

MINUTES of Meeting of the CHEVIOT
AREA PARTNERSHIP held remotely by
Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 23
March 2022 at 6.30 pm.

Present:- Councillors S. Hamilton (Chairman), J. Brown, S. Scott, T. Weatherston,
together with 19 Representatives of Partner Organisations, Community
Councils and Members of the Public.

Apologies: Councillor S. Mountford, E. Robson.

In attendance: - Locality Development Co-ordinator – Clare Malster, Community
Engagement Officer – David Peebles, Democratic Services Officer (F.
Henderson).

1.0 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

1.1 Microsoft teams, which included elected Members, guests attending within the meeting and those watching via the Live Stream. He outlined how the meeting would be conducted.

2.0 **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 26 JANUARY 2022**

2.1 The minute of the meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership held on 26 January 2022 had been circulated and was noted.

3.0 **SECTION 1: SERVICE & PARTNER UPDATES AND CONSULTATIONS**

3.1 **Place Making**

A workshop to discuss Place Making in the Cheviot locality will take place on 27 April 2022.

Jess Houghton, Place Planning and Regeneration Officer introduced herself and gave a quick update on Place making and encouraged people to sign up to the workshop in April.

4.0 **SECTION 2: LOCAL PRIORTIES**

4.1 **Kelso Skate Park**

Clare Malster, Locality Development Co-ordinator reported that unfortunately the Kelso High School Students and representatives from the Youth Learning Team (CLD Service) were unable to attend the meeting.

4.2 **Electric Vehicle Charging Update**

It was reported that through funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund, Scottish Borders Council was currently taking forward a region wide feasibility study to identify future EV vehicle charging demand and the commercial opportunities to create a regional delivery model to attract private investment and operation. This approach recognised the Scottish Government's new approach to funding charging infrastructure through private sector investment. In the National Transport Strategy 2 Delivery Plan and the recently published Transport Scotland and Scottish Futures Trust report on delivering EV Infrastructure, they both highlight that the public sector had supported the growth in EV vehicles through initial infrastructure and, now the market had reached maturity, it was time to leverage private sector investment into the country to deliver the wider infrastructure required to hit the Net Zero targets over the next 20 years.

The feasibility study acknowledged that with the size and dispersed population of the Scottish Borders, it would make it difficult to attract private sector investment equitably across the region. Therefore the study was looking to engage with sectors in the Scottish Borders (business, tourism etc.) and communities to quantify the future charging demand and to provide guidance on forming partnerships to procure investment from the private sector collectively. This would enable the region to gain economies of scale / critical mass and maximising the coverage of private investment.

The public consultation was expected to go live w/c 4 April and run to the end of June. This would include stakeholder workshops expected to take place mid-April – early May. There would be specific workshops for community councils which would help on a locality basis. The information would be circulated as soon as it was available.

4.3 Community Choices – Participatory Budgeting Update

It was reported that at their meeting on 22 February Scottish Borders Council received an update on the organisation's approach to Participatory Budgeting (PB). In 2017 CoSLA announced that Council Leaders had agreed that at least 1% of local government budgets would be subject to Participatory Budgeting by the end of the financial year (2020/21) with the aim of giving communities more influence over decisions on how funding was spent in their local area. However with the majority of PB work stopping in response to the pandemic CoSLA and Scottish Government recognised the exceptional circumstances brought about by the ongoing pandemic, and the impact this had had on the ability of local authorities to meet the 1% Framework Agreement by the end of March 2022. Scottish Government and CoSLA Leaders have renewed their commitment to meeting the 1% target and the Framework Agreement had been revised to allow a degree of flexibility in meeting the deadline, alongside the importance of embedding social renewal within future mainstream PB activity.

The PB target of 1% was not about identifying a separate or additional resource, it was principally about involving communities in decisions regarding existing resources. The 1% was the minimum target and can comprise both revenue and capital expenditure. In taking this forward it was recognised that training for both officer and communities would be beneficial. Many partners attended the training workshops that were run by SCDC at the tail end of last year, which covered topics including what was PB, where did it come from what was community empowerment, what are the barriers and opportunities; and community engagement. The slides and breakout room write ups had been circulated.

The Council was forecasting to spend £3.970m on PB activity during 2021/22. The minimum target is £2.332m. This was made up as follows:

- Community Fund - £372,000
- Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund - £443,000
- Foodbanks and Fareshare support - £127,000

Officers meet regularly with local foodbanks, Fareshare outlets and other food networks across the Borders. Utilising the Financial Hardship Fund enabled direct communication from these groups in relation to lived experience, and also about what type of financial support would be most useful to them in reducing food insecurity across the Borders with dignity and respect.

- Play parks - £78,000

Newtown Primary School had been involved in the design of the pattern of the wet pour safety surface of Newtown St Boswells Play Park, and this was a good example of how to involve communities in making choices.

- Hawick Flood Scheme Active Travel Network – £2,950m

Engagement had taken place with community groups in the Hawick area throughout the Hawick Flood Scheme project and the outcomes of these discussions had resulted in direct changes to the design of the Scheme and budget spend including the inclusion of the Hawick Active Travel Network.

A really good example of PB at a local level was Peebles High School where pupils had been awarded funding from Tweeddale Community Fund and the Democratic Society to run their own PB project in relation to making improvements in the school. The pupils were keen to share their experiences with any groups interested in doing something similar with the School.

So moving forward, what next?

Following the SCDC training webinars being delivered to Council officers covering PB including why it was important to the Council and our communities and what the Council's responsibility regarding PB was. CoSLA had launched a PB briefing for Elected Members, which was live on the Improvement Service Website.

Additional areas being considered in relation to a PB approach for 2022/23 include:

- Place Based Investment Programme
- community food growing
- skate parks
- pupil voice in relation to school meals
- climate change & net zero
- period poverty, and
- demand led transport

These will contribute to the Councils minimum target of £2.430m for 2022/23

In conclusion, the approach being taken was to embed PB as a way in which the Council does its business and therefore would evolve. It would be delivered via mainstreaming routes rather than the small grant or one off budgets, which had previously been the focus, and would take time to develop and refine as we learn what works best for our communities. To ensure that the Council achieved this it was essential that we train and develop key officers across the organisation to consider PB in their service and spending plans.

4.4 **Cheviot Community Assistance Hub Update**

David Peebles, Community Engagement Officer explained that the Cheviot Community Partnership meetings took place every second Thursday on line and lasted approximately an hour to give support, to share networks and focus on specific needs within the community. There was a mailing list of 70 people representing Care, Social Services, Housing, Youth Groups, Third Sector and Scottish Borders Council. Relevant individuals and organisations were invited to each meeting to speak to the group around an agreed subject. Since February, Mental Health has been the focus with leadership from Steph Mackenzie from the NHS Borders Health Improvement Team, Clare Malster and myself.

Cheviot Area Partnership

The starting point was Public Mental Health Interventions, which highlighted what could be done.

- On a Primary level – the locality could map what assets were in place to promote Mental Health Wellbeing and promote these.
- On a Secondary Level – there was probably more that could be done
- On a Third Level – ongoing activities were required to keep well, eg lunch clubs, craft sessions, walking groups and youth groups.
- A community approach was required, the NHS could not do this alone.

During the last meetings, the following speakers and organisations had presented:-

Ross Irvine – Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health Service Cheviot Youth whose remit was to provide free to access counselling to all over age 8, with a particular specialism in those aged between 8 and 25 and are an approved placement provider for BACP HND course available at Borders College

Currently running and planning for the future:

- Dads only Program
- Parenting in the teenage years
- Anger in the family program
- Brick by Brick - autism
- All stars – resilience against bullying
- Seasons for growth – grief and loss approach

Lyndsay Hornigold – Dementia Adviser - Alzheimers Scotland who was hoping to open a Dementia café in Jedburgh.

Paul Roberts – Foodbank had recognised that the Economic profile of the people being referred was changing and they were now seeing people they would not previously have expected to require a food bank

Cheviot Togs who received funding from Build Back Better Fund, were able to provide free clothing on a referral basis. This service is available across Cheviot and Teviot area and would include school uniforms

Lisa-Jane Dock – NHS 24 mental health services which provided the following services

- [Self help guides](#) for those with mild to moderate symptoms
- Mental health Hub available 24/7 on 111
- NHS inform website
- Breathing Space – free confidential telephone support 6pm- 2am Mon-Thurs, 24hrs at the weekend on 0800 83 85 87

Lizzie McLeish & Nic White - Children & Young People Community Health & Wellbeing

Their two main areas of focus on:-

The Service Directory - which was looking to be a one stop shop for services, children, young people and families to establish different opportunities/support that can be accessed within the Borders that would support with emotional health and wellbeing for children and young people.

The Training Matrix which was looking at skilled and informed levels of training available in the Scottish Borders across different areas that could affect emotional health and wellbeing eg Healthy Eating, Sleep, Self Harm, Substance Use and Tobacco and other areas.

Kirsty – Kooth was a free online mental health & emotional wellbeing service. The service was commissioned for those aged 11 – 18 living in Scottish Borders. There was also a Kooth magazine available for young people which included a creative space where users could contribute their poetry, articles etc. and a good mood playlist available every Monday on Spotify.

Rosin Lynch – Togetherall Borders was a free online mental health support with peer support, combined with 24/7 clinical rigour, which empowers people to share feelings anonymously, break isolation and receive empathy – all in a safe place.

Steph MacKenzie – NHS Borders Health Improvement Team

A multi-agency steering group was in place and a great deal of training and capacity building had been carried out during the pandemic. Currently developing a 3 year action plan for mental health and suicide prevention and looking at what could be done in the communities.

The aim was to compile all relevant information together as a resource. If anyone was interested in participating in the meetings, please contact David Peebles - David.Peebles@scotborders.gov.uk or Clare Malster - CMalster@scotborders.gov.uk

**DECISION
NOTED.**

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY FUNDING

- 5.0 At their meeting on Thursday 3 March 2022 Cheviot Assessment Panel discussed changes to the operation of the fund from 1 April 2022. The paper sets out the proposed recommendations for change for consideration by Cheviot Area Partnership.
- 5.1 The Cheviot Community Fund Framework was a document, approved by Cheviot Area Partnership which set out the various aspects of the Fund and how it operated. The Framework for Cheviot Community Fund 2021/22, appended to the report, was developed by a working group comprising community councillors, representatives from the Third Sector and the Chair of Cheviot Area Partnership and agreed by Cheviot Area Partnership on 30 June 2021.
- 5.2 The Cheviot Assessment Panel was recommending the following amendments:
- Increase the maximum grant to £5,000 (current maximum grant is £2,500). A number of the groups that applied had to seek grants from other funders in order to meet all their project costs. The allocation for 2021/22 had a projected underspend, to be carried forward, of approximately £25,000. It was felt that raising the limit to £5,000 would maximise the Fund and support local groups/organisations to deliver projects/initiatives.
 - Change the term of office for Assessment Panel members from one to three years. During their term the current Panel had built up skills and knowledge assessing projects and producing recommendations to Cheviot Area Partnership. Renewing the membership of the Panel annually risked the loss of these skills on a frequent and recurring basis. The introduction of a three year term would reduce this risk.
 - The Panel was discussing the Scoring Matrix with a view to establishing whether any changes are required.

Approval of any suggested changes be delegated to Jenni Craig as the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership was not until 29 June 2022.

**DECISION
AGREED:-**

- (a) that the maximum grant remain at £2,500;**
- (b) not to agree a change in the term of office at this stage but that the Assessment Panel come back with an alternative proposal.**
- (c) that the current scoring matrix remain at present as only been running for 6 months.**

6.0 CHEVIOT COMMUNITY FUND

There had been circulated copies of a report which detailed the recommendations of the Cheviot Community Fund Assessment Panel. The report provided a brief description of each application received and a recommendation on the sum to be awarded to each project.

6.1 Well Road Productions – Well Road Production Series

An application was received for the printing a booklet of scripts. Half of these books would go into Cheviot Area Schools and the other half into general sale with income generated used to print additional copies. The Panel were supportive of the project and the key points influencing the Panel's decision were:

- Established group with a good record of delivering projects
- Educational benefit
- Preservation of local history/heritage

The Panel recommend awarding £2,500.00

6.2 Broomlands Primary School Parent Council – Project Playground

An application was received for purchase and installation of playground equipment. The Panel were supportive of the project. The key points influencing the Panel's decision were:

- Health and Wellbeing
- School children driven
- Community benefit

The Panel recommend awarding £2,500.00, subject to the parent Council being able to show they could meet the shortfall in delivering the project.

6.3 Borders Talking Newspaper

An application was received for the purchase portable USB Memory Stick Players. The Panel were supportive of the project and the key points influencing the Panel's decision were:

- Well established and organised charity
- Clear demand for the service
- Clear benefit to service users

The Panel recommend awarding £893.25

6.4 Yetholm Community Shop Ltd - Refurbishment

An application was received for the replacement of a damaged canopy and outside lighting. A discussion took place as not all the panel felt this was the best use of public funds as those people felt it was more for aesthetics than any community need. After discussions, the majority were in support as they were trying to benefit the community and the fund had money available. The Panel were supportive of the project and the key points influencing the Panel's decision were:

- Community driven
- Shopfront improvement

The Panel recommend awarding £2,500.00, subject to the group demonstrating why they could not claim to their insurance company for storm damage to the existing canopy. The application was subsequently withdrawn as funding had been secured elsewhere.

6.5 Live Learn Earn – Jedburgh Community Arts Project

An application was received to provide workshop sessions that teach practical skills to young people. The Panel were supportive of the project and the key points influencing the Panel's decision were:

- Community benefit
- Educational benefit

The Panel recommend awarding £2,340.00

6.6 St Boswells Gold Club – Insulation

An application was received for the supply of insulation. Some discussion took place on how the club was run and although it was a private members club it was a not-for-profit club. The Panel were supportive of the project and the key points influencing the Panel's decision were:

- Increase use of club
- Environmental benefit

The Panel recommend awarding £803.18, subject to the club demonstrating why they could not use the funds available in their accounts.

DECISION AGREED that the following grants be awarded:-

- (a) Well Road Productions the sum of £2,500
- (b) Broomlands Primary School Parent Council the sum of £2,500
- (c) Borders talking Newspapers the sum of £893
- (d) Live Learn Earn the sum of £2,340
- (e) Decision deferred while additional information was gathered

7.0 SBC BUILD BACK A BETTER BORDERS RECOVERY FUND

With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of 30 June 2021, there had been circulated copies of applications in respect of:-

7.1 Jedburgh Thistle RFC

Jed Thistle RFC was an under 18s rugby club, with players involved in under 16s and under 18s teams in the Borders. However the club was about much more than playing rugby. Being part of the club players learn about the benefits of physical training, being part of a team being on time all of which contributes to building their character and respect for one another. Players for Jed Thistle progress to play for Jed Forest, the adult team and indeed former Scotland captain Greg Laidlaw started out at Jed Thistle.

In order to build on what they have and improve services not just to players but also the wider community the club had applied to the Build back a better Borders Recovery Fund for funding towards the proposed extension to their club rooms – which were owned by the club.

The extension would provide a fitness area enabling players to train indoors during bad weather as well as a new storage space for use by both the club and regular user groups. This would in turn free up space in the main hall, where tables and chairs were currently stored, providing a larger, and more comfortable user space for local users including the Pensioners' Lunch Club, local Toddlers Group, Jethart Callants and Jedburgh Ladies Group. The improvements would provide more space for activities to take place in a light and airy environment at a time when the focus was on more space and better ventilation now more than ever. The Club had been unable to identify a single funder to cover the costs of the building work, although costs would be kept to a minimum with club members undertaking works they were able to, there were significant costs attached to materials and buying in skilled labour where required. The club was applying for £15k towards the cost of purchasing building materials. Quotes had been provided by three suppliers and the most competitive quote used to estimate total build costs.

Since the assessment had been circulated Jedburgh Common Good had agreed to provide the club with a grant for £15k as well as a loan for a further £15k. The club was at stage 2 of an application to Virador, and if unsuccessful there was the possibility of an additional £15k from the Common Good. The application had been scored medium to high as it addressed three key aims of the Fund, these being sport, community capacity and community resilience. Although it was hoped to complete the project within six months this was dependant on the availability of funding so an additional month had been added to the timescales as a contingency. One of the BBBB criteria was that projects were completed within six months. I am therefore making you aware that as it stands the application does not meet the criteria of the fund. The application scored medium/high as it addressed three key aims of the Fund, these being sport, community capacity and community resilience. It was agreed to bring all projects to you for discussion and it was the decision of the Area Partnership as to whether you wish to consider the application for funding or not.

DECISION

AGREED to award the sum of £15,000, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) the applicant must follow Scottish Government Covid19 guidance**

7.3 Archaeology Scotland

This was an intergenerational partnership project focussing on the Cheviot Area which would be led by Archaeology Scotland working in partnership with Kelso High School and the Community Learning and Development Service, Youth Learning Tem. The Archaeology Scotland Learning Team would deliver the project, supported by staff from the Community Learning and volunteers from the local community. Archaeology Scotland would involve

local community organisations in delivery including Kelso Heritage Society and the Local Area Coordinators team. Sessions would be delivered in school and community settings with the majority of activities taking place outdoors, exploring local heritage. The initiative would target two groups within the community - Young people who had been identified by Kelso High School as being at risk of disengaging with mainstream education, and isolated older adults in the community. Although these groups differ greatly in age, they have many things in common. Both groups had suffered disproportionately as a result of the pandemic, experiencing reduced access to support services, increased feelings of social isolation and negative impacts on health, wellbeing and confidence. The workshops would explore the heritage of Kelso, offering an opportunity to share experiences and stories across generations. Archaeology Scotland have found through many heritage projects that an improved understanding and sense of place had a positive impact on participants, engendering a feeling of belonging. The Covid-19 pandemic had a huge impact on young people's learning and wellbeing, as evidenced by numerous surveys over the past 18 months, including studies carried out by Young Scot, Youth Link Scotland and the Children's Parliament. Key impacts highlighted by young people in these reports included increased issues around social isolation, mental health, anxiety, loss of learning and future employment prospects. The World Health Organisation recognises that Covid-19 was also having an impact on the lives of older people in our communities, changing their daily routines, the care and support they received and their ability to stay socially connected. Archaeology Scotland know from experience and delivering programmes across Scotland, that archaeology courses can help young people get back on a positive pathway and their broader community archaeology projects had helped older members of the community connect with each other, getting outdoors and staying active. The application was for the sum of £8,550 and the small group workshops with hands-on, engaging activities are designed to re-build confidence and enthusiasm for learning. During the ten sessions young people would acquire knowledge across many curriculum areas including Languages, Mathematics, Social Studies and Sciences. They would learn new job-specific skills such as surveying and historic building recording while developing the transferable meta-skills which underpin archaeology and help create adaptive, confident learners.

DECISION

AGREED to award the sum of £8,550, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) the applicant must follow Scottish Government Covid19 guidance when delivering the service.**

7.4 Bodyzone

Athletics & Strength Gym T/A Bodyzone were a Scottish Charity whose aim and objectives were to improve health, general well-being and fitness of people living in the Scottish Borders, without distinction of sex, sexuality, Political, religious or other opinions and to provide recreational facilities for use by members of the general public in the Scottish Borders with the object of improving their conditions of life. The gym had focused on strength training but wanted to widen its appeal to the community by providing cardiovascular training facilities and were seeking funding in the sum of £5,373 to invest in a treadmill and exercise bike to offer a wider range of training options to current and potential new members. By installing the proposed new equipment, Bodyzone would be able to give all members of the community a place where they could improve their health and wellbeing, reducing levels of stress and anxiety caused by Covid-19 restrictions. Users would be offered free advice and programmes by Bodyzone's two qualified trainers to help use the equipment and achieve personal goals. The pandemic had not only affected the running of

the gym, but the members who were using the facility and had been closed completely during two lockdowns with no income and then had to limit two members per hour to ensure social distancing rules were adhered to. The gym is run on a membership model which costs £20 per month. This allowed members 24 hr access through a key card system, allowing members to train whenever time suited them. This appealed to shift workers and those suffering from mental health and body issues. The impact of the new initiative would allow the gym to broaden its customer base and improve its facilities and increase the health and wellbeing of the local community. The application scored medium as it would provide access to cardio vascular training equipment encouraging users to develop their fitness but did not meet the criteria of the BBBB fund as there were no low/no cost membership available.

DECISION

AGREED to award the sum of £5,373, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) the applicant must follow Scottish Government Covid19 guidance; and**
- (ii) the necessary insurance must be in place.**

7.5 JETHART CALLANTS

Locality Development Co-ordinator sought approval to re-purpose the assessment of the BBBB 2019/2020 Community Fund Grant application from Jethart Callants received previously. The Jethart Callants applied to the 2019/20 Cheviot Community Fund for a grant to purchase bunting and banners with the aim of raising the profile of community events in the town. The assessment and grant award was subsequently delayed due to the pandemic. Unfortunately costs had risen significantly since the application was submitted and this had resulted in the original request no longer being enough to cover all elements of the project. This included the unbudgeted cost of structural testing of the lampposts (required before banner fixings can be attached). It was proposed that the original award, agreed by Elected Members while Area Partnerships were not taking place, be repurposed to cover the increased costs of lamppost testing. Repurposing had been done by a number of groups who have seen project costs rise following Covid. Cheviot Area Partnership was being asked to approve the repurposing of the 2019/20 Community Fund Grant.

An application to the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund was being made for the cost of the lamp post banners, which had increased following Covid. The Jethart Callants' Festival was inaugurated in 1947 with ceremonial rides to places of historic interest. It was an important event in the Scottish Borders calendar of local festivals and common ridings and brought many visitors to the town each year. Although the festival days for 2020 and 2021 were cancelled due to Covid, as restrictions were eased Jedburgh saw a large number of tourists both as the first town in Scotland and the importance of historical buildings in the town. In order to help people celebrate summer 2022 and the first Callants' Festival since 2019 Jethart Callants was applying for £4,787 to provide banners which would be attached to 12 lamp posts along Abbey Place and the High Street. The lamp post banners would have a generic design and would be made available to other groups in the town to help 'dress' the town during times of celebration. It was anticipated that these would:

- bring a greater sense of belonging to the town
- Increase awareness of our events which will engender a feeling of wellbeing within residents. This in turn will increase participation and through that increase spending power within the town.

- Promote community spirit and feelings of being proud of the town which may in turn make local residents more likely to get involved in what is going on, engage with others, increase general wellbeing and reduce social isolation.
- Show the town off to visitors/invited guests and making it somewhere people want to stop and explore.

Rather than targeting specific groups or individuals the proposal, to display banners in the town centre, was aimed at helping the town as a whole continue to recover from Covid by helping to increase the general feeling of wellbeing of locals and visitors alike. The application scored medium as the project sought to enhance and improve the general wellbeing of both local residents and visitors to the town.

DECISION

AGREED to award the sum of £4,787, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The applicant must follow all Scottish Government COVID-19 guidance.
- (ii) Necessary insurances must be in place.
- (iii) Grant payment would be dependent on relevant lampposts passing structural tests

8. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Future Meetings of the Cheviot Area Partnership would be held on the following dates:

Wednesday, 29 June 2022 at 6:30pm

Wednesday, 21 September 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 23 November 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 29 June 2022 at 6.30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

9. MEETING EVALUATION

Ms Malster reminded those present about the meeting evaluation form which could be accessed via the link <https://forms.office.com/r/HHH1dEcmz3> and was available until 11.45 a.m. on 26 September 2021. She added that feedback about the Area Partnership meetings was really helpful and always appreciated.

10. CHAIRMANS REMARKS

As this was the last meeting prior to the Election, the Chairman thanked all participants for their attendance and hard work everyone. He specifically thanked Karen Farquhar and Shelagh Turnbull for live streaming the meetings and Fiona Henderson and Clare Malster for organising the meetings. Heather Batsch thanked the Chairman for his chairmanship of the Area Partnership.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.