

**Supporting Statement
for
HAWICK
Local Place Plan**



By Hawick, for Hawick!

Prepared by: Hawick Town Team

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Introduction:

This Supporting Statement forms part of the Local Place Plan submission to Scottish Borders Council and is accompanying the Hawick Local Place Plan dated 31/07/2024

This Hawick Place Plan has been produced by the people of Hawick, through the Town Team and supported by Scottish Borders Council, South of Scotland Enterprise, and The Paul Hogarth Company.

Intended to evolve over a 10-year period, this Place Plan sets out a long-term vision for Hawick's regeneration, resilience and growth. Rooted in the community's aspirations, gathered through engagement in 2023 and again in 2024, it reflects key national, regional, and local policy aims as expressed in National Planning Framework 4 and The Scottish Borders Local Development Plan. It has been prepared in the context of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal which aims to bring direct investment to towns, boosting economic activity and recognising the importance of the region's smaller market towns to the local economy. Hawick is one of four towns in the Scottish Borders identified for funding through the region's Borderlands Place Programme, which provides an opportunity for investment through the development of a community led Place Plan and was endorsed at the Borderlands Place Programme Board on Friday 13 September.

The Town Team commissioned the partnership between The Paul Hogarth Company and AtkinsRealis to allow for the Place Plan to be developed so that the forthcoming Town Investment Plan can be fully informed by the community led process. Throughout this process the community have developed their Place Plan for Hawick with the purpose of describing:

- The overarching strategy for Hawick
- How the Place Plan aligns with other key strategies
- The key proposed areas for intervention and why they are needed
- An evidence-based narrative to support the Place Plan.

The Town Team brings together over 200 groups and organisations representing a new way of collaborative working in Hawick. It combines pride, culture and passion, unifying the enormous community effort and heart towards the greater goal of improving the town for everyone. The Place Plan covers both Burnfoot and Hawick Community Council areas which includes the whole town and its immediate surroundings, please see map on page 5 of the Hawick Place Plan.

It is hoped that through this process, Burnfoot, which is often perceived to be, disconnected from the rest of Hawick, can strengthen its physical relationship to the town centre, improving its links and accessibility. Hawick is overflowing with opportunity and unique qualities, from the people that live here, to its history, character, and resilience over the years. These qualities contribute to making Hawick special and form the foundation upon which the Place Plan for the town can be built.

Vision and Priorities:



Contact details:

Hawick Development Trust (HDT) are submitting the plan on behalf of the Hawick Town Team. HDT is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered number SC039141.

[OSCR | Charity Details](#)

Email address: hawicktownteam@outlook.com & chair@hawickdevelopmenttrust.org

Regard given to the Local Development Plan:

The Proposed Scottish Borders Council Local Development Plan, 2023 (adopted 22 August 2024) sets out land use proposals and planning policies which are intended to guide development and inform planning decisions within the Scottish Borders over the next ten years.

The Hawick Place Plan has taken onboard specific regard to Local Development Plan including Policy PMD2 Quality Standards placing an emphasis on high quality, setting out standards in reference to sustainability, placemaking & design, green space, open space & biodiversity, and accessibility.

Policy ED3 Town Centres and Shopping Development is of particular relevance, recognising that the role of the town centre is changing and reflecting that they are important community and service centres as well as retail locations.

The Supplementary Planning Guidance document, Placemaking & Design promotes the creation of high quality buildings and places. The guidance highlights that good design is at the heart of sustainable communities and notes the importance of well-designed places to live and their social, economic and environmental benefits. The Local Development Plan sets out placemaking considerations, recognising the need for regeneration in Hawick of which is reflected in the Hawick Place Plan

It is recognised that there was an oversight in reviewing wording of the Place Plan in page 9 "Scottish Borders Council Local Development Plan: The Place Plan does not propose any changes to forthcoming Local Development Plans". What was meant was the Hawick Place Plan itself does not set out definitive allocations (new or amended) nor definitive policy changes to the LDP.

However, the Hawick Place Plan should be taken into account in the next LDP process when registered as a Local Place Plan. The Hawick Place Plan sets out several projects and proposals for developments or use of land and reuse of buildings, supported by the community, and to be implemented over time. The projects and proposals in principle are complementary of the LDP rather than competing, conflicting or opposing the LDP, and set out how the community would like to see these developed.

The projects and proposals are set out on pages 38 to 63 of the Hawick Place Plan.

Regard given to the National Planning Framework:

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) sets out the long-term spatial strategy and a comprehensive set of national planning policies.

The Framework sets out 6 overarching spatial principles, which include: • Just transition. • Conserving and recycling assets • Local living • Compact urban growth • Rebalanced development • Rural revitalisation.

NPF highlights the South of Scotland as being strategically important, with towns such as Hawick, being well placed to be models of sustainable living and sets out priorities and aims for the area to:

- Protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst de-carbonising transport and building resilient physical and digital connections
- Increase the population by improving local liveability, creating a low carbon network of towns and supporting sustainable and rural development
- Support local economic development whilst making sustainable use of the area's world class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

Regard given to the Locality Plan:

Whilst preparing the Hawick Place Plan, the [Teviot and Liddesdale Locality Plan 2020](#) was taken into account, with the plan aligning to the Locality Plan as per the examples below:

Locality Plan 2020	Hawick Place Plan Vision & Priorities	Hawick Place Plan Project
"Continue the development of a strong tourist offer"	Tourism Development	1. Destination Hawick
"Increase the range of housing options available across the locality"	Town Centre Living	5. Come and Stay
"Regenerate Hawick town centre and villages"	Interesting & Proud Vibrant, Healthy & Happy	10. Wayfinding & Interpretation Plan 17. Town Centre Revitalisation
"Use vacant land and empty buildings for housing and business opportunities"	Vibrant, Healthy & Happy	17. Town Centre Revitalisation The Hawick Place Plan recognises that there are several vacant building and premises in town.
"Encourage people to look after their local area and take pride in where they live"	Interesting & Proud Sustainable & Prosperous	Throughout the Hawick Place Plan preparation, by bringing people together through community engagement, the overarching message is "By Hawick, For Hawick"

Reasons for amendments being sought to the Local Development Plan:

Pages 20-23 of the Hawick Place Plan – “Assets, Opportunities, Needs and Challenges”, details some of the reasons why the community led Local Place Plan is needed.

During public engagement, a number of projects and proposals emerged that the community would like to be taken into consideration as part of the Local Development Plan where appropriate.

These projects and proposals are detailed on pages 38 to 63 of the Hawick Place Plan along with the accompanying map on pages 36 and 37. These projects and proposals are largely for the development or use of land or reuse of buildings.

Community support for the Local Place Plan:

Engagement with the community has taken place throughout the process of developing the Place Plan and has been enhanced through a series of engagements from late 2022 through to 2024. From the outset the focus was on producing a plan that reflected the community's aspirations.

Elected members of Scottish Borders Council, Burnfoot Community Council, and Hawick Community Council have been engaged throughout with the process of developing the Place Plan.

A series of 17 'Have Your Say' sessions were undertaken by the Town Team, steering group and volunteers, throughout March, April and May 2023. Over 1300 physical and virtual post it notes were gathered to build a picture of what the people of Hawick thought and wanted to see in their community. The information was grouped using the Place Standard Tool headings, to begin to understand the priorities for the town. Each post it note was categorised into the headings and analysed by a working group of community members from different organisations.

Further engagement was carried out in January 2024 through a series of focused discussions. Two days of in-person meetings with local groups and organisations were organised in Hawick resulting in over 20 sessions taking place. (Please see Page 29).

Facilitated workshops with school pupils from Drumlanrig, Wilton, Trinity and Burnfoot Primary Schools, in addition to secondary pupils from Hawick High School, also took place in January 2024, with discussions highlighting their likes, dislikes and ideas for the future, providing a valuable insight into what the younger generation would like to see in Hawick. (Please see Page 28)

During this time a business survey was conducted to gather input from a sector of the community that was under-represented from the conversations that were carried out in 2023. A total of 95 responses were submitted through the business survey. (Please see Page 27)

Continued dialogue with organisations, groups and individuals have taken place throughout 2024, thus allowing people unable to attend organised sessions an opportunity to be involved in developing the Place Plan.

Public feedback on the emerging draft Place Plan was gathered throughout March 2024, where draft ideas were available to view online and in person within the town. A series of events were held, including a public drop-in event at the Evergreen Hall, pop-up displays were mounted at the local supermarket, Hawick Library and at Hawick Reivers Festival. Input from young people was also encouraged through targeted workshops at Drumlanrig Primary School and Escape Youth Services.

The public were asked to provide feedback on the draft vision, priorities and projects that were emerging in the Place Plan and encouraged to share their own ideas. A survey was live during the consultation period, both online and in paper format, giving people the opportunity to rate the draft project ideas. A total of 383 survey responses were collected and when asked overall, how supportive the community are of the Draft Place Plan a large majority responded with either 'very supportive' (151 responses) or 'supportive' (155 responses). The community were also asked for any other ideas they might have, identifying the opportunity to strengthen the Place Plan with the feedback collected. (Please see Pages 30 & 31)

Process



Evidence of compliance with Regulation 4:

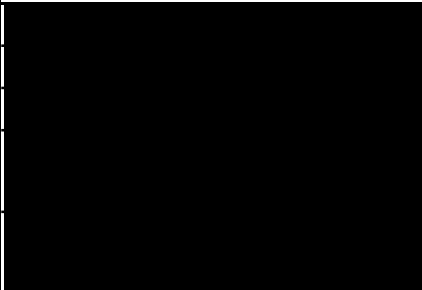
The proposed Local Place Plan and information notice* were sent on 20/08/24 to:

Councillors to whom the proposed Local Place Plan was sent

- Cllr. Annette Smart – Hawick & Hermitage
- Cllr. Clair Ramage – Hawick & Denholm
- Cllr. Jane Cox – Hawick & Hermitage
- Cllr. Neil Richards – Hawick & Denholm
- Cllr. Stuart Marshall – Hawick & Denholm
- Cllr. Watson McAteer – Hawick & Hermitage

*Please see Councillors Information notice attachment

List of Community Councils to whom the proposed Local Place Plan was sent on 20/08/2024

Community Council	Email contact
Hawick	
Burnfoot	
Denholm and District	
Lilliesleaf, Ashkirk, and Midlem	
Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water	

Please see CC Information Notice Attachment

Appendix:

Hawick Local Place Plan:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/70b5eecfe34f4e7b851fed06d574f248>