

# Public Document Pack

## SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTE of Meeting of the TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP held in via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 8 June 2021 at 6.00 pm

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Present:- Councillors N Richards (Chairman), W McAteer, D Paterson, C Ramage, G Turnbull.  
17 representatives of partner organisations, Community Councils, and members of the public

In Attendance:- Service Director Customer & Communities, Communities and Partnerships Manager, Locality Development Co-ordinator (G Jardine), Democratic Services Team Leader

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### 1. **WELCOME AND MEETING PROTOCOLS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership held remotely via Microsoft Teams, which included Elected Members, guests attending and those watching the live stream.

### 2. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 9 MARCH 2021**

The Minute of the meeting of the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership held on 9 March 2021 had been circulated and was noted. The Chairman encouraged everyone to complete the request for evaluation following the meeting. Regarding the comment on bringing back representatives from Police Scotland and Fire & Rescue, views were sought as to whether it would be desirable. Those present generally welcomed their inclusion on future agendas.

### 3. **PLACE MAKING - CO-PRODUCING THE FUTURE OF OUR PLACES**

With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of 9 March 2021, the Chairman welcomed Diarmaid Lawlor from Scottish Futures Trust to the meeting. Mr Lawlor had been invited by Scottish Borders Council to work with Area Partnerships to assist with the development of Place Making proposals. Mr Lawlor had already worked with other areas and had a wide experience of place making. Mr Lawlor gave a short presentation and advised that from an understanding of local need and ambition, and using Covid learning, there was an opportunity for a different way of working between communities and public agencies. A 'place based' approach sought to co-produce an understanding of local priorities and co-deliver action. The format for the workshop was based on three areas namely what were the key issues, what would success look like and how could we work together better. Mr Lawlor led the discussion and made real-time notes to summarise the comments and points made. Those present contributed to the discussion and expressed their concerns and frustrations. The importance of not losing the gains in communities working together during the Covid pandemic was highlighted. The need to listen to all generations was also emphasised. Mr Lawlor advised that his notes summarising the key points of the discussion, would be circulated following the meeting and are also attached as an appendix to this Minute. Jenni Craig, Service Director Customer and Communities advised that Mr Lawlor was visiting all Area Partnerships and a summary of all the workshop discussions across all the five area partnerships would inform a report to Council at the end of August setting out the detail of the place-making approach. The Chairman thanked Mr Lawlor for his facilitation.

### 4. **AREA PARTNERSHIP CONSULTATION**

Gillian Jardine, Locality Development Co-ordinator advised that the consultation was now live, the link to which was included on the agenda. The consultation would close on 1 August with a report to Council in the Autumn.

5. **TEVIOT & LIDDESDALE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE HUB**

Information on the Community Assistance Hub had been circulated with the agenda and Gillian Jardine, Locality Development Co-ordinator gave an update and advised that the Hub was currently focussing on mental health and wellbeing.

6. **TEVIOT & LIDDESDALE COMMUNITY UPDATE**

With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of 9 March 2021, Philip Kerr asked for feedback following the flooding in March. He advised that other Chairs were attending meetings of Southdean Community Council. He also requested that the extension of the railway should be included on every agenda, that the Area Partnership should be a forum for shared learning on items such as windfarms and forestry traffic. A wider discussion on roads issues was also required.

7. **COMMUNITY FUND PROJECT EVALUATION**

The Chairman welcomed Sian Snowden from Escape who was in attendance to give an evaluation of the funding that had been received for the Escape Youth Café Community Lunch Club. Sian advised that outdoor tables, a pizza oven, foldable tables and chairs had been purchased from the funding. Help was being provided by the young people and they were looking for volunteers who would be working towards a Saltire Award. Work had been carried out in the garden area and the produce would be used for the lunch club. Lidl and Aldi were also providing surplus food which was helping to keep costs down. On-line cookery sessions had been started during lockdown which allowed young people to cook in their own home. Drop in baking sessions were also being held. Over the summer the promotional material would be finalised and there would be information stands to raise awareness. The club would be promoted to existing users of the centre with a view to getting a wider group to come along. If successful it was hoped that the club could move from monthly to weekly if more funding could be obtained and they were keen to get started. Shona Smith thanked Sian on behalf of the Community Partnership Team.

8. **COMMUNITY FUND WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION**

Gillian Jardine, Locality Development Co-ordinator shared the slides produced by the Working Group, thanked the Community Councils for their time and input and outlined progress to date. Those present discussed the way forward and indicated their desire to make early progress with the proposals for a two tier Pot A and Pot B funds. It was noted that some decisions around the scoring matrix were still required and that Gillian had not received the views from all Community Councils yet. It was agreed that the final arrangements would be agreed by the end of June and that a special meeting would be held in July to ratify these arrangements.

9. **BUILD BACK A BETTER BORDERS RECOVERY FUND**

The new fund had been launched on 1 June and the link for applications had been circulated. Applications would be brought to the Area Partnership for approval. As this was a one-off fund it would not be incorporated into the new Assessment Panel Model. The fund was open for 12 months until 31 May 2022.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date would be confirmed in due course.

11. **ANY OTHER FORMAL BUSINESS**

No items were raised.

12. **OPEN FORUM**

- 12.1 Mr Kerr and Ms Batsch commented on recent issues they had both experienced in receiving their second Covid-19 vaccine to raise awareness.
- 12.2 Mr Tait queried if any of the funding from the Governments levelling-up fund was being used for projects in Hawick. Jenni Craig advised that applications were being assessed by an independent Panel with a report to Council. Information on the successful projects would be available following the Council meeting.
- 12.3 Mr Kerr advised that Keltbray were offering vouchers for households disrupted by recent power outages and he would follow up. Severed phone lines had recently been repaired by Open Reach. SBC's emergency planning team did not have BT or Open Reach on their preferred contact list and Ms Jardine would discuss this with emergency planning.
13. **CHAIRMAN**  
The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, reminded those present to complete the meeting evaluation and closed the meeting.

***The meeting concluded at 8.05 pm***

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# Agenda

- Key issues
- Success =
- Working together priorities

**What**

Working better together around local needs

**Why**

Build on Covid experiences and support community ambitions

**How**

- Shared principles; way of working
- Alignment
- Simplification

## Vulnerabilities

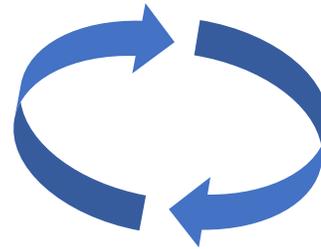
- *social inequalities*
- *hidden harm*
- *shielding*
- *stop people getting ill*

## Common Purpose

- *the order of doing*
- *what matters - a common purpose*
- *quick decisions - oversight by trust*
- *affects every aspect of life*
- *leadership at all levels*

## Localism

- *social partnerships - impact*
- *gaps before statutory responses*
- *distributed services*
- *real world learning*



## Capabilities

- *trusted people*
- *rediscovered interests*
- *national tensions*
- *new ways of working*

## Infrastructures

- *ownership of space*
- *resourcing*
- *digital equity*
- *new settings*

# Agenda

## What

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## Key Issues

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- Ambition; we need to have an ambition to get somewhere, a shared ambition
- Improvement in the quality of life, socially and economically
- Be treated with respect
- Have concerns listened to
- No need for grand plans
- Concentrate on the communities]
- Communities are about people, not buildings and spaces
- Community spirit
- Too often requests have been ignored and people have got on with things themselves
- Volunteers, gold
- The time that people give of themselves to help their communities; support them and especially when it comes to organisation looking for financial assistance
- Make it clear and as simple as can be
- Local communities working very well together]the issue is the link up with SBC to work with communities
- Trying to get things moving forward
- Lots of talk, little action
- Lots of the gains from Covid being flushed away
- Need more co-operation
- Talk is there, not the action
- Requests for information to move forward aggressively not being followed
- Trying to make the community work together strongly
- Appreciative of support to bring plans forward
- Listening
- Move to the next level; demonstrating. Listening and doing
- Empowerment, delivering

## Key Issues

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- What we say we are going to do, doing it
- Trial and error.....try it
- Whats wrong with communities taking some risks
- Not moribund
- Moving on
- Learning from covid; being agile, responsive, getting things done
- Community creating a lot of promise
- A mechanism for the future
- Take more risk
- Get on and delivering
- Make the hub special; not there yet
- The eneed for action
- Galashiels...siting concerns; the concerns of those who have an interest
- Not railroading things through, not listening
- TSI, linking third sector and public agencies
- Community development support
- Volunteers who are happy to take a leadership role and make things happen
- Volunteers happy to do things on the ground
- Both important
- Those thinking strategically have a major part to play in the place planning; making communities what they are today
- Take rosks to move forward
- Be willing to be different
- May get things wrong; but tweak them. Be flexible
- Can't dismiss people's opinions
- Listen to people
- We [sbc] don't have all the answers

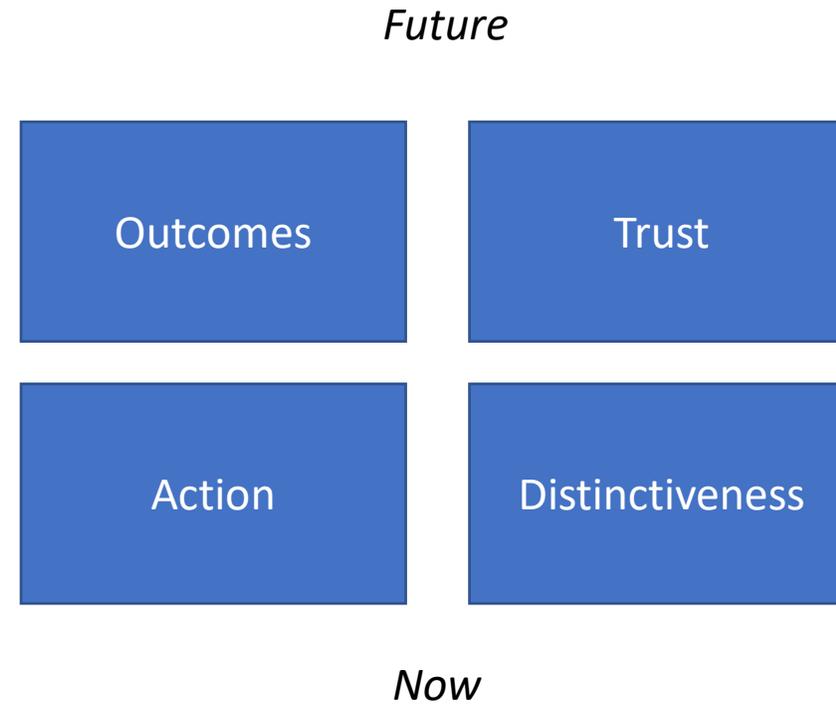
- Key word
- This is a pilot
- Each of the areas is different
- Can experiment
- Learning by doing
- Respect the differences between areas
- Outcomes...if we can see a difference, it helps everybody point in the right direction
- Reduce the number of times we revisit the same issue
- Put stuff to bed with a clear objective
- Reduce the boredom and repeat
- Get things done
- Make sure all generations are listened to from small children to older...all the community and not just some
- Some communities have a plan....come up with it....would like to be listened to this, try it
- Sometimes local volunteers and organisations have looked at projects and found it frustrating....trying to work together
- Volunteer park
- Where manpower is wasted, where things are not making headway
- People walk with their feet
- Assist organisations to come and achieve what their targets are
- Get rid of gobbledygood phrase....placemaking=?
- What does it mean?
- Has been a lot of focus on future things but less focus on existing problems
- The sunny uplands and current issues that need to be worked through and listened to
- balance

- When problems raised [flooding], work well together, quickly and effectively
- The council trusting the local community...how well things work when the trust is put into the community/third sector
- 'they are only volunteers'...
- The Borders are amazing for its fantastic people, high capacity people...
- Don't ignore the capacity
- Ignoring is to the detriment
- Need to trust each other
- We could do it at the beginning of covid...got in before agencies
- Trust, getting on with it
- Some communities have a plan....come up with it...would like to be listened to this, try it
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- SBC working closely with communities in a way that works
- SBC learning to trust us
- In 60's Borders relied on Hawick for employment...that debt hasn't been repaid
- SE encouraging businesses to locate elsewhere
- How does investment benefit the whole of the Borders
- More investment in places and their people
- If you say you are going to learn from experience, then learn from experience and use it
- We have learned a lot from covid, distill it down, and apply
- Agility, quick thinking...shape the learnings and drive our agenda against the learnings
- Learn, move on
- Listen to the community, less buzz words, not constantly going back to drawing board
- Communities doing this as part of daily lives
- 8 community councils came up with plan
- Sometimes feels like lip service when nothing happens
- Tired
- Communities if they are not listened to will walk away, find the funding, do it themselves
- Would be so much better if agencies and communities could find ways to work much better together, linking local knowledge, local caring, local knowledge with funding and staff etc
- Container ship....community are the pilot ships
- More professional assistance to meet communities to meet and make a project
- Cut through the paper works
- Hawick....work together with other communities to make the place great again

- This is the first Area Partnership
  - Moving across all the Areas
  - This is key for SBC to shape the approach to work better
  - Really helpful to get insight from community colleagues
  - Will inform report
  - Will look at resources to support communities for things like place plans
  - There will be huge opportunities around investment so key to get the right resources to support communities to capitalise on the opportunities
  - Will share the individual Area Partnership notes and notes from across all the partnerships
- This has the largest community council and the smallest ones
  - So a place plan for the different places will look very different
  - Maybe a different approach for the size and scale of places
  - Share the learning

- Use the learning
- Less buzz words
- Respect volunteers
- Support effort
- Simplify
- Work together
- Benefits for Borders



# Place workshop | Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership

## Issues

*"It's about community spirit"*

Our ambition is for improvement in quality of life, socially and economically. There is no need for grand plans. Concentrate on the communities.

We are trying to make the community stronger. And, work together. Communities are about people, not buildings and spaces. They are a mechanism for the future.

The Borders are amazing for its fantastic people. So, value the time people give of themselves to help communities. Volunteers are gold. They have a major part to play in place planning, leading and doing things on the ground. Don't ignore the capacity. We need to trust each other.

*"Our communities are creating a lot of promise"*

Communities want to have concerns listened to. Too often, requests have been ignored. We need more co-operation. Where manpower is wasted, people walk with their feet. So, local people have just gotten on with things.

And, we worry that lots of the gains from Covid are being flushed away. It would be so much better if agencies and communities could link local knowledge, local caring, and local knowledge with funding and staff. Agencies are like container ships. Communities are the pilot boats.

We want empowerment. Demonstrate listening and doing. And not railroading things through. No one has all the answers. Use the learning from Covid about being agile, responsive, getting things done. Take risks to move forward. Try things. Learn by doing. Be willing to be different. Be flexible.

*"Communities are not moribund"*

## Success

We have the smallest community council and the biggest one. Recognise the differences There should be a different approach for different places. But, let's share learning from all our places. And, make sure all generations are listened to from small children to older.

*"Include all the community and not just some"*

## Priorities

*"If we say we are going to learn from experience, then learn from experience and use it"*

We need a balance between the future sunny uplands and current issues that need to be worked through. We have learned a lot from Covid. Distill it down. And apply. Drive our agenda against the learning. And, work with other communities. Use other positive learning experiences of working together, like the flooding, where communities and Council worked quickly and effectively.

*"trusting the community"*

Some communities have a plan. Some need help to come up with it. So, assist organisations achieve their targets. Make things clear and simple as can be. Get rid of gobbledygook phrases like placemaking.

So, help communities capitalise on investment opportunities, benefitting the whole of the Borders. Encourage businesses to locate here. Reduce the number of times we revisit the same issue. Put stuff to bed with a clear objective. Focus on outcomes.

*"If we can see action making a difference, it helps everybody point in the right direction"*

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