
Report by the Chief Executive

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

17 December 2015

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the fundraising activity associated with the opening of the Borders Railway.**
- 1.2 In recognition of the historic re - opening of the Borders railway a number of celebration events and a charity fundraising campaign in support of cash for Kids were held throughout the Borders in conjunction with Scotrail, Morrison Construction and Peebles based Chocolate supplier Cocoa Black. Events included a special train journey on Golden Ticket Saturday for 480 deserving nominees including local school children, unsung heroes, individuals who had overcome significant personal challenges, community volunteers and railway campaigners.
- 1.3 As part of the celebrations approximately 15,000 commemorative bar of chocolate were produced with a bar provided to each pupil in the Borders. Each school received one winning golden ticket for a pupil to travel on a train on Golden ticket Saturday.
- 1.4 A special chocolate model of the flying Scotsman locomotive was also commissioned from Cocoa Black with sponsorship from Morrisons Construction. The solid chocolate replica engine was on display during the railway's opening weekend and at other events. A range of further educational and book events were held for school Children, and a film celebrating the Borders railway was produced. The fundraising has already raised £13,669.07 and it is intended that the model train will be donated to Cash for Kids where it is hoped its fund raising potential will continue to be realised.
- 1.5 Further fund raising opportunities are being pursued with radio Borders through Mission Christmas, which provides an opportunity for local Residents to donate toys and Christmas presents for children who would not ordinarily receive them at the Galashiels Transport Interchange.
- 1.6 On Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th of December 2015 two days of special events will take place to mark the end of Scottish Borders Councils partnerships with Radio Borders Cash for Kids in this year of the opening of the Borders Railway.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Council:

- (a) thanks all those involved with the fund raising activity surrounding the opening of the Borders Railway;**
- (b) thanks Morrison Construction and ScotRail for their financial sponsorship of the events to commemorate the opening of the Borders Railway;**
- (c) notes the total funding raised so far of £13, 669.07;**
- (d) agrees that a payment of £10,005.92 should be made to Radio Borders Cash for Kids representing the remaining balance of the donation to be made to date; and**
- (e) agrees that all proceeds raised from the Mission Christmas events on 12th and 13th of December 2015 should be paid to Radio Borders Cash for Kids with the final total being revealed at the Council meeting on 17th December 2015.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 To celebrate the opening of the Borders Railway, Scottish Borders Council, in partnership with ScotRail and Morrison Construction and local specialist chocolate creator Cocoa Black from Peebles, arranged a number of events to raise funds for the Radio Borders Cash for Kids charity.
- 3.2 Cash for Kids raises funds to support children and their families in the Scottish Borders and north Northumberland. The charity supports a wide range of individuals and groups and provides vital support to local children. Council staff, and a number of our public and third sector partners, also work with Cash for Kids on a regular basis, and the charity was chosen because of the very important local work that they do.

4. RAILWAY OPENING EVENTS

- 4.1 As part of the opening celebrations of the Borders Railway, 480 Borders residents were part of a very special train journey on Saturday 5 September 2015, Golden Ticket Saturday. Scottish Borders Council, in partnership with the *Southern Reporter*, *Berwickshire News*, *Border Telegraph*, *Peeblesshire News*, and Radio Borders, ran a competition to encourage Borders residents to nominate deserving individuals. Approximately 1,100 nominations were received. A panel consisting of prominent local journalists, Council officers and Elected Members considered all the nominations and selected the lucky Golden Ticket winners. Those nominated either:-
 - had a link to the railway, past or present,
 - were considered an unsung local hero,
 - carried out excellent work in their community, or
 - were someone who had done something special or had overcome significant challenges.
- 4.2 As part of the Golden Ticket process, 72 Golden Tickets were made available to young people to ensure that one child from each primary and secondary school in the Scottish Borders had an opportunity to take part in Golden Ticket Saturday.
- 4.3 Following extensive discussions with head teachers, it was agreed that a special event would take place in each school to determine the Golden Ticket winner. Scottish Borders Council commissioned Cocoa Black of Peebles, the specialist chocolate creators, to produce a Borders Railway commemorative chocolate bar. Approximately 15,000 bars were manufactured and schools were encouraged to run events themed on the *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* book written by Roald Dahl.
- 4.4 One bar of chocolate in each school contained a Golden Ticket and the lucky winner received a Golden Ticket to travel on the Borders Railway on Golden Ticket Saturday. Primary and secondary schools arranged special events in the weeks before Golden Ticket Saturday, which were usually assemblies. All pupils received a bar of chocolate, and some pupils received an appropriate alternative. A programme of activities was developed to ensure that there were learning experiences gained from the chocolate events, with work in schools on the Roald Dahl *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* book.

Other learning initiatives concerned the railway and special journeys also took place. Staff from ScotRail attended a number of the school events, and a special film about the Borders Railway was provided to all schools. Many schools themed their events with children dressing up, or dressing down, and pupils were encouraged to provide a donation for Cash for Kids. Appendix 1 of this report details the funding raised at the school events for each school. Schools raised £ 11,033.36, with a small number of schools sending their funding directly to Radio Borders.

5 CHOCOLATE TRAIN AND OTHER EVENTS

- 5.1 As well as the Golden Ticket chocolate events in schools, following discussions with Cocoa Black to support further events surrounding the opening of the Borders Railway, the Council commissioned a replica of the Flying Scotsman steam locomotive made entirely from chocolate. The replica was funded with sponsorship from Morrisons Construction and was on display during the railway's opening weekend and at other events. In addition, a limited amount of commemorative railway chocolate bars were manufactured to support these events. They were:-
- Waverley Station charity collection;
 - Charity collections and chocolate sales at events on Friday 4th, Saturday 5th September;
 - the Service of Celebration of the opening of the Borders Railway on Sunday 6th September;
 - Stow station opening event; and
 - Tweedbank Railway party
- 5.2 The chocolate Flying Scotsman has been seen by many people and is currently on display in the Galashiels Transport Interchange until the New Year.
- 5.3 It is the intention of Scottish Borders Council and Morrisons to donate the train to Radio Borders Cash for Kids who hope to use the train to raise further funding for the charity in 2016. The chocolate train took 500 hours to create and it is anticipated that interest in the train will be significant. Cash for Kids is currently considering how best to raise further funding from the chocolate train opportunity.
- 5.4 The funding raised at the other railway events is highlighted in Appendix 1, and totals £2,635.71. This money has already been donated directly to Radio Borders Cash for Kids.

6 MISSION CHRISTMAS

- 6.1 For Christmas 2015, Scottish Borders Council has teamed up with Radio Borders Cash for Kids to support the annual Mission Christmas event. Mission Christmas provides an opportunity for Borders Residents to donate toys and Christmas presents for children who would not ordinarily receive them. The event has proven very popular and this year Radio Borders is using the Galashiels Transport Interchange as the main collection and sorting point for this year's Christmas presents. On Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th of December 2015, two days of special events will take place in the Galashiels Transport Interchange where the majority of the remainder

of the commemorative railway chocolate will be available for purchase. Chocolate bars will cost £2, with all proceeds being donated to Radio Borders Cash for Kids.

- 6.2 The events of 12th and 13th of December will mark the end of Scottish Borders Council's partnership with Radio Borders Cash for Kids in this year of the opening of the Borders Railway and a final funding total to be donated will be announced at the Council meeting on 17th December.

7 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

- (a) To date, £13,669.07 in total has been raised for Radio Borders Cash for Kids, with £3,663.15 already paid directly to the charity.
- (b) To date, Scottish Borders Council is set to make a payment of £10,005.92 which represents the remaining balance of the funding raised so far.
- (c) The final total to be donated to Radio Borders Cash for Kids will be confirmed at the Council meeting on 17th December following the Mission Christmas events on 12th and 13th of December.
- (d) Staff from Finance will confirm that all the figures contained in Appendix 1 are correct. Radio Borders Cash for Kids will provide the Council with an update on the funding raised from the Flying Scotsman during 2016.

7.2 Risk and Mitigations

There are no risks associated with this paper

7.3 Equalities

There are no equality implications arising from this report.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Tracey Logan
Chief Executive

Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers: None
Previous Minute Reference: None

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