

# Cheviot Area Partnership – 29th June 2022

## Place Making – Options for Next Steps in Cheviot

### 1. Purpose

To set out options for the Cheviot Area Partnership in supporting the development of community-led place plans 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 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 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 the subject in greater detail and to help shape local arrangements.

The focus now needs to turn to how practical support is given to communities in developing their place plans.

#### Emerging Approaches

Across the 5 localities, different approaches are emerging reflecting the diversity of the area.

In **Berwickshire**, the Area Partnership now has an established a short-life Place Making Working Group, comprising representatives from across local communities and organisations and is proposing an inclusive “opt-in” approach, initially seeking expressions of interest from Communities across the locality. It is anticipated that the inclusive approach – i.e. all communities that wish to become involved in place planning should be helped to do so – can be done through a network of champions or leaders with support being provided by SBC and others according to their needs.

In **Tweeddale**, the Area Partnership is taking a similar approach with the formation of a Working Group and membership which is, again, drawn from local communities and organisations.

Both working groups are chaired by community representatives and are supported by Council officials and both groups will feedback progress to the next round of Area Partnerships and ultimately make recommendations for progressing Place Making in their respective localities later this year. Both groups provide a model that could be adopted, in whole or in part(s), by

other Area Partnerships. Both groups have publically available documentation – questionnaires, refined principles, place making definition – which can be adapted and, as their proposals are developed, there is scope for further sharing of information.

In **the remaining 3 localities**, options will be presented to their Area Partnership meetings in June.

### **Borderlands**

In all localities, with the exception of Tweeddale, there are also 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 Cheviot, this means that there is already a commitment under the Borderlands Place Programme to support the Jedburgh community to develop a Town Plan and an associated Investment Plan. As this is part of an agreed programme under separate governance arrangements, this is outside the scope of the options set out in section 4 below.

### **3. Cheviot Workshop – (27<sup>th</sup> April)**

A summary of points raised at the workshop is included at Appendix 1. Some of the themes emerging 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 – although the name “place making” was not seen as helpful.
- Recognition of the diversity of communities in the locality and that there should be no one-size-fits-all.
- Debate around the suitability of the Area Partnerships, as they are currently configured, in playing an oversight role.
- The importance of supporting rural communities – not just towns.
- Including all people in communities and in particular engaging young people in the process.
- The need to make this a hands-on, practical and creative process of engagement with walking workshops, maps and more active public engagement.

While there was some discussion over the role of the Cheviot Area Partnership in overseeing and directing place making, there was no clear steer from the workshop. Similarly no clear steer emerged in terms of identifying of communities that wished to become involved.

### **4. Options**

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

- a. **Working Group Approach.** 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)

SBC would provide support to the Working Group in line with practice in Berwickshire and Tweeddale and share good practice across all groups. The working group would make recommendations to the Area Partnership.

- b. **Area Partnership Approach.** SBC – on behalf of the Area Partnership – seeks expressions of interest from local communities in becoming involved in place making and that those expressions of interest are brought back to the Area Partnership for consideration.

In effect, this route could follow the approaches in Berwickshire and Tweeddale with the steer coming from the Area Partnership rather than a Working Group. However, the process could take longer due to the timetable of Area Partnership meetings.

- c. **Hybrid Approach.** That representatives from the Area Partnership work with SBC officers in an informal capacity in seeking expressions of interest from communities wishing to become involved in Place Making directly and working with those communities to formulate and support a viable approach. Again, this could use emerging models in other localities. Expressions of interest and proposals to move these forward would be brought back to the Area Partnership for consideration.

The above options are not exhaustive but provide a basis for discussion. The Area Partnership may wish to bring forward an alternative option(s) for consideration.

## 5. Recommendation

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