

APPENDIX 1 – DIALOGUE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The online Dialogue Community Engagement tool generated a range of ideas within 30 individually themed discussion threads. These ideas have been consolidated into 7 specific areas, with narratives on how these ideas have been used to inform the 2019/20 – 2023/24 financial planning process. Actual responses from residents with all comments are available on the Council's website and a copy has been made available in the Member's Library.

Theme	You Said	We Did
School Buildings and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="437 445 890 674">• Review smaller schools and consider amalgamating small primary schools; where there are mixed years in classes and where there are several small schools in one larger community. <li data-bbox="437 981 890 1144">• Review school building infrastructure and facilities; Eyemouth school is too small and not accessible by wheelchair users. <li data-bbox="437 1688 890 1783">• Schools to use funds to provide pre and post school clubs. <li data-bbox="437 1861 890 2056">• SBC continue to protect education budgets and increase budgets allocated for education. These should be ringfenced to ensure teacher numbers are sustained. 	<p data-bbox="898 445 1316 936">The Council has significant savings proposals included in the Financial Plan which will be delivered through a review of Property & Assets. Capital receipts of £4.6m are anticipated through disposals of Council assets over the next three years of the Financial Plan. A School Estates Review is also underway which will examine the viability of smaller schools and assess how best to deliver the curriculum across the Borders.</p> <p data-bbox="898 981 1316 1272">Ambitious large scale projects to significantly improve the school estate to match current and future demand is ongoing, with planned capital investment of £25m over next three years, with a further £71m in the seven years thereafter.</p> <p data-bbox="898 1317 1316 1608">The Council's school estate continues to remain under review and options, are being considered in relation to a number of schools where condition, suitability and efficiency of education provision are at a less than optimum level.</p> <p data-bbox="898 1688 1316 1809">£6.4m of revenue funding is being made available in 2019/20 for early learning and childcare expansion.</p> <p data-bbox="898 1854 1316 1975">The Council is committed to maintaining pupil : teacher ratios across its school provision.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce teacher numbers and costs by creating better common year classes. • Paid classroom assistants to be provided in each primary school. • Investment within education, to support the Equality gap. • Resources be made available to reintroduce ‘lost’ subjects both academic and vocational e.g. languages and music. 	<p>Each year when pupil numbers are being projected for the next academic session the Council, in consultation with Head Teachers, plans for the most efficient and effective class organisation to deliver the curriculum.</p> <p>The Devolved School Management (DSM) scheme provides resources for additional classroom support where this is considered necessary to support pupils and teachers.</p> <p>Major investment in the schools estate is planned in the Council’s Capital Investment Plan to address the most pressing issues of condition and suitability.</p> <p>“Inspire Learning”, the Council’s digital learning transformation programme, will invest £16m over the next 11 years in order to transform educational outcomes and our young people’s attainment and engagement into their learning. It is hoped this new technology will allow online access to educational content and allow schools to deliver a wider curriculum more cost effectively.</p>
<p>Refuse and Waste Disposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for community-based waste reduction schemes. • Switch to using re-usable plastics within all council and health services; HQ, schools, care homes, hospitals etc. • Bin collections not to be reduced further. Review 	<p>A review of our kerbside collection service has been undertaken in conjunction with Zero Waste Scotland which looked at multiple delivery options and considered the impact on householders, recycling rates, and cost. The recommendations following this review will be presented to Council in the Spring.</p> <p>The Council is currently undertaking a number of projects looking at the elimination of single use plastics.</p> <p>The Council is not currently considering any further</p>

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	<p>collections for specific recycling waste; provide local - skips, recycling and garden waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End charging for commercial disposal of waste; likely to reduce fly tipping. 	<p>reductions to its kerbside collection service. 2 weekly collections will continue to be provided with innovative solutions being considered to support recycling in rural communities.</p> <p>The Council is making significant further investment into improving its Community Recycling Centres and improving recycling rates in order to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. The Council believes it is right that commercial firms pay to dispose of waste legally at Borders Community Recycling Centres.</p>
Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget to finance “public transport deprived” areas; specifically consideration of funding of £300,000 for Tweedsmuir, with no provision of public transport. 	<p>We are only looking to change service frequencies on the most under-utilised routes in order to improve cost effectiveness.</p> <p>We are looking to work closely in partnership with Border Buses which will look to address various issues such as vehicle size and creating an integrated network.</p> <p>The bus fleet delivering services is increasingly being modernised with new more comfortable and fuel efficient vehicles by service providers such as Border Buses. A summit is being planned to review how best to provide transport to rural communities.</p>
Soft Play and Play Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft play to be provided in more localities; Jedburgh. • All towns to have good Play Park facilities; replicate Galashiels and Hawick. 	<p>Provision of £2.6m over 3 years has been made within the Capital Investment plan to invest in new outdoor community spaces to support leisure and play for all ages in all major towns.</p> <p>The Council has delivered a number of new play areas across the Scottish Borders both directly and working in partnership with communities and supporting them to access funding and maintain the</p>

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		<p>playparks. It is committed to the ongoing improvement of all outdoor community spaces including play parks across all towns in the Scottish Borders.</p>
<p>Council Services and Buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce waste; such as the length of time for street lighting. • Dispose of disused council buildings; reinvest into existing infrastructure rather than new projects. • Review out of hours usage of school buildings. 	<p>This opportunity has been considered but was discounted as a feasible option to reduce costs due to negative feedback from other Local Authorities who have already implemented this change and concerns over perceived community safety.</p> <p>The Council continues to deliver its Property Rationalisation Strategy which aims to increase the effectiveness of utilisation of property assets and dispose of those which are surplus to requirements, providing further financial capacity for revenue and capital reinvestment into priority areas.</p>
<p>Council Governance and Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of Councillors within each district; this could be more cost effective. • Amalgamate Councils and associated Services; payroll, waste services, roads' maintenance. • Remove higher grade management staff (G12) and increase support posts. 	<p>The number of Councillors is recommended by the Boundary Commission and approved by Parliament and is not at the discretion of the Council.</p> <p>Amalgamating Councils would require a change in legislation. The Council has recently proposed a single public body for the Borders. The Council regularly seeks out opportunities for sharing services with other local authorities and public service partners across the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>The Council is proposing to examine management structures, span of control and supervision as part of its Fit for 2024 programme.</p>