

Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership – 21st June 2022

Place Making – Options for Next Steps in Teviot & Liddesdale

1. Purpose

To set out possible next steps for the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership to build on local good practice and progress place making in communities across the locality

2. Background

Area Partnership Discussions/Workshops

Over the past year, conversations have been continuing with Area Partnerships around:

- How we develop a place making approach in each locality and across the Borders
- Where we might make a practical start
- What the role of Area Partnerships should be in overseeing the implementation and delivery of place making in their communities

The conversation began in spring last year around introducing the proposals presented to the February 2021 Council meeting and continued in summer with a series of brief workshops facilitated by Scottish Futures Trust to gauge views on what place making means to communities and what the priority issues and ambitions were for the approach. The output from the workshops was used to draft more detailed place making proposals which were endorsed by the August 2021 Council with a view to further engagement and development with Area Partnerships over Autumn and winter.

In spring, this year, a series of facilitated workshops were held to explore place making in greater detail and to enable those involved in Area Partnerships and their communities to shape place making in their locality, including the role of the Area Partnership in overseeing place making.

The focus now needs to turn to how practical support can be given to communities in both developing and progressing their place plans and build on existing work within the locality.

Emerging Approaches

Across the 5 localities, different approaches are emerging reflecting the diversity of each locality and that there is no single one-size-fits-all approach or route. Both Berwickshire and Tweeddale Area Partnerships have formed working groups to develop and make recommendations on place making arrangements in their localities. The other Area Partnerships will consider options at their June meetings reflecting feedback from their Place Making workshops and from their communities.

Borderlands

In all localities, with the exception of Tweeddale, there are existing commitments to begin place making in the 4 target towns identified in the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal - Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick and Jedburgh – this year. Nationally agreed guidance from the Borderlands Place Programme and experience from the development of associated place plans (both locally, and across the Borderlands local authorities – Carlisle, Cumbria, Dumfries and Galloway and Northumberland) can also provide models to guide place making elsewhere.

For Teviot & Liddesdale, this means that there is already a commitment under the Borderlands Place Programme to undertake place making – and the development of a Town/Place Plan and

associated Investment Plan – in Hawick and incorporating Burnfoot. Initial planning for this will begin in the coming weeks. As this is part of an agreed programme of work under separate governance arrangements, this is outside the scope of the options set out in section 4.

3. Teviot & Liddesdale Workshop – (26th April)

A summary of the workshop is included at Appendix 1 and some emerging themes are highlighted below:

- A broad understanding of place making – that it should be inclusive, community-led, extend beyond spatial planning and cover all aspects of life in a community.
- Recognition of the diversity of communities and that there should be no one-size-fits-all.
- The importance of supporting rural communities – not just towns.
- Understanding that community-led plans should form a foundation for wider plans
- Communities should determine the boundaries of their place plans – including multi-community plans

No clear steer emerged on either the role of the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership in overseeing and directing place making in the locality or in the identification of communities that wished to become involved.

4. Options

2 possible options for progressing place making are set out below:

- a. SBC's Community Engagement Team – on behalf of the Area Partnership:
 - i. seek expressions of interest from local communities in becoming involved in place making (individually or combined with other communities)
 - ii. work with those communities to develop a series of proposals and an understanding of the range of associated support required to enable the proposals to be progressedProposals/updates would be brought to a future meetings of the Area Partnership.
- b. The Area Partnership establishes – and seeks initial nominations for – a working group along the lines of the Berwickshire/Tweeddale model. In the meantime, while the Working Group is being established, SBC's Community Engagement Team - on behalf of the Working Group – could seek expressions of interest both in terms from:
 - i. those who wish to becoming involved in the working group
 - ii. communities that would like to become involved in place making (individually or combined with other communities)

The working group would – with the support of SBC's Community Engagement team – work with communities which have expressed an interest to develop a series of proposals and an understanding of the associated support needed to enable the progress to be progressed and make recommendations to the Area Partnership.

SBC would provide support to the Working Group in line with practice in Berwickshire and Tweeddale and share good practice across all groups. Both options would seek to understand both the resource needed to support communities (e.g. independent facilitation) and seek to identify how that resource requirement could be met.

5. Recommendation

That the Area Partnership consider the options and provide direction on how they would like to progress