

New Ways - the approach to Community Planning in the Scottish Borders

During the early summer months this year consideration was given to strengthening the inter-agency Community Planning and Economic Development Processes. As a result New Ways brings together two major strategies - Borders 2010 (The Community Plan) and the Economic Development Strategy into one more streamlined process focussed on inter-agency actions to achieve agreed results which are cost-effective and have the support of the people and communities of the Scottish Borders.

New Ways has two main aims:

- To strengthen the economy of the Scottish Borders
- To create sustainable, vibrant communities

The New Ways Forum

A New Ways Forum will be constituted to lead, oversee and drive the process forward. This will be the Community Planning Partnership for the Borders. The Forum will bring together very senior representation (Chairperson or equivalent) from some 15 organisations about 3 or 4 times per annum. The first meeting will be on 17th September. The Chairman will be Councillor J.R. Scott.

The New Ways Project Team

The officer leadership and overall co-ordination will be provided by a smaller team of the Chief Executives of the 5 major public agencies in the Scottish Borders (Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Enterprise Borders, the Health Board, the College and the Tourist Board) with a few others (eg. Communities Scotland). This group is to be led by David Hume, the Scottish Borders Council Chief Executive who will in turn be supported by Doris Adens, Head of Strategic Policy & Performance and other relevant officers.

This Team's responsibilities include:-

- Implementing the agreed actions
- Involving the public and communities
- Reporting progress to the public
- Progressing the business of the Forum etc

How will the Work be Carried out Day by Day? The Theme Teams

Each of the 5 Chief Executives has taken responsibility for one of the 5 main Theme Teams through which the day to day inter-organisation work will be planned and co-ordinated. Each Chair is responsible for ensuring appropriate agency representation from other bodies and also encouraging public or stakeholder involvement.

Thriving Organisations - to be led by David Gass, Scottish Enterprise Borders Chief Executive. This group in effect is the joint economic team which will deliver the Scottish Executive Smart Successful Scotland Agenda.

Vibrant Communities - to be led by David Hume, Scottish Borders Council Chief Executive. This group is expected to plan and co-ordinate implementation of a wide range of services to do with the priority area regeneration areas; community capacity building; social justice and community safety.

Getting People to their Full Potential - led by Bob Murray, Borders College Principal - is charged with planning and co-ordinating implementation of opportunities for Lifelong Learning - for individuals, communities and organisations.

Connected Place - led by Riddell Graham, Scottish Borders Tourist Board Chief Executive is another multi-purpose group expected to drive inter-agency planning and co-ordination of physical infra-structure; the use of Information Technology, and marketing of the Scottish Borders.

Quality of Life Team - Lindsay Burley, Health Board Chief Executive leads this new team which is essentially to plan and co-ordinate the work currently delivered by the Joint Executive (Social Health & Work) and the new Joint Health Board. It is expected to give early attention to the co-ordination of aspects of the Public Health Agenda.

All 5 Teams are currently drawing up Action Plans for the next 1-3 years. Clearly it will be important for the Teams to work closely with each other on many aspects of their work eg. Vibrant Communities and Quality of Life on Social Inclusion work. The responsibility for this co-ordination lies with the Chief Executives on the "Leadership or Project Management Team".

Support Groups

To assist the implementation of all of this work across the 5 Theme Areas a number of **support groups** have been or are shortly to be set up. These are on:-

External Funding

led by Scottish Borders Council

Communication

led by Scottish Borders Tourist Board

Sustainability and LA21

led by Scottish Borders Council

Modernising Services, Organisation Change & Quality

led by Scottish Borders Council

Early Work in the New Ways Process

- All 5 Theme Teams are to provide Action Plans for the next 1-3 years by mid September. Outlines will be submitted to the New Ways Board's first meeting on 17th September. Full plans can be seen by contacting Doris Adens.
- A conference mainly for agency staff who are expected to be making a contribution to the New Ways process - public, private and voluntary sectors - is to be held on Friday 15th November, 2.00-4.00pm in the

Volunteer Hall, Galashiels More details to follow shortly

- Arrangements are being finalised in the communications groups to produce a regular newspaper to keep the public informed of progress and plans and events etc...following the work of the Vision newspaper
- A strategy for consulting and involving local people and communities will be discussed at the next meeting of the Project Management Group on 25th September...more details to follow shortly
- A new Community Plan will be drafted, hopefully before the end of this year ... with a good degree of public consultation and involvement built in to the process
- Early consideration is being given to how best to achieve an inter-agency approach to local service delivery with the ongoing involvement of local people in their area. This may be based on the Council's Area Committee levels...more detail to follow shortly

Arrangements in Scottish Borders Council

If you wish details of further arrangements within the Council then please don't hesitate to contact Doris Adens Tel: 01835-825058, email:dadens@scotborders.gov.uk