

Tweeddale Area Partnership (TAP) Proposal for TAP Place Making Working Group (PMWG)

(based on similar presentation made to Berwickshire Area Partnership at its Feb 2022 meeting by Keith Dickinson, Chair of Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth Community Council)

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- Recommendations

Purpose of Paper

This paper has two key aims:

- It will strengthen the role of the Tweeddale Area Partnership by setting up the mechanisms whereby community views can be fed into Place Making discussions in an effective, participatory and constructive way.
- It will help address concerns raised about:
 - The absence of early and effective consultation
 - Perceived flaws in the currently proposed methodology
 - Difficulties in the understanding / interpretation of proposals

This in turn will encourage greater community involvement and broader representation

Background

In various documents “Place” is described as where people, location and resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose.

A number of policy initiatives, in the area of community involvement and Place Making, are relevant to the discussion and consistent with the proposal:

- SBC’s Fit for 2024 Transformation strategy has empowerment as a key theme and recognises that there must be a greater focus on supporting communities to participate.
- The Council say they are committed to respond to the obligations in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, particularly in relation to Community Planning
- More recently the Place Principle has been promoted by the Scottish Government as a way to focus many of these policy aims in a flexible localised approach to community needs and services.
- The review of Area Partnerships undertaken by the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC)

Proposal for TAP Place Making Working Group

- How can members of the TAP engage with this activity in a more meaningful way?
- Experience shows that over 2 or 3 well-structured meetings working groups can deliver recommendations that can be endorsed by an Area Partnership
- it is therefore proposed that a PMWG of TAP be created:
 - Comprised 6-8 members with an additional 2/3 SBC councillors
 - Charged with making recommendations to the TAP, related to the development and implementation of Place Making / Planning in Tweeddale.
 - It should report to a future TAP meeting

Agenda and timescale for Working Group

Consider and make recommendations related to:

- Place Making and Place Planning – clarification of terminology
- Proposed Joint Principles
- The Proposed Target Place Making Framework
- The methodology for determining which communities to prioritise
- How to best allocate resources available for place planning in Tweeddale
- The Area Partnership – Draft Place Making Role Agreement

Some of this agenda could be considered by the PMWG and some could be the subject of a facilitated workshop

Recommendations

TAP to agree:

1. to set up a Place Making working group (WG)
2. to an initial WG Agenda
3. to plan a facilitated Place Making workshop, to explore and agree a way forward
4. a Borders wide good practice workshop (also facilitated)
5. to the timescale for recommendations to a future TAP meeting
6. a method of recruitment to the working group
7. that appropriate officer support for the PMWG will be made available