

MINUTES of Meeting of the CHEVIOT
AREA PARTNERSHIP held remotely by
Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 29
June 2022 at 6.30 pm.

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

Apologies: Councillor P. Brown.

In attendance: - Community Co-ordinator – Gillian Jardine, Democratic Services Officer (F. Henderson).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Mountford, proposed that Councillor Robson be appointed as Chairman. There being no other nominations, Councillor Robson was appointed as Chairman and took the Chair.

DECISION

AGREED that Councillor Robson be appointed as the Chairman of the Cheviot Area Partnership.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting via Microsoft teams, which included Elected Members, Community Council representatives, Community Organisations and guests attending within the meeting and those watching via the Live Stream. He outlined how the meeting would be conducted.

3. FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 23 MARCH 2022

The minute of the meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership held on 23 March 2022 had been circulated with the Agenda. A response to the questions raised on Electric Vehicle Charging points had been circulated by e-mail.

In terms of paragraph 4.3 of the Minute of 23 March 2022, it was highlighted that in term of the Community Empowerment Legislation, participatory budgeting required to go further

- 3.1 The evaluation of the March meeting was circulated with the agenda. There was a request made in the evaluation of the last meeting to have an update at a future meeting on SBC's climate emergency action plan and community actions. This would be included in the September agenda. There was also a request for training on the Area Partnership. The Communities and Partnership team were happy to speak with anyone outside of an Area Partnership meeting to go through any items they would like to learn more about.

4. SECTION 1: SERVICE & PARTNER UPDATES AND CONSULTATIONS
Place Making

- 4.1 With reference to paragraph 3.1 of the Minute of 26 January 2022, James Lamb, SBC Portfolio Manager was present to set out options for the Cheviot Area Partnership in supporting the development of community-led place plans in communities across the

locality. Over the past year, conversations had been continuing with Area Partnerships around:

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

- 4.2 The conversation began in February 2021 with proposals being 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 Council in August 2021, with a view to further engagement and development with Area Partnerships over autumn and winter. In spring of 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 needed to turn to how practical support was given to communities in developing their place plans.
- 4.3 Across the five localities, different approaches were emerging reflecting the diversity of the area. In Berwickshire, a short-life Place Making Working Group, comprising representatives from across local communities and organisations and was proposing an inclusive “opt-in” approach, initially seeking expressions of interest from Communities across the locality and chaired by community representatives, with Tweeddale taking a similar approach. The remaining three localities being presented with option at the Area Partnership Meetings in June.
- 4.4 In all localities, with the exception of Tweeddale, there were 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) could also provide models to guide place making elsewhere. For Cheviot, this meant that there was 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 was part of an agreed programme under separate governance arrangements, this was outside the scope of the options be presented.
- 4.5 Mr Lamb went onto summarise the points raised at the Cheviot Workshop held on 27 April 2022, which included - 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 were currently configured, in playing an oversight role; The importance of supporting rural communities and 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. Mr Lamb presented the three possible options for progressing place making as follows:-

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 was 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 become 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.

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.

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. Following discussion, it was agreed to progress the Working Group Option.

DECISION
AGREED that

- (a) **the Working Group Approach be progressed;**
- (b) **Nominations be sought from across the Community;**
- (c) **Draft terms of reference be drawn up by James Lamb.**

5. **SECTION 2: LOCAL PRIORTIES**

Financial Inclusion Fund/ Food Conversation

Ms Jardine, Community Co-ordinator updated the meeting on the discussions and conversations taking place across localities with volunteers and 3rd parties in terms of the Cost of Living; Cost of Energy; Food security. Services and volunteers across the Scottish Borders are looking at a longer term approach to food access and how households and communities can help sustain themselves. During these meetings, partners and volunteers have been sharing good practice from their area to develop a better understanding of the challenges communities face and what community approaches are needed to help find solutions to these challenges. The next meeting takes place in August and is open to anyone interested in attending.

Ms Jardine went on to share the outcomes of the Low and Slow project which has been supported by the Financial Inclusion Fund and is a partnership approach to addressing food and fuel poverty in communities. The partners involved, including NHS Borders and Changeworks provided specialist knowledge from their service to help with problem solving in the home in order to reduce energy consumption. The programme was being rolled out in other areas of the Borders but at present, no Cheviot service had been identified to deliver Low and Slow in the Locality.

6.0 SECTION 3: COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY FUNDING

There had been circulated copies of the Cheviot Funding for 2022/2023 which detailed the funding available together with information on the allocation of the Community Grant Fund in 2022/23. The opening balance at 1 April 2022 was £80,268.39 plus an underspend from the Community Fund in 2021/22 of £28,640.65 and an underspend in the Local Festival Grant in 2021/22 of £2,953.00, which resulted in an overall budget of £111,862.04. Neighbourhood Support Fund applications assessed and awaiting a decision totalled £4,237.72, totalling an overall budget of £107,624.32. Other sources of funding included Local Festival Grant Budget totalling £16,675.00, Annual Support Grant to Community Councils totalling £11,100.00, Common Goods, SBC Enhancement Grant, SBC Welfare Grant and SBC Small Schemes totalled.

- 6.1 Other sources of Grant Funding for Cheviot totalled £110,706.17, less Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund applications awarded totalling £2,492.000. In response to questions about the underspend in the Festival Grant Funding, Ms Jardine agreed to provide a breakdown. Councillor Scott requested information on the £7,900 shown against the Jedburgh Common Good and Councillor Mountford requested that the criteria on the Welfare Grant be refreshed. It was noted that there was a large underspend in the Small Schemes Budget and information on the criteria and process for small schemes was requested. In response to a question from Community Councillor Gavin Horsburgh in regards to how often the Community Council Grant was reviewed, Ms Jardine agreed to look into the matter.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

7.0 CHEVIOT COMMUNITY FUND 20/23

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.

7.1 St Boswells Golf Club

An application was received for loft insulation in the Clubhouse. The application was deferred at the last Panel meeting due to lack of clarity with regard to the golf club's reserves. The information was provided to Panel Members at their meeting in June, and following a lengthy discussion, the Panel concluded they could not support the application. Key points influencing the Panel's decision were:

- No community involvement or benefit
- There were more suitable funds available to support this project

The Panel recommended no award be made.

7.2 Abundant Borders

An application was received to create a community garden that will provide residents with the skills they need to grow their own food. The project will clean an unused area within a social housing development and children from the high school will also benefit. The Panel were supportive of the project and the key points influencing the Panel's decision were:

- Create an accessible community space
- Community empowerment with connection to the High School
- Supports the healthy living agenda

The Panel recommend awarding £2,492.

7.3 QME CARE

An application was received for a secure storage area for bikes to encourage employees and visitors to cycle to the care home. The Panel had a lengthy discussion and concluded that they could not support the application. Key points influencing the Panel's decision were:

- This should be a cost met by the employer
- There were more suitable funds available to support this project

The Panel recommended no award be made.

**DECISION
AGREED:-**

(a) that the sum of £2,942 be awarded to Abundant Borders; and

(b) that no award be made to the following

- **QME Care**
- **St Boswells Golf Club**

7.4 Term of Office of Panel Members

With reference to paragraph 5.2, of the Minute of 23 March 2022, the Area Partnership had not agreed to change the term of Office of the Assessment Panel and requested that the Panel submit an alternative proposal. The Cheviot Assessment Panel had discussed the proposal of a rolling annual membership over three years for the Cheviot Assessment Panel was a reasonable request for consideration by the Area Partnership. The Panel were of the opinion that this would allow for continuity moving forward.

**DECISION
AGREED.**

8.0 The National Lottery – Community Funding

Mr Neal Bennison, Funding Officer, National Community Fund was present at the meeting to give a brief summary of funding available through the ongoing programmes Awards for All which awards up to £10,000 and Young Start which awards up to £100,000. Funding Streams which close on 30 September 2022 were Community Led which awards up to £150,000 and Improving Lives which awards up to £200,000. There had not been a large amount of applications for the Cheviot Area and awards had been made to the Men Shed, Yetholm Community Shop and Cheviot Youth. Mr Bennison answered questions.
Neal Bennison <Neal.Bennison@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk 01412421446 07976322674

Contact information – stewart.sanderson@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk – Tel: 07971879837

9. **Participatory Budgeting**

Community Choices – Participatory Budgeting Update

With reference to paragraph 4.3 of the Minute of 23 March 2022, Ms Jardine provided an update on how SBC was embedding Community Choices (CC) as the way we do our business, the e-learning module for staff had been created and was being finalised ready for staff use. The purpose of this was to make sure all staff understood Community Choices so that the community could be better supported to be part of the decision making process. Opportunities for Community Choices activities across various departments were activity sought, including Education, Roads, and public transport and social work services. This was an ongoing conversation and we would provide an update at each meeting on where Community Choices activities were happening in relation to SBC budgets. Outside of SBC, if anyone wishes to look at a Community Choices event in the community, such as the pupils at Peebles HS, support to communities can be provided. In response to a question, Ms Jardine confirmed that as participatory budgeting developed, different ways of working Community Choices would be developed by the Council.

DECISION

AGREED that participatory budgeting would be a recurring Agenda item.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Community Empowerment

Mr Colin McGrath advised that he was working with the Scottish Government on a working group looking at empowering communities. Mr McGrath had prepared a report, which he would circulate to all members of the Cheviot Area Partnership. Mr McGrath further raised whether allowing unpaid Carers to be represented on the IJB had been considered and if so requested an update on progress.

10. **DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

Wednesday, 28 September 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 23 November 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

The next meeting would be held on **Wednesday, 28 September 2022 at 6.30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.**

11. **MEETING EVALUATION**

Ms Jardine reminded those present about the meeting evaluation form which could be accessed via the link <https://forms.office.com/r/HHH1dEcmz3>. She added that feedback about the Area Partnership meetings was really helpful and always appreciated.

The meeting closed at 8.17 p.m.