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## **PLACE MAKING UPDATE**

**Report by Director Resilient Communities**

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### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**5 December 2023**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The report updates members on progress with Place Making, including an update on funding allocated and the planning process in relation to the development of Local Place Plans, including the four Borderlands priority towns.**
- 1.2 Place making continues to represent a significant opportunity for communities across the Borders to unlock external funding opportunities and shaping and informing the planning and delivery of critical public services. It is increasingly built into legislation (e.g. the Planning Scotland, Joint Working (Scotland), and Community Empowerment Acts). It will impact on and transform the way both Council and Community Planning Partners work together with communities to understand, support and respond to local needs and ambitions.
- 1.3 Continuing to follow the inclusive approach agreed with Area Partnerships to open up place making opportunities to all communities, over 50 places have noted an interest in developing community-led plans and their progress is supported through the place making officers within Community Engagement, Planning and Transformation teams.
- 1.4 Over the coming year, the main focus of place making activity will be around four main areas of work:
  - a) supporting the plans of Borderlands communities - Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick and Jedburgh - through the approval process to develop Borderlands Town Investment Plans;
  - b) continuing to support other participating communities to progress their plans and ambitions;
  - c) ensuring that funds such as the Shared Prosperity Funds are used to best effect in supporting communities;
  - d) ensuring that place making is seen as “the way things get done” – informing service and community planning, the way that projects are identified and developed and the key to accessing external funding – all built on community needs, aspirations and priorities.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Executive Committee:**

- (a) notes the progress made with place making activity across the Scottish Borders.**
- (b) agrees the continued focus for delivery in the coming year is on the four Borderlands towns as outlined in paragraph 4.4 and 4.5.**

### 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In August 2021, the Council agreed to work with Area Partnerships to develop and implement a Borders-wide approach to place making. The approach was intended to complement the related Place Programme under the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal which focusses on the four target towns of Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick and Jedburgh.
- 3.2 Place making continues to represent a significant opportunity for communities across the Borders to unlock external funding opportunities and to shape and inform the planning and delivery of critical public services. It is increasingly built into legislation (e.g. the Planning Scotland, Joint Working (Scotland) and Community Empowerment Acts). It will impact on and transform the way both the Council and Community Planning Partners work together with communities to understand, support and respond to local needs and ambitions.
- 3.3 In practice, all place making activity (or community led planning as some communities have opted to name their process) is about communities leading on the development and delivery of an action plan for their place which identifies local needs and ambitions which then prioritises actions and projects to address these. Continuing to follow the inclusive approach agreed with Area Partnerships to open up place making opportunities to all communities, over 50 places have noted interest in developing community-led plans and their progress is supported through the place making officers within Community Engagement, Planning and Transformation teams.
- 3.4 Communities are being supported to develop Place Plans by a number of partners. Area Partnerships have played a central role in enlisting the support of capable and motivated members of their communities who have shaped and supported the development of place making in their localities. Area Partnerships have a vital and continuing role in co-ordinating and supporting the development of community-led plans in their area. They have a role, too, in seeking to ensure that there is a single locality plan for their area which reflects and addresses the needs, ambitions and priorities of their communities.
- 3.5 Borders Community Action (formerly Borders TSI) continue to play a key role in supporting communities, and working with the Area Partnerships to support and shape the inclusive place making approach. The focus on building capacity in communities includes training in Community Engagement and use of the Place Standard Tool as part of their wider [programme](#). Recognising the challenge of supporting the number of interested communities, Borders TSI have successfully applied for funding from SBC's Community Engagement Fund for a project to provide a dedicated capacity building officer to support communities in the eastern Borders.
- 3.6 SBC continues to provide [support](#) to Area Partnerships and communities through two Place Planning and Regeneration Officers and five Community Engagement Officers (one for each locality). Additional support is provided from two members of the Council's transformation team, the Climate Change Officer, Green Spaces Programme Manager and the Economic

Development Team. Staff from South of Scotland Enterprise also provide support to local communities. Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) continues to provide support throughout the development of our place making approach to both the Council and to individual communities.

- 3.7 A [procurement framework](#) established in collaboration with Borders Community Action (formerly Borders TSI), community representatives and South of Scotland Enterprise provides a pool of organisations with the necessary expertise, experience and capability to support communities in two parts: The first offers support for communities in developing their plans; and the second offers support for those communities that need technical support to both develop their plans and associated business cases. Communities from within the Borderlands process, and the wider community are engaging with consultants to formulate briefs unique to their needs, supported by officers from Scottish Borders Council, South of Scotland Enterprise and Borders Community Action.
- 3.8 More detail on both the place making approach and progress in communities is available online [here](#) and by following the links in the table below. Highlighted communities are presently the most active in developing plans with “Town Teams” in place.

**Table 1: Communities that have expressed an interest in Place Making**

Locality	Community	Locality	Community	
<b>Berwickshire</b>	Abbey St. Bathans, Bonkyl & Preston	<b>Eildon</b>	Earlston	
	Allanton, Whitsome and Edrom		Ettrick & Yarrow	
	Ayton		<a href="#">Galashiels*</a>	
	Burnmouth		Lilliesleaf	
	Chirnside		Newstead	
	Cockburnspath and Cove		Newtown St. Boswells	
	<a href="#">Coldstream</a>		Oxton & Channel	
	<a href="#">Duns</a>		<a href="#">Selkirk, the Valleys &amp; TD7</a>	
	<a href="#">Eyemouth*</a>		Stow & Fountainhall	
	Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton			
	Gavinton, Fogo & Polwarth	<b>Teviot &amp; Liddesdale</b>	Denholm	
	Gordon & Westruther		<a href="#">Hawick*</a>	
	Grantshouse		Newcastleton	
	Greenlaw & Hume		Southdean & Hobkirk	
	Hutton & Paxton		Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage	
	Lammermuir			
	Leitholm, Eccles & Birgham		<b>Tweeddale</b>	Broughton
	Reston & Auchencrow			Carlops
	St.Abbs			Clovenfords
	Swinton & Ladykirk			Eddleston
			Innerleithen	
<b>Cheviot</b>	Ancrum		Lamancha + Kirkcud	
	Crailing, Eckford & Nisbet		Newlands	
	Ednam, Stichill and Berryross		<a href="#">Peebles</a>	
	Heiton and Roxburgh		Romanno Bridge	
	<a href="#">Jedburgh*</a>		Tweedsmuir	
	Kalewater (Morebattle)		Skirling	
	Kelso		Walkerburn	
	Smailhom		West Linton	
	Sprouston			

\*Borderlands priority town

## 4 CURRENT PROGRESS

- 4.1 Our collective understanding of place making continues to grow and we now have a wider network linking us with communities and organisations beyond the Borders with experience and [case studies](#) and examples of community-led planning continue to be shared with key partners, particularly from Borderlands communities in Dumfries and Galloway.
- 4.2 Peer learning opportunities to support an emerging network within the community have fostered through the development of a series of [webinars](#) designed to focus on key topics of interest and provide insight from communities that have undertaken a project in that subject area.
- 4.3 A youth led approach to place making is being piloted in Jedburgh through a collaborative project on a project entitled “Young Persons 20 Minute Neighbourhood”. This is being led by [A Place In Childhood](#) and taking place in Jedburgh Grammar with the support of Inspire Learning, the school management team, and supported by council officers and endorsed by the Jedburgh Town Team who will use the information gathered from the project to enrich their engagement. The learning from this project will be shared with other communities and help to inform Scottish Borders Council approach to youth engagement.
- 4.4 The nature of community led plans is that the pace is determined by the individual community. However, the timescales for the four Borderlands Town Plans is also driven by a £7.25 million capital investment commitment in principle from the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. In order to secure this investment, a timeline and high level plan of the Borderlands communities progress and projected milestones is outlined below.

	2023-2024															
Eyemouth	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Town Team Planning	■	■	■													
Community Engagement				■	■	■										
Development of draft LPP						■	■									
Further Consultation								■								
Final Draft								■								
Acceptance by SBC									■							
Acceptance by PMO										■						
Develop BTIP											■	■	■	■		
BTIP Approval															■	
Access Funding																■

	2023-2024															
Hawick	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Town Team Planning	■	■														
Community Engagement			■	■												
Development of draft LPP				■	■											
Further Consultation						■										
Final Draft						■										
Acceptance by SBC							■									
Acceptance by PMO								■								
Develop BTIP									■	■	■	■				
BTIP Approval													■			
Access Funding														■		

	2023-2024															
Galashiels	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Town Team Planning	■	■	■													
Community Engagement			■	■	■	■										
Development of draft LPP					■	■	■									
Further Consultation							■	■								
Final Draft								■								
Acceptance by SBC									■							
Acceptance by PMO										■						
Develop BTIP											■	■	■	■		
BTIP Approval															■	
Access Funding																■

	2023-2024															
Jedburgh	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Town Team Planning	■	■	■													
Community Engagement			■	■												
Development of draft LPP					■	■	■									
Further Consultation							■	■								
Final Draft								■								
Acceptance by SBC									■							
Acceptance by PMO										■						
Develop BTIP											■	■	■	■		
BTIP Approval															■	
Access Funding																■

These timelines are estimates based on current projections from the respective "Town Teams" and their approach to wider community engagement utilising the Place Standard Tool. Dates for presenting

Borderlands Place Plans to the UK and Scottish Governments, and to the Borderlands Partnership Board for endorsement are still to be confirmed, but expected to be between April to June 2025 at the earliest.

4.5 Over the coming year, the main focus of place making activity will continue to be around four main areas of work:

- e) supporting the plans of Borderlands communities - Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick and Jedburgh - through the approval process to develop Borderlands Town Investment Plans;
- f) continuing to support other participating communities to progress their plans and ambitions;
- g) ensuring that funds such as the Shared Prosperity Funds are used to best effect in supporting communities;
- h) ensuring that place making is seen as "the way things get done" – informing service and community planning, the way that projects are identified and developed and the key to accessing external funding – all built on community needs, aspirations and priorities.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial**

- a) Initial funding of £410K was identified in the April update to support communities to develop local action plans. This comes from two main sources:
  - SBC's Community Engagement Fund – SBC made £110K available over 22/23 and 23/24 to enable early place making activity. £10K of this is being used by the Council's Community Engagement Team to support early engagement work including venue, hire, materials such as maps, printing, catering and facilitation across all localities. At time of this report circa £5k is still available for incidental spend. £83,600 has been allocated to Borders TSI capacity support project.
  - The Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF): Investment in capacity building and resilience for local groups was applied for and granted by the Place Partnership advisory panel in July 2023. This has provided:
    - £120k for the development of Borderlands plans, £30k per community
    - £180k for the development of community plans
- b) These funds are available to communities via a simple application process with delegated responsibility for sign off to the Director of Resilient Communities.
- c) There is a range of other funding which communities will be able to access depending upon location and eligibility criteria. A summary of these has been made available through a [Funding](#) page within the [Place Programme](#) web presence.

## 5.2 Risk and Mitigations

- (a) Community Expectations – while the approach seeks to encourage the identification of local needs, ambitions and priorities, these need to be grounded in the reality of the changing and challenging financial landscape.
- (b) Collaborative Approach – Without collaboration with and between communities, council services and community planning partners during engagement and the development of plans and projects, there is a risk that public service providers do not respond effectively to local needs and priorities and do not reflect these in their plans and strategies.

## 5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

An integrated impact assessment has been completed. It is anticipated that there will be no negative impacts under either the Equality Duty or the Fairer Scotland Duty

## 5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

Place making contributes to Goal 3 – “Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages” by encouraging community involvement in planning, with partners, to identify actions that meet local needs and priorities. Place making also contributes to Goal 3 - “Sustainable Cities and Communities” and Goal 8 “Decent Work and Economic Growth”.

## 5.5 Climate Change

A Borders-wide and sustained engagement with communities, will contribute to net zero transition through the identification and delivery of a range of related projects including:

- Providing and enhancing local amenities and services
- Reuse and conservation of buildings and local assets
- Making use of existing or underused heritage assets
- Providing opportunities for food growing, recreation, education, skills development as well as health and wellbeing benefits.
- Actively engaging with the newly formed Scottish Borders Climate Action Network delivered by Southern Upland Partnership to support projects in climate action projects

## 5.6 Rural Proofing

Not applicable.

## 5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

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

## 5.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

Not applicable



## 6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 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 been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

### Approved by

**Name** Jenni Craig **Title** Director of Resilient Communities

### Author(s)

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**Background Papers:** N/A

**Previous Minute Reference:** N/A

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

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