

Scottish Borders

Berwickshire Locality Plan

April 2019 *Draft*

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Introduction

Welcome to the Berwickshire Locality Plan. This plan builds on the Scottish Borders Community Plan and sets out:

- The priorities for improving the area over the next five years
- The actions that will be carried out
- The commitment to work in partnership and use our shared resourcesⁱ in the most effective way to reduce inequality

ⁱ **Resources** – this could be: funding (e.g. budget or grants), people (e.g. staff of volunteers) or assets (e.g. land, buildings or equipment)

This plan will help those who are in greatest need, and focuses on what action can be taken to improve the quality of life for those who live in Berwickshire.

In bringing together this plan we have asked, and will continue to ask, local people across Berwickshire what would make the area better.

This plan is structured around four themes:

- Economy, Skills & Learning
- Health, Care & Wellbeing
- Quality of Life
- Environment & Place

ⁱ **Area Partnership** – bringing together organisations, groups, individuals and businesses from across the locality to collectively work together

Community planning partners – those organisations who are taking forward the Scottish Borders Community Plan

Local service providers – those organisations who are providing services locally (e.g. GPs, Community Nurses, Business Advisors, etc.)

From the Area Partnershipⁱ meetings to date we have gathered all the comments and feedback which you gave and prioritised what you told us is important to you and what will make a difference to the lives of people in the Berwickshire area.

Communities, community planning partnersⁱ and local service providersⁱ will need to work together in partnership to plan and deliver better services that meet the needs of the people who use them.

At a Borders-wide level this is done through the Scottish Borders Community Plan and the Community Planning Partnership. The key actions are detailed at the end of this plan.

At a Locality level this is done through the Berwickshire Locality Plan and the Berwickshire Area Partnership.

At a local level, services and communities continue to respond to their local community needs. Local plans, including local community action plans, are referenced at the end of this plan.

Berwickshire Locality Area Profile 2018

>two pages to be inserted<

Engaging with our communities

In developing this plan, we have spoken with a number of people at the Berwickshire Area Partnership meetings over the past year. Going forward, our aim is to reach out to a wider range of people within the community as we recognise the importance of engaging with everyone in our community.

We will continue to build on this draft plan, and gain further understanding of the needs and ambitions of our communities.

A vital part of this will be ongoing engagement and communication with the people of Berwickshire, and to create further opportunities for people to talk to us in person, to take part in surveys or online. We want as many people as possible to be involved.

We have gathered the feedback that you gave us to help shape this plan, and it is really important that you continue to give us your views and thoughts as this plan will have an impact on the community that you live in.

We want the people in Berwickshire to get involved and help us deliver the actions in this plan, and we welcome your views on how we do this.

What contribution could you make to your community to make it a better place?

For information on how to get involved, join a local community group or community council, take part in local volunteering opportunities, please contact XXXXXX.

Berwickshire Wards



Mid Berwickshire

Population - 10,387

Duns - 2,756

Coldstream - 1,871

Greenlaw - 629



East Berwickshire

Population - 10,558

Eyemouth - 3,557

Chirside - 1,444

Ayton - 607

Coldingham - 514

Economy, Skills & Learning

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Berwickshire is:

- Improve the connectivity within and out with Berwickshire, including
 - Transport (infrastructure and service provision (see p10))
 - Digital (mobile and broadband coverage)

Other priorities that are important to the Berwickshire community:

- Support and make the most of existing Tourism opportunities, for example
 - Coastline, including marine reserve and harbour
 - Heritage
- Widen the opportunity and availability of modern apprenticeships and vocational training
- Improve the access to further and higher education and the opportunity for lifelong learning
- Protect and retain traditional skills unique to Berwickshire (e.g. sea skills)
- Encourage business start-ups & investment in the area, for example with the availability of suitable (and flexible) business spaces
- Encourage further partnership working to support the area in managing the economic and social impact of current and future demographic changes (i.e. increasing older population, young people moving away)

What would success look like, how can we work in partnership to achieve this and how do I get involved?

Health, Care & Wellbeing

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Berwickshire is:

- Better service planning (incl. cross border) that recognises and reflects the demands and challenges of rural communities

Other priorities that are important to the Berwickshire community:

- Improve the availability and accessibility of services for people living in rural areas and town across Berwickshire
- Increase the availability of locally based rehabilitation services
- Increase the range of housing options available across the locality
- Improve support for unpaid carers
- Increase the range of care and support options across the locality to enable people to remain in their own homes and communities
- Focus on rural isolation and social inclusion and the impacts on mental health
- Understand the future care requirements for the area and how best to incentivise people to work in the sector

What would success look like, how can we work in partnership to achieve this and how do I get involved?

Quality of Life

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Berwickshire is:

- Continue to support (multi-agency) partnership working opportunities, promoting referrals/pathways to those local initiatives and sharing good practice

Other priorities that are important to the Berwickshire community:

- Invest in and create community facilities/spaces (for all ages/intergenerational)
- Support local community capacity building, in particular local volunteers (utilising their skills and expertise)
- Encourage leisure/cultural facilities to be as accessible as possible (convenient, affordable, time of day)
- Improve communication across communities and between public agencies, including promotion / marketing of specific activities (e.g. men's shed, walking football)

What would success look like, how can we work in partnership to achieve this and how do I get involved?

Environment & Place

Through the Area Partnership you told us your key priority for Berwickshire is:

- Investment in transport infrastructure and service provision, including
 - Reston Station / A1
 - Cross-border, North-South services
 - Community Transport
 - Enabling people to be where they need to be (for work, education, health appointments etc.), i.e. more flexible provision

Other priorities that are important to the Berwickshire community:

- Work with local communities on regenerating and reimagining their local places (town centres, village halls, play areas etc.)
- Understand the housing needs of the area and ensure the right developments are being considered to meet those needs, including affordable housing and housing for all stages and ages of life
- Promote environmentally friendly home energy solutions to local residents

What would success look like, how can we work in partnership to achieve this and how do I get involved?

How we will measure success

The Berwickshire Area Partnership will feedback every year on the progress made in delivering the priorities within this plan. By monitoring the progress we make, we can measure the difference made to local people and communities. Progress and achievements will be shared with the Community Planning Partnership and other public bodies as well as being shared and celebrated with the wider community.

We will continue to ask the community their views and encourage more people to participate in the Area Partnership. As the needs of the locality change, we will ensure the priorities and actions within the plan reflect these changes.

Local Plans for Berwickshire

Local Community Action Plans

- Coldstream Community Action Plan
- Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston Community Action Plan

Learning Community Partnership Plans

- Berwickshire Learning Community Partnership Plan
- Eyemouth Learning Community Partnership Plan

Strategic Action Plans

The key strategic action plans that have an impact on Berwickshire are:

- East Berwickshire and Eyemouth Economic Regeneration Action Plan
- >list to be drafted<