

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**31 JANUARY 2019**  
**APPENDIX II**

**Questions from Councillor Harry Scott**

1. To the Executive Member for Roads and Infrastructure

The B709 Heriot to Innerleithen road is listed on official Borders cycle touring routes with the aim of attracting touring cyclists to enjoy the scenery and spend money in the Borders. Several sections of the road, particularly towards Innerleithen are presently in a state of serious disrepair, and hazardous not only for cars, but particularly for cyclists. May I ask that at the least the most hazardous sections of the B709 be considered for inclusion as a matter of priority in the Roads Department's scheme of works and overlays for the year 2019/20.

Reply from Councillor Edgar

The B709 Heriot to Innerleithen Road is inspected every two months in accordance with the Councils Standards and Guidelines. Any defects noted during these inspections are recorded and instructions are issued to carry out Reactive Maintenance as required within the timescales of the guidelines.

Planned Maintenance on the Councils Adopted Road Network is programmed by our Asset Team. Some sections of the A709 Heriot to Innerleithen Road are listed to be considered for possible inclusion in future surface treatment programmes, unfortunately, the overall condition of our road network means that we are not in a position to treat all identified sections with a permanent form of treatment and must apply a prioritisation process to determine our annual programme which meets available budgets.

Supplementary

Councillor Scott asked for this road to be included in the work schedule and to be reassured it would not be forgotten. Councillor Edgar assured him that it would not be forgotten

2. To the Executive Member for Finance

Community centres in my constituency are run by committees of unpaid volunteers who give up many hours of their time to manage the lets, maintenance, and internal refurbishment of the centres. Last year the remittance paid for services provided by Live Borders was raised from circa £5k to £9k because of a reduction in the support grant paid to Live Borders by Scottish Borders Council. This has reduced by a substantial amount the support committees can provide to community groups, many of which do valuable work in an area where deprivation is recognised, and to the maintenance and refurbishment of the buildings they manage on behalf of Scottish Borders Council.

I ask that the Administration, when considering their forthcoming budget proposals, restore to Live Borders the funding which will enable it to reduce substantially the amount which these hard working management committees must remit so they are able to continue and enhance this essential community work.

Reply from Councillor Tatler

The Council and Live Borders fully appreciate the invaluable work undertaken by volunteer committees to support local community groups.

The contribution required from the community centres was increased prior to transfer to Live Borders in 2016, this increase was however not implemented until 2018.

Live Borders has been working closely with the Committees through Community Enterprise Ltd to review the current operational model and challenge some of the historical practices.

The purpose of this review is to ensure that the centres continue to provide outstanding community impact in a sustainable way. What is clear is that all the Centres operate to a generic model despite there being significant differences in committee size, capacity and not least significantly different financial circumstances.

Live Borders is committed to working with the centres to develop new aspirations and financial plans fit for the future. Once this stage of the review is complete Live Borders will continue to work with community centres and the Council to develop resourcing plans that are appropriate to enable them to achieve their and the Council's locality objectives.

Live Borders have previously circulated a briefing note to Councillors and provided a further update in a briefing session held yesterday which articulates in greater detail some of the challenges and the aspirations of community centre management.

As you are aware there are a number of community funds which have been devolved to Area Partnerships which the Community Centre Committees should be encouraged to access. They are also in a position to apply for external funding, including any generic wind farm funds, and the Communities & Partnership team will be able to offer advice and support in accessing these.

#### Supplementary

Councillor Scott considered that volunteers were being punished for success and that if funding could not be found to help them they would give up. Any additional funding given to Live Borders must be directed to community centres. Councillor Tatler advised that volunteers were always appreciated. The Core Budget for Live Borders had not changed and the Council could not directly control their expenditure. Live Borders had set aside funding for community centres and it was up to Live Borders to allocate this.