

## Appendix A

**BERWICKSHIRE APPROACH:** At Berwickshire Area Partnership on 3 December 2020, it was agreed that a working group be convened to discuss and make recommendations. This working group met on 26 January 2021 9 February 2021 and again on 23 February. The working group made a presentation to the Berwickshire Area Partnership on 4 March 2021 to discuss recommendations and make the following proposals:

- The Area Partnership should continue as a Council Committee
- Continuation of the current role, remit and purpose of Area Partnerships
- Modifications regarding the operational characteristics of the Area Partnership will be required to ensure core functions are discharged in a more effective and participatory manner
- Sub-groups/sub-committees to be introduced with responsibility for setting and facilitation future meeting topics
- A “grass roots up” revision of the Berwickshire Locality Plan to include local place plans to be undertaken
- Geographical area meetings could be held that will feed into the Area Partnership
- Flexibility regarding process within and outcomes of the Area Partnership
- Capacity building will be required in order to operate more effectively as a partnership
- Recognised that although the Chair is an elected member appointed by the Council, the view of the partnership prior to appointment should be sought

**CHEVIOT APPROACH:** Cheviot Area Partnership met and discussed the Area Partnership and Community Fund on 25 November 2020. A working group was set up and met on 14 January 2021 to discuss and make recommendations to the Cheviot Area Partnership on 27 January 2021 and again on 18 February. The proposals from Cheviot in relation to Area Partnerships were as follows:

- Remain a Council Committee, to include Elected Members, Community Councils and 3rd Sector but only if all Committee Members had equal rights to include voting rights
- If unable to give all members equal voting rights then consider a separate entity/structure which focuses on strategic issues rather than very localised issues – which could be achieved by separating operational matters and more strategic matters
- Mechanisms for discussions on very localised issues to be identified
- More emphasis on sharing responsibility for the role of Chair if a separate entity is required
- More use of technology
- Ensure people are not disenfranchised by holding them the same day and time – explore meeting on different days and times

- A short meeting more frequently may be beneficial
- Committee need to agree which items are placed on the agenda
- Presentations for discussion allotted 15 mins
- All parties have a say on what goes on the agenda which could include a topic of interest
- The agreed identified priorities within the Cheviot Locality Plan should be to be re-visited to ensure that place plans are reflected
- Support to develop Local Place Plans
- Area Partnership must spend more time to look at and reflect on the SCDC report and address the findings
- Sustainability crisis needs to be built into Cheviot Locality Plan

**EILDON APPROACH:** Eildon Area Partnership met on 12 November 2020 and the attendees were asked for comments back via the Chair. 2 further sessions with communities were held on 17<sup>th</sup> December and 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020, and the findings presented back to the Area Partnership on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The proposals from Eildon with regards to the Area Partnership were as follows:

- A sub-group/sub-committee would be useful to gather thoughts and opinions and make it manageable
- From the comments there is an enthusiasm for this to be a community meeting but that there is a worry that no actions will take place and that the meeting would hold less value.
- Who would provide administration support etc if it was a community meeting?
- The aim of the area partnership in the meantime could therefore be to build capacity so that these can become community meetings long term
- A rotating chair could be a good start at this, with the support of SBC officers and Elected Members
- A theme at each meeting, based on one of the priorities of the Locality Plan & Action Plan. This would allow an officer from that Directorate presenting and laying out any progress, or otherwise, and then being questioned by the attendees, or receiving suggestions and advice
- A member from one of the emergency services presenting on what progress their local plans are having, and answering questions
- Make sure that the action plan has merit and any actions are reported on This will demonstrate that the community voice is being heard and that Area Partnerships have an influence
- Link volunteers and resilient community groups better into this process
- Allow a place for community council issues to be discussed or issues to be raised
- Allow the partnership to have their say and make decisions on any consultations that there may be, this would allow Area Partnerships to become the vehicle of decision making

- Rotate the Chair. If that works then move further in ensuring more volunteers rather than elected SBC Councillors have a formal role
- Re meeting time - evenings are preferable – to encourage attendance from people at work and school pupils. Virtual meetings have a future where public transport is a problem – but access to technology and internet connection shouldn't rule out attendance – blended approach may be the answer longer term
- At least once a year it should be during the day when those not available at night might attend
- Make the actions on the action plan more accountable – report more on progress (or lack of) and use the action plan as a way of making sure things get done
- Reflect the action plan to local issues and not just high level requests

**TEVIOT & LIDDESDALE APPROACH:** After discussion at the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership on 17 November 2020, the eight Community Councils met with Elected Members and agreed a proposal which was discussed with Council officers, and feedback was provided by those officers. A presentation was then made by representatives of the Community Councils to the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership on 12 January 2021 and the feedback incorporated into the final proposals. In relation to the Area Partnerships, the following was proposed:

- More transparency and say – co-production & collaboration with partners and share learning & experience
- Greater influence in service provision that impact each of us in different ways – strategic development & place planning
- Community sustainability through economic growth; developing what we've got, maximising its uses and attracting new investment
- New approach with digital resources allows us to cover more, quickly and efficiently
- Different types of meetings, agendas and participants – key partners to be invited to attend
- An overarching AP with different functions, sub groups/committees of relevance: *'bring back the IJB –Health and Wellbeing group'*
- Recognising a different approach: a new environment with new challenges needing a different solution that reflect local needs
- *Community engagement and participation assessed differently:*
- *Communities 'it must work for us, we must be heard and actions taken'*
- SBC and public agency partners *'need to deliver true community empowerment'*

**TWEEDDALE APPROACH:** Tweeddale Area Partnership discussed the findings and recommendations of the SCDC report at a meeting on 3 November 2020. The Chair then held a number of drop in surgeries to discuss proposals and presented these on the 19 January 2021. These proposals were:

- We need to find subjects and speakers that will attract the community to engage
- Meetings need to have a focus and be more specific. Debates could be held on major changes to Council policy as a stage in the process
- Consider meeting timings – remember people work
- Area Partnerships should be Council Committees
- There needs to be a clearer picture of the purpose of the Area Partnership
- It is important that larger communities are not able to dominate decision-making over smaller communities
- The Community Assistance Hub is a very successful and effective model at providing a sense of community
- Most people do not know about the Area Partnerships – need to promote them
- What are the outcomes of discussions and decisions? Good ideas need to be translated into actions
- Resource should be provided to increase community engagement – “meaningful listening”
- Resources should be provided to assist Community Councils with projects