

## **Update from SLT**

**We have all had to drastically change the way we operate and work during the pandemic. Now, however, it's starting to feel more like business as usual and there are a number of working practices we would like to reintroduce, one being updating you around the discussions held at the Senior Leadership Team meetings (SLT). Please find below the latest update - I will endeavour to bring you regular updates -**

The Council is continuing to support the Ukrainians seeking refuge, SLT noted the fantastic work done by staff responding to the crises. We currently have 70 refugees being accommodated on a temporary basis in the Borders.

We agreed to participate in a new initiative to work with the Scottish Government to assess the Data Maturity of the Council. This looks at the degree to which an organisation uses – or is able to use – the data that it produces.

Bill Edwards, Interim Programme Director, Digital Transformation, updated SLT on the next phase of the Digital strategy which will be submitted to Council for approval in August. This will set out an ambitious programme of work to give front line staff the technology they need to do their jobs effectively, simplify our complex business processes and develop a new information hub to collect performance data across the Council to drive service improvement.

Jill Stacey, Chief Internal Auditor, presented a paper of audit recommendations, SLT reviewed progress with audit recommendations and agreed actions.

Three papers were presented by Suzy Douglas, Financial Services Manager, which set out the financial performance of the Council at the end of quarter 1 (Jan to Feb '22) and covered revenue capital (our day-to-day spend) our investment in our assets such as schools, care home and roads and our reserves and balances. These papers will progress to committee on 16 August.

A report recommending an increase in Early Years partner provider hourly rates for 2022 was presented by Lesley Munro, Director of Education, which will go to Executive committee in August.

We discussed measures to enhance payment rates to our supported living providers who provide services to vulnerable adults.

Feedback from Community Conversations are progressing, meetings this week took place in Duns and Hawick. One event only next week, will take place in Eyemouth. These events give members of the public the opportunity to meet

elected members and officers and speak to them about concerns they have about their local communities, and discuss how the council can best support them. The feedback so far has been positive.

David Robertson  
Acting Chief Executive, Scottish Borders Council