Borders Strategic Board

(This Board is part of the Scottish Borders "New Ways" Community Planning Partnership. For more details log on to www.scottishbordersnewways.com or phone 01835 826542)

MINUTES **MONDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2010** **3.00-5.00PM** **COMMITTEE ROOM 3, SBC**

MEETING CALLED BY	Dave McDougall, Independent Chair	
TYPE OF MEETING	Strategic	
MINUTE TAKER	Sarah Glendinning, New Ways Co-ordinator	
ATTENDEES	Dave McDougall	Chair
	Sarah Glendinning	New Way Co-ordinator
	Calum Campbell	NHS Borders
	Alan Johnston	Scottish Government
	Graham Sinclair	L&B Police
	Dave Gass	Scottish Enterprise
	Alex Clark	Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service
	Dr Eric Baijal	Joint Director of Public Health
	David Hume	SBC
	Peter Lee	Eildon Housing, representing Borders Housing Network
	Morag Walker	The Bridge
APOLOGIES:	Cllr Parker	SBC
	Mary Wilson	NHS Borders
	Liz McIntyre	Borders College
	Bridget Campbell	Scottish Government

ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

- DMcD welcome everyone to the meeting, especially Calum Campbell to his first meeting of the BSB
- Apologies noted above

ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

DISCUSSION	Approved as a true record of the meeting Item 2- Visual representation of planning cycles still to be prepared Item 3- Ongoing work within NHS Borders on workforce development, skills and training Item 6- 44 applications in total to Business Excellence Awards, judging on 26th Feb. All partners asked to consider who they would like to come to the event on 19th March at Scottish Borders Campus, Netherdale. Item 7- nationally, Games Legacy leads in Local Authorities and NHS Boards being brought together for planning purposes. Rick Kenney and Alan Mordue to keep BSB updated

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Visual representation of partner planning cycles	SG	ASAP
Partners to think about who they would like to attend the awards from their organisation	All	ASAP

ITEM 3 – REVIEW OF PRIORITISATION SESSION ON 16TH DECEMBER 2009

DISCUSSION	SG introduced the paper, explaining the rationale for the priorities identified. Chair invited comment: - Preparing for older population- EB said that much work was ongoing through TOPS review. - Obesity- a national strategy is imminent which will impact on work locally

	- Road Casualties- new national road safety targets for 2020. Government is looking for road casualty reduction in all SOAs. DMcD added that this should absolutely be in ours give the disappointing high figures compared to Scotland as a whole. GS added that this and Anti-social behavior are the two key issues that come up time and time again with communities. AC added that Road Casualties feature heavily in the Fire Board's Strategic Assessment. - Concerns were raised about the precise nature of the identified 8 priorities and how we now address cross cutting issues such as alcohol, the environment etc. - AJ asked the group if anything looked counter-intuitive. DH was surprised that skills was not there, give the focus on skills both nationally and at a South of Scotland level. We in the public sector have very little control over creating jobs but what we do have control over is getting the workforce ready. All agreed that the top level "label" might be a bit misleading and that there was a lot of work required by each theme to tease things out. GS has concerns that socio-economic performance of towns sits with Strong and Safe and not Competitive Borders.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Themes to now define and shape these high level priorities, and to look at language used, so that they are expressed as pure outcomes	DH CC GS	May
Discussion with Competitive Borders re: towns	GS	Immediate

ITEM 4 – PUBLIC SPENDING SUMMIT REVIEW

DISCUSSION	The meeting on 22nd Jan had been called by Liberal Democrat MP/MSPs and sought to address the impact of the constraints that are going to be faced by the public sector and the potential impact on the Borders. Concern was expressed that what seemed to be implied was "you have not achieved anything", and "have you considered structural change?" However partners know that a great deal of work goes on everyday in partnership but that there are issues around engaging with politicians that must be addressed. We must get to a position where they understand our structures, use New Ways as the vehicle for engaging with partners and that we are clearer about where we need their assistance. Ideally, this should be done on a cross party basis. PL raised the point that at the moment, in terms of housing investment, things look okay because of forward funding and the acceleration of development programme by bringing forward funding from next year, but we need to start lobbying now for next year when investment will drop and Borders will miss out. There are other issues that require this sort of attention too and politicians could be of assistance for lobbying purposes

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
A cross-party meeting to be arranged for the autumn	SG	June

ITEM 5 – DEVELOPMENT OF BORDERS STRATEGIC BOARD

DISCUSSION	DMcD spoke to the paper and then invited comments: o Concern over whether or not the remit of the BSB covers all work or just joint work articulated through the SOA. All clear that it was joint work but that the work of individual partner agencies needs to "fit" with the aims of the SOA, and the issues facing the Borders o Concern that we "tinker" with structures and don't achieve anything o Clarity of purpose should negate the need for the independent process referred to in the paper o Paper tackles difficult issues, and highlights that strategic leadership and governance issues need tackled. o DH expressed concern that those against the changes proposed are new to the BSB and he has experience of trying to deal with both scrutiny and deliver. There is a need to separate the 2 functions. Need to challenge, hasn't worked up to this point, need more rigor in the scrutiny process. o Concern about the ability of different partners to sign up to a company. Need a level of frankness within BSB regardless of structure. Things should happen by *design* rather than by *accident.* Need more formality in partnership agreements e.g. when PL leaves Elldon, who will replace and represent the Housing Network?

	o AJ commented that level of ambition in the paper is admirable, and referred to SOA guidance on SOA issued last year and what SOA means to different organisations. Change of dynamics now , move from technical process into accountability. o Need a sharper definition between delivery and scrutiny- we are mixing everything here at the strategic board. Not possible to do both roles. o MWalker commented that today's discussions had provided a clearer understanding of the board's role. o An independent Board would allow members to leave other interest at the door; delivery of SOA would be their only responsibility. Have to represent the board not their organisation o Need to look at other models and work up a proposal- sticking point seems to be the limited company, might be legal constraints on this

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Business case for setting up independent company to be prepared for August meeting	SG/DMcD	July

ITEM 6 – VOLUNTARY SECTOR FRAMEWORK

DISCUSSION	MWalker spoke to the paper outlining the considerable work that had been undertaken by the third sector to not only put together this framework (giving a clear position statement on how the sector is shaped and works in Borders) and on its contribution to the SOA (across the 15 national outcomes). DH commended this work and asked that we have a fuller discussion on it at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Fuller discussion at next BSB meeting	MWalker/SG	May

ITEM 7 – COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY- INVOLVEMENT WITH NEW WAYS

DISCUSSION	In light of the discussion under item 5, it was a agree to feed back to the CJA that their involvement would be on a operational basis at the moment and that strategic involvement would be addressed as part of this issue

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Feedback to CJA	SG	Immediate

ITEM 8- AOCB

DISCUSSION	MWalker raised the issue of substitution at these meetings, due to the nature of her post and time pressures. All agreed that this was appropriate. It was agreed the Chairman will discuss with PL how a replacement representing housing should be chosen. As it was their last time attending the BSB, DMcD thanked Alan Johnston and Peter Lee for their contributions to the Board. Alan will let us know who his replacement will be from within the Gvt.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Feedback on substitution to The Bridge, BAVS and Voluntary Sector Liaison Group	MWalker	Immediate

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 17th May 2010, 3-5pm, Committee Room 4