

Report from Councillor Leigh Douglas

On 29th August 2024 the roles of some councillors changed.

I transitioned from Executive Member for Education and Lifelong Learning to take up the new post of:

Executive Member for Finance, IT and Corporate Performance.

My brief in this new role includes looking across the board at how all our services are performing and indeed how we might look to **transform** these services to enhance performance in conjunction with seeing if we can identifying financial gain opportunities.

To that end I will be deep diving across the service suite. I decided that one of my priorities was to take a look at our recent investment in the Selkirk Victoria Park caravan site, having noticed a perceived increase in bookings based on just having driven by a few times.

I am delighted to share with the committee now some data I have uncovered:

1. Between 1st May and 31st August, the caravan park had 144 bookings with 565 people through the site.
2. Revenue is up approx. 40% compared to the same period in 2023
3. In 2023, there were 183 bookings but the majority were 1 night stays. The big positive in 2024 has been that the number of bookings for greater than 1 night has significantly increased (31% in 2023 vs 58% in 2024).
4. Through the 2024 summer holidays, 40% of bookings were for 3+ nights compared with only 15% in 2023.
5. Since 1st May, the site has had bookings every single week. This is another improvement from last year.
6. It seems, although cannot substantiate this it's based on local discussions and perception, that more people are using the Caravan Park as a base to explore Selkirk and the surrounding area as opposed to just passing through on the way elsewhere.

In short, a really good news story and an enormous well done to the Selkirk Victoria Park focus group in particular. I have also shared this information with that group.

Finally, some new and relevant information from the council website (with links).

Local Development Plan (LDP) – was adopted on 22nd August.

The LDP sets out land use proposals and planning policies to guide development and inform planning decisions within the Scottish Borders.

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/ldp2>

Community conversations

Full listing of all across the region:

Please note the next one in our area is at the Philiphaugh Community Centre on Wednesday 25th September at 6:30pm.

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/community-learning-development/community-conversations>

New SB Recycles online tool

This is really useful for any queries regarding what we should be putting in our bins.

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/bins-rubbish-recycling/waste-recycling-app>

Council Tax Bill – review it online

Just to note this is a relatively new service and many are finding it very useful.

[View your Council Tax online | MyScotBorders | Scottish Borders Council](#)

Cllr Leigh Douglas

Selkirkshire

Executive Member for Finance, IT and Corporate Performance