at capacity, checks need softened to encourage people to start up sport and youth groups, lack of sports facilities
- Eyemouth missed out of a lot of opportunities – Book bug, Library shut on a Saturday, no space for Lego club. Mobile library doesn't come at best times
- Promote Community events and BEST fish and chips in the Borders
- Excellent facility in Duns Centre, the Volunteer Hall. Borders college non existent

*“Priority” Post-its:*

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*“Solutions/Actions” Post-its:*

- Resilient community – social hubs so elderly not as isolated

*Key Areas for Berwickshire*

- **Community capacity and supporting enterprising communities**