

**Minute of Meeting of the Tweeddale Access Panel held in Dovecot Court,
Dovecot Road, Peebles, on Wednesday 25 April 2018 at 7.00pm**

PRESENT: *Michael Davis (Chairman), Spencer Cobley, Mary Daykin, Frank Drummond, Callum Macdonald and Paul Nichol.*

IN ATTENDANCE: *Nile Istephan (Chief Executive Officer, Eildon Housing Association) (Item 1 only), Mags Greig (BSL Interpreter), Councillor Robin Tatler, and two representatives from the local Citizens' Panel (Item 1 only).*

APOLOGIES: *Yvonne Armstrong, Neil Collin, and Mary Sharratt.*

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Nile Istephan, Chief Executive Officer of Eildon Housing Association, and representatives from the local Citizens' Panel, who had come to hear Mr Istephan speak.

1. Eildon Housing Association

Nile Istephan gave an excellent presentation on the history and wide- ranging work of Eildon Housing Association in the Scottish Borders, with an emphasis on the Tweeddale area. A copy of his handout is appended to the principal copy of this Minute.

Panel members were interested to learn about Eildon's existing provision (and in some cases planned provision) of extra care housing, sheltered housing, housing for people with learning disabilities, and wheelchair accessible and adapted properties. The Care and Repair Service also helped people to live independent lives in their own homes for as long as possible.

Particular interest was expressed in how younger people with disabilities might go about getting a tenancy of a suitable property. Nile explained how Eildon used a choice-based letting process rather than a traditional waiting list.

Eildon advertised vacant properties, and people registered with Eildon could bid for these. Eildon then allocated the properties to the household with the highest need and who would make best use of the property. If two households ranked equally, then the tenancy would be allocated to the household registered longest with Eildon. Where appropriate, Eildon would consult their Learning Disability Team. If a tenancy was to be shared, Eildon staff would

consider which applicant would make a good fit. Staff would also assist applicants, not making decisions for them but helping them through the whole process, pointing out things to think about and signposting them to where further advice might be obtained on finance, benefits, energy suppliers, furniture, etc.

Nile advised that Tweedbridge Court would be demolished over the next two months. Eildon intended to build around 40 homes on the site. Building works would begin towards the end of this year and last approximately 12-15 months. There would be a period of public consultation first.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation and **AGREED** that Nile Istephan be thanked for its preparation and for dealing with members' questions.

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Nile and the Citizens' Panel representatives left the meeting at the end of the above item.

2. Logo Design Competition

There had been circulated the five entries and accompanying explanatory statements received for the competition to design a new logo for Tweeddale Access Panel. Two of these entries had come from students at Borders College, and three from senior students with additional needs at Peebles High School.

The Panel appreciated the time, thought and effort which each competitor had put into their entry, and each entry had its merits.

DECISION

AGREED that:

- (a) the first prize of a £50 voucher for a shop of his choice be awarded to JKM, and that his entry be used as the basis for developing the Panel's new logo;
- (b) the second prize of a £25 voucher for a shop of his choice be awarded to RF; and
- (c) Mary Daykin consult people she knew who had some expertise in Easy Read documentation and graphic design about adaptations which might be needed to ensure the logo was clear and accessible when enlarged or reduced, as the final version would be used on pop-up banners, headed notepaper, business cards, etc.

3. Adjournment of Meeting

In view of the lateness of the hour, the Chairman proposed that the meeting be adjourned.

DECISION

AGREED that the meeting be adjourned to a later date, and that it be remitted to the Chairman and Secretary to fix individual and/or combined meeting dates for the adjourned meeting, the Annual General Meeting, and a meeting with appropriate officers to discuss Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Partnership's draft Physical Disability Strategy.