COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS SUMMER 2022 FEEDBACK

Report by Acting Chief Executive

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

15 December 2022

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 **The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the feedback gathered from the 11 separate community conversations which took place over the summer of 2022 with elected members, senior officers and members of the public, and to seek approval on the next steps.**

1.2 The feedback from the events captured from a series of individual conversations is attached as an appendix to this paper (Appendix 1). The main issues arising from the feedback have been captured along with the proposed response.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **It is recommended that Council agrees that:-**

(a) **The issues raised need to be considered as part of the budget process and realistic, prioritised plans will have to be developed to assist involving Community Councils and Area Partnerships;**

(b) **The feedback should be shared with each Area Partnership and Community Council, and develop a co-productive process to produce action plans for each community. These plans will require to be prioritised, risk assessed and be specific about resource requirements and time scales;**

(c) **Consultation will be required with Community Councils and Area Partnerships over the winter period with the aim of forming plans to be enacted in the spring of 2023; and**

(d) **Plans are developed for a further series of community conversations to take place during 2023.**

3   BACKGROUND

3.1   Eleven separate community conversations took place over the summer of 2022 with elected members, senior officers and members of the public.

3.2   The feedback from the events captured from a series of individual conversations is attached as an appendix to this paper. The main issues arising from the feedback have been captured along with the proposed response.

3.3   Not every issue has been addressed, several are personal to individuals, not something the council can resolve, or they are general comments. The appendix adopts a "you said/ we did" approach to try and address areas of priority concern.

4   FEEDBACK

4.1   The feedback presents a huge range of issues of concern to local people, of which some are easier to fix than others. There are clearly very high expectations of the Council within our local communities that, given the finite resources available will require careful management, prioritisation and engagement to deliver.

4.2   There is a clear need to further improve community engagement, consultation and feedback. General maintenance of localities, and the need to move more quickly on place planning emerged strongly from the conversations held.

4.3   The Council does not have the resources to sort every issue of concern to local people and many will require the input of communities and partner organisations. It is clear that if we are going to address the concerns raised, then the Council will need to work more effectively with communities - equipping, supporting and resourcing them to help respond to the challenges they face.

4.4   Overall, the individuals who came along to the sessions found them useful and liked the format. In planning for the next set of 'conversations' it will be important to communicate the purpose and format of the sessions well in advance.

5   PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

5.1   The issues raised need to be considered as part of the budget process and realistic, prioritised plans will have to be developed to assist involving Community Councils and Area Partnerships.

5.2   As an initial stage the feedback should be shared with these bodies and they should be engaged in a co-productive process to produce action plans for each community. It is clear these plans will require to be prioritised, risk assessed and be specific about resource requirements and time scales.

5.3   Consultation will be required with Community Councils and Area Partnerships over the winter with the aim of forming plans to be enacted in the spring of 2023

5.4   The feedback obtained from these sessions has been extremely useful and there is a desire to repeat the 'conversations' next year and look to vary the locations. Planning for this will commence shortly.

6   IMPLICATIONS

6.1   **Financial**

Any resource implications will need to be considered, and prioritised, as part of the Council's budget setting process.

6.2   **Risk and Mitigations**

There are clearly very high expectations of the Council within our local communities that, given the finite resources available will require careful management, prioritisation and engagement to deliver. There is a reputational risk if local issues cannot be resolved. The way in which this is communicated and shared is therefore important.

6.3   **Integrated Impact Assessment**

An integrated impact assessment (IIA) will be undertaken if next steps are agreed and plans are developed.

6.4   **Sustainable Development Goals**

There are no direct economic, social or environmental issues with this report but the Sustainable Development Goals will be considered in any plans that are agreed as a result of the feedback.

6.5   **Climate Change**

There are no direct carbon emissions impacts as a result of this report.

6.6   **Rural Proofing**

This report does not relate to a new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

6.7   **Data Protection Impact Statement**

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.8   **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes required to the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation.

7   CONSULTATION

7.1   The Director (Finance & Corporate Governance), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have all been consulted and comments included in this report.

Approved by

Name   David Robertson   Title   Acting Chief Executive

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
David Robertson	Acting Chief Executive

Background Papers: [insert list of background papers used in compiling report]
Previous Minute Reference: [insert last Minute reference (if any)]

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. [Insert name] can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at [insert name, address, telephone number, e-mail]