SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
CHEVIOT AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the CHEVIOT AREA FORUM held in the Assembly Room, Jedburgh Grammar School on Wednesday, 3 June 2015 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors T. Weatherston (Chairman), J. Brown, S. Mountford, A. Nicol, S. Scott, R. Stewart.
Community Councillors J. Bassett, H. Wight, N. Jarvis, E. McNulty, A. Drummond, P. Bridgewood, Trevor Jackson, .
Mr Scott Forbes, Station Manager (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service), Inspector Carol Wood, (Police Scotland – J Division), Mr Warwick Shaw, Head of Delivery Support, Estates and Facilities (NHS Borders).

Apologies:- Community Councillors K. Steel, A. Hall, S. Stewart, L. Johnston, J. Shanks, J. Freshwater, D. Ogilvie.

In Attendance:- The Depute Chief Executive – People (Mrs J McDiarmid), Lead Localities Officer (Mr D. Mallen), Communities and Partnership Manager (Ms. S. Smith), Area Neighbourhood Manager (Mr A. Finnie), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs F Henderson), Locality Team Leader (Ms K. Horsley).

Members of the Public:- 1

WELCOME

1.1 The Chairman welcomed Mr David Mallin, Lead Localities Officer to his meeting of the Jedburgh Area Forum.

MINUTE

2.1 There had been circulated copies of the Minute of Meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum of 1 April 2015.

2.2 With reference to paragraph 30 of the Minute of 1 April 2015, in order to clarify – the Minute to be amended to read:-

In response to questions, it was further explained that there was no policy at present and the guidance stated that 1 in 25 parking bays should be for Disabled Drivers. The Bays referred to in the report were within residential areas as opposed to on-street parking.

DECISION
AGREED to approve the Minute, subject to the amendment detailed above.

2.3 It was requested by a member of the public that the name of a person in a particular role be included in the minute along with their title.

DECISION
NOTED.

2.4 With reference to paragraph 26 of the Minute of 1 April 2015, Members enquired about the update from Amey and were advised that no update had been received.

DECISION

AGREED that the Clerk contact Amey for an update and once received, it be circulated by e-mail.

POLICE FORCE OF SCOTLAND – UPDATE FOR 'J' DIVISION

3.1 Inspector Carol Wood was present at the meeting to update the Cheviot Area Forum on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 31 May 2015. The Ward Plan Priorities for Kelso and District had been reviewed and amended and were highlighted as Dishonesty, Road Safety, Antisocial Behaviour and Drug Dealing and Misuse of Drugs. The Ward Plan Priorities for Jedburgh and District had also been amended and were highlighted as Drug Dealing and Misuse, Road Safety, Anti-Social Behaviour and Rural Crime. It was reported that there had been a slight decrease in recorded crimes in the Kelso & District ward compared to last year with a slight increase in solvency over the same timescale. In terms of the Jedburgh Ward there was a slight decline in recorded crime and a slight increase in solvency. It was highlighted that the figures fluctuated on a daily basis and should only be used as a guide. In relation to the planned priorities for Kelso and District it was reported that work continued on monitoring and engaging with young drivers within the ward area, 21 tickets were issued for various offences including 10 x speeding, 2 x use of hand held device, 1 x no MOT, 1 x failing to wear a seatbelt and 1 driver arrested for driving whilst under the influence of alcohol, 7 of these tickets were issued for vehicle defects improving the safety of their vehicles and other road users and for drivers to produce documentation. Regular road checks were carried out during this reporting period, which would continue with the summer drink / drive campaign. Now that the majority of roadworks had now been completed in Kelso town centre, which had included the re-instatement of line markings, the local Community Beat Officer PC Howgego would carry out additional patrols and deal with any parking infringements as necessary. During April PC Howgego had carried out 9 parking patrols of Kelso town centre, this has resulted in 30 warnings and 10 FPT tickets being issued for parking offences, the May statistics had not been collated but would be documented in the next report. In relation to anti-social behaviour 44 street searches were carried out during the reporting period, which were in relation to drugs alcohol and stolen property searches. It should be borne in mind that the figure was for the ECPA which included Berwickshire. Six Fixed Penalty Tickets were issued within Kelso and District Ward, 4 x BOP and 1 x urinating in public and 1 x drunk and incapable. Engagement with those responsible for any youth antisocial behaviour in the ward area continued. The Community Beat Officer and Locality Integration Officer regularly discussed youth issues and worked with partners including education to proactively tackle such issues. There had been 6 stop and search with 2 positive searches relating to possession of cannabis, reports had been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. Other matters of note during the reporting period included a 27 year old male being charged with a number of offences after being seen in suspicious circumstances and trying to break in to properties in Kelso, a male was assaulted and robbed in Kelso and enquiries were continuing into the incident with a positive lead being followed up. The local Community Beat Officer was working within the community to set up a Nominated Neighbour Scheme and a further No Cold Calling Zone within the ward area. This would help prevent vulnerable people falling victim to bogus callers and general doorstep callers and also encourage legitimate callers to maintain best practice.

3.2 In terms of Jedburgh and District, it was reported that during the last quarter there were five stop/searches carried out which recovered prohibited substances. A house was searched in the ward area during May where personal amounts of a controlled substance were recovered. Continuous efforts are being made to disrupt the supply of controlled drugs in the Scottish Borders and this area of business was a key focus for all officers, with the assistance of the local communities. In terms of road safety a total of five road checks were carried out in the ward area and fixed penalty tickets were issued for speeding, use of mobile phones and failing to wear a seatbelt. A number of advisory warnings were also given to motorists. Three Fixed Penalty Tickets were issued over the reporting period for anti-social

behaviour and engagement with those responsible for any youth antisocial behaviour in the ward area continued. The Community Beat Officer and Locality Integration Officer regularly discussed youth issues and worked with partners including education to pro-actively tackle such issues. In terms of rural crime the police continued to circulate advice to farmers and residents in rural areas to take as many safety measures as they could to secure their property. If anyone would like specific advice they could contact their local community officer either by phoning Jedburgh police station or emailing them via the Police Scotland website link. Officers in the Community Safety department based within Scottish Borders Council were also on hand to give information on joining Farmwatch, SB Alert etc. Rural crime and the nature of the Borders increased the risk of criminals travelling into the area to target isolated premises and the farming community. These crimes were difficult not only to detect but to deter and Police Scotland recognised this and saw rural crime as an area in which partnership working and tactics should be developed. To this end a Scottish Borders Community Inspector was part of a group, who met regularly with colleagues from Mid, East and West Lothian to share best practice and work together regarding ongoing issues that affected rural communities and included establishing stronger links with the National Farmers Union. Pro-active visits to itinerant scrap metal dealers continued as well as liaison with a number of partners to ensure premises were being run appropriately. Liaison with neighbouring forces, sharing information to assist in tackling rural crimes, particularly in relation to travelling criminals continued.

3.3 Other incidents of note, following inputs given to Eckford, Crailing & Nisbet CC and St Boswells CC regarding the establishment of a No Cold Calling Zone, both of these projects were under development and should be moving forward in the very near future. A double horsebox trailer was stolen from the secure compound at Scott and Foggan, Oxnam Road Industrial Estate, Jedburgh and was subsequently recovered in Bishop Auckland. A positive line of enquiry was progressing in detecting this theft. Three separate shopliftings occurred at the Co-op in Jedburgh and those responsible were believed to be travelling criminals and travelling throughout Scotland committing similar crimes. Enquiries were continuing in an effort to trace those responsible.

3.4 With the beginning of the Common Riding and local festival season Police Scotland, along with the Council's Emergency Planning Team, were pleased that all the main events in the Cheviot Area had been subject to the Safety Advisory Group or SAG process. This not only allowed all services to provide support and assistance to event organisers, but also went a long way to ensuring that local events were held with public safety at the forefront. Police Scotland Licensing Officers were working closely with the Council's licensing section and Licensees to ensure that all licensed events during festivals were run in a professional and safe manner. Police Scotland would continue to support events and try to blend into the background to allow the events to be enjoyed in a safe and trouble free environment.

3.5 Since the introduction of the lower drink drive limit the number of detections and prosecutions had dropped significantly, despite this many still persisted in driving under the influence and considered it to be a low-risk activity in terms of the likelihood of being involved in a collision or being caught. This year's initiative would focus on high levels of activity and interaction with the public. The 'Summer Drink/Drug Drive Campaign 2015' would be conducted through high visibility patrol work in marked police vehicles and static road checks. The aim of this initiative would be to conduct high profile, high visibility patrols of main arterial routes and drink/drug drive hotspots. Divisional vehicles would be utilised on less populated routes. Static road checks would form an integral part of the campaign; their aim being to deliver a strong message, detect offenders and present a high visibility presence to drivers using our road network and entering and leaving built up areas.

DECISION
NOTED the report.

ENGAGEMENT WITH NHS BORDERS

4.1 An update on current activity was given by NHS Head of Delivery Support, Estates and Facilities, Warwick Shaw. He referred to the media interest in the ongoing review of in-patient services and that NHS Borders would develop a full and robust engagement process. There was no hidden agenda and there were no proposals to close Community Hospitals.

A&E Waiting Times

4.2 Mr Shaw reminded members of the Forum that Accident and Emergency figures were available on the NHS Borders website and were presented on a weekly basis. The most recent figures demonstrated that out of 513 patients who had attended the A&E Department 10 waited longer than 4 hrs, with 7 hrs being the longest anyone had to wait.

Out of Hours

4.3 The outcome of a consultation with Community Councils on the Out Of Hours service in NHS Borders had been shared with the Scottish Health Council and was awaiting their feedback. This would result in the business continuity plan approach being put in place permanently. In the meantime a national Review of Out Of Hours service provision was being carried out.

Norovirus

4.4 It was reported that there had been a recent outbreak of Norovirus at the BGH, but on the whole it had been kept under control. Staff and Visitors were thanked for their diligence about using hand wash provided when moving around the hospital.

Jedburgh Patients using Community Hospitals

4.5. With reference to paragraph 19 of the Minute of 1 April 2015, Councillors Brown and Stewart raised grave concerns with regard to older people within Jedburgh and surrounding area being discharged from the BGH to Duns instead of the Community Hospital in Hawick. They stated that when Jedburgh Community Hospital was closed they were promised that care would be provided through the Community Hospital in Hawick and that this was not the case. Councillor Brown was appalled that GP's could be allowed to decide who they would treat. Mr Shaw explained that there was a shortage of GP's and that a report on the Acute Services Review would be presented to the Board in October 2015. Mr Shaw explained that Jedburgh had received a new extended Health Centre, following the closure of the Jedburgh Community Hospital. The Community Council also expressed concerns for the Elderly People within Jedburgh as there were few public transport links between Jedburgh and Duns. The Elected members were disappointed to note that following a number of meetings there appeared to be little progress. Mr Shaw together with the Depute Chief Executive - People agreed to look into the matter and report directly back to Councillor Brown .

DECISION
NOTED the report.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

5.1 The Depute Chief Executive – People was welcomed to the Forum to present information on the Integration of Health and Social Care and the consultation currently taking place. It was explained that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 the 14 Health Boards and 32 Local Authorities were required, by April 2015, to develop integration arrangements for each area and to establish a Joint Integration Board, Chief Officer and Joint Body. By April 2016 there required to be developed a 3 year Strategic Plan covering the commissioning of adult care and health services. The membership of the Borders Strategic Planning Group had come from all areas of Health and Social Care including service users, health and social care professionals, carers, related commercial and non-commercial organisations and from the third sector. The Group would be involved in all stages of developing and reviewing the Strategic Plan. Copies of the initial Draft Strategic Plan were circulated at the meeting, and feedback was invited as part of the current

consultation which would run until 5 June 2015. Consultation on a second draft, produced by the end of June, would end on 22 September 2015, with a final draft by the end of October 2015 and new arrangements scheduled to be fully implemented by April 2016.

5.2 With reference to the Draft Strategic Plan, the presentation went on to look at the vision and aims of the Health and Social Care partnership. Doing nothing was not an option. The case for change included an ageing population; rising demand for services; the cost of services; and the need to deliver better outcomes through improved joint working, better communication, reducing duplication and sharing information. Lists were given of the current NHS and SBC services that would come within the scope of Integrated Services. The objectives included making services more accessible; improving prevention and early intervention; reducing avoidable admissions to hospital; providing care close to home; optimising efficiency and effectiveness; and seeking to reduce health inequalities. A case study was provided in the Plan giving a before and after scenario and demonstrating how the experience of the client, and efficiency, should be improved by the integration of services. Also shown were proposed locality arrangements within the Scottish Borders model which would be based on the existing five areas. In the discussion which followed the presentation, Members welcomed the presentation and recognised the importance of the public engaging with the consultation by submitting their views. Officers confirmed that the Borders Strategic Planning Group was liaising with similar rural authorities and working with the Joint Improvement Team to share best practice. The Chairman thanked officers for the informative presentation and encouraged members of the forum to take part in the consultation.

DECISION
NOTED the presentation.

FIRE AND RESCUE
Developing the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Strategic Plan 2016 /19

6.1 Station Manager Scott Forbes gave a presentation on the development of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Strategic Plan 2016-2019. It was explained that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) came into effect on 1 April 2013 and the 2015/16 resource budget was £259.221m, approximately an 11% cash reduction on the initial 2013/14 budget. The 2015/16 capital budget was £25.3m. The SFRS employed 8315 people - 3875 Whole time Operational; 2952 Retained Duty System; 229 Control; 864 Support Staff and 395 Volunteers who operated from 357 stations across Scotland. The operating context was explained together with the development of the SFRS Strategic Plan 2016/19. The National Fire and Rescue Framework set Scottish Government priorities and targets for SFRS and the Strategic Plan direction was set and agreed by the SFRS Board and Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs. The Police and Fire Reform Act required a 3 year Strategic Plan and a new Plan was required from April 2016 – March 2019. Local Fire and Rescue Plans would be reviewed and revised in 2016 following publication of Strategic Plan 2016/19. The presentation outlined the key timelines and the emerging direction of travel for SFRS. Elected Members raised concerns with regard to the proposed £43m savings over 3 years and sought information on which services would be affected. The Station Manager advised that front line services would be protected and different methods of improving the service and serving the Community should be found. Councillors sought a guarantee that frontline services would be protected. The Depute Chief Executive – People advised that a report had been presented to CMT and there would be a report submitted to the Community Planning partnership.

DECISION
NOTED.

Fire Service Update

6.2 Mr Scott Forbes, Station Manager explained that the purpose of the report circulated was to inform the Cheviot Area Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last

meeting on 1st April 2015. The report detailed that during the period of the report there had been 7 House Fires (House Alight x 2, Building Alight x 3, Chimney 6 Occurrences of Fire – Open, occurrence of Special Services resulting in 1 casualty and 14 unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. The report explained that within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017 for the Scottish Borders, 5 priorities had been identified: Reduction of Dwelling Fires; Reduction of Fire Casualties and Fatalities; Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting (Not including Dwellings); Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals; and the Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions. In relation to partnership working, The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Community Action Team (CAT) within the Scottish Borders core work centred on the on-going delivery of the SFRS Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) policy. The team continued to expand its partnership working with key the Key agencies including Police Scotland, Health, Social care and Housing in order to focus on members of local communities at High Risk from fire and achieve outcomes in helping to reduce overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires. Fire raising awareness sessions presented by the team to partner agency practitioners had been and continued to be successful in promoting HFSVs and encouraging agencies to make referrals using the SFRS CSET online booking system.

6.3 Fire prevention and protection activity over recent years had been key to reducing the number of fires, casualties and losses in Scotland thus minimising the economic and social impact of fire on communities. The seasonal community safety calendar provided the catalyst for a number of initiatives and schemes throughout the calendar year.

6.4 Activity, which was ongoing now within the Cheviot Ward area included Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staffs in all local stations provide Home Fire Safety Visits all year round. The visits provided the householder with a home visit, focussing on identifying and reducing the risks of fire in the home. Smoke detectors with a 10-year battery life were provided as part of this free service; Firesharp was an initiative for Primary 6 pupils, providing face-to-face education within local Primary schools on matters of fire risk and prevention; Fire Safety Audits provided a targeted examination of business premises and their relevant documents to ascertain how the premises were being managed regarding fire safety. The enforcement officer also engaged with members of staff to confirm their level of fire safety awareness; Unwanted Fire Signals were being addressed by phased intervention actions which identified premises which were producing 'false alarms', provided guidance on how to reduce a reoccurrence, and could also evoke legislation if occurrences failed to reduce in number; the SFRS Safeguarding Policy and Procedure for Protection of Children and Adults at Risk of Harm was implemented to link into adult and child protection. The introduction of the policy had created closer ties with Social Services within Scottish Borders and ensured those people and families that fire crews identify as at risk were brought to the attention of Social Services and had resulted in joint visits to homes to reduce risk to those occupiers. Eight adults had been referred during the reporting period.

6.5 Community Action Team (CAT) had delivered road safety awareness to secondary schools throughout the Scottish Borders with the support of the local Whole time personnel from Galashiels and Hawick. The strong partnership with the local Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and involvement in MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) put the Fire and Rescue Service at the forefront of delivering the agenda of outcome six of the Local Fire Plan. The LALO and Scottish Borders Station Manager for Prevention and Protection were fully involved in all local MARAC processes, attending the monthly conferences and all steering group meetings. Involvement with the inaugural twelve-month CAADA (Co-ordinated Action against Domestic Abuse) assessment had provided the additional advantage of strengthening our partnership with external stakeholders, in particular Police Scotland, Adult and Child protection services and local housing providers.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES UPDATE

7.1 With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of 1 April 2015, there were circulated at the meeting updates on the Quality of Life Scheme and Neighbourhood Small Schemes. The Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that the allocated budget (£34,702) for small

schemes was available through Neighbourhood Services for the Cheviot Area in 2015/16. The report detailed those schemes which had been approved, completed and due for completing prior to 31 March 2015. The remaining budget of £7,361 was available for Neighbourhood Small Schemes. In addition, a budget of £20,000 was available for Quality of Life schemes in the Cheviot Area Forum Area in 2014/15. It had previously been agreed that this budget would be split equally between Kelso and District and Jedburgh and District Wards. There remained £8,820 for Kelso and District and £6,790 for Jedburgh and District.

DECISION

(a) AGREED the following new Neighbourhood Small Schemes for implementation :-

(i) Install additional bench and concrete bases at Junction Headrig/A68 Jedburgh £450

(ii) Supply and install one seat and two picnic benches within St Boswells Village £650

(b) NOTED:-

(i) the update on previously approved Neighbourhood Small Schemes as detailed in Appendix A;

(ii) the updates on previously approved Quality of Life Schemes as detailed in Appendix B; and

7.2 A request for the seat situated next to the Interpretation Board at the Junction Pool on the river Tweed, Kelso to be replaced had been received. The Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that he would look into the matter and ascertain whose land the seat was situated on.

OPEN QUESTIONS

8.1 The member of the public asked what plans there were to go beyond that contained in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill. The Depute Chief Executive – People advised that the final Act and implementation dates were awaited, after which, action plans would be developed.

DECISION
NOTED.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

9.1 **Oxnam Road Wall, Jedburgh –** With reference to paragraphs 21 to 23 of the Minute of 1 April 2015, the Area Neighbourhood Manager reported that Officers of the Council's Infrastructure section met with Ward Members during early May to view the proposed design to permanently widen the existing carriageway at Oxnam Road, Jedburgh, between Blair Avenue and The Boundaries junction. The proposal was to effectively widen the carriageway by an average of 600mm on the south-east side of the road and would include the installation of bollards in the footway on the opposite side which was adjacent to the houses. This section of carriageway would also be resurfaced to just below The Boundaries junction. These works would require the diversion of an existing gas main which was located within the area of ground of the proposed carriageway widening. Since the meeting with Members, officers had met with Scottish Gas Network (SGN) to discuss the timings of the diversion of the existing gas main and written confirmation had been received that the lead in time for SGN would be a minimum of 16 weeks. This meant that it would be late September at least before these final works could commence.

9.2 As a result of the lead in timescale intimated by SGN, and after discussion with ward members, it had been agreed that the large stones/rubble situated on the grass area adjacent to Oxnam Road, would be removed off site. It had also been agreed that the bollards to be located within the footway ex adverso to the properties occupied by Mr & Mrs Scott and Mr & Mrs Foggon, would be installed as soon as possible following receipt of them.

DECISION
NOTED the report.

9.3. **Skiprunning Burn, Jedburgh** – With reference to paragraph 24 of the Minute of 1 April 2015, the Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that following the previous update, the scheme remained on programme with a likely construction start date in late summer 2015, which was to accommodate the Larkhall B&B busy summer period. The work to extend planters at Market Square/Canongate had been completed. Advance accommodation works at Larkhall B&B were currently being undertaken.

DECISION
NOTED.

9.4 Kelso Community Council requested an update on the progress with the New Kelso High School, which had been delayed due to European funding issues. The Chairman advised that information would be released in the near future.

DECISION
NOTED.

9.5 St Boswells Community Council sought further clarification with regard to the boundary changes and the impact on St Boswells which was being split again. It was advised that Heiton and Roxburgh would revert to the Kelso and District Ward.

DECISION
NOTED.

9.6 Sprouston Community Council raised concerns about fly tipping within Sprouston Village and requested that a 'No Fly Tipping' sign be provided. The Area Neighbourhood Manager agreed to arrange for the sign to be provided through the Neighbourhood Small Schemes budget. The Community Council reported that they were delighted with the new goal posts.

DECISION
AGREED that a 'No Fly Tipping' sign be provided in Sprouston from the Neighbourhood Small Schemes Budget.

9.7 Kalewater Community Council sought an update on the mobile phone signals which appeared to have reduced in the area over recent months. The Communities and Partnership Manager advised that there had been meetings with phone companies and work continued on lobbying in London.

DECISION
NOTED.

9.8 Community Councils again raised the matter of Quality for Life Money and what the criteria was for Community Councils securing funding for projects. The Communities and Partnership Manager agreed to circulate the criteria to Community Councils and promote within the Localities Pilot (Cheviot Area).

DECISION

NOTED that the Communities and Partnership Manager would circulate to Community Councils the criteria for Quality of Life money.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum was scheduled for Wednesday, 16 September 2015 in Jedburgh.

DECISION
NOTED the date of the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum and that the venue was to be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.