The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Volunteer Hall, Galashiels

1. **Scottish Borders Education Inquiry**: The Committee will take evidence from—

   Scottish Borders Council officials

   Councillors

   Trade Unions

   Borders Equality in Education

The following paper is attached for the meeting—

*Clerk’s note on meeting agenda*  
ED/01/28/1

The following papers are attached for information—

Scottish Borders Council, Education Budget Overspends, Report by Education Working Group, 8 October 2001

Accounts Commission, S.R. 2001/4, Scottish Borders Council Education Department Overspend


Scottish Borders Council, Appendix – Action Plan in response to Controller of Audit / Education Working Group Reports

Letter to convener from Angus MacKay MSP, Minister for Finance and Local Government, 2 October 2001
Education, Culture and Sport Committee

Meeting 5 November

Scottish Borders Education

Purpose
1. The purpose of this agenda item is to take oral evidence from witnesses in connection with the Scottish Borders Education Inquiry.

Terms of Reference
2. The terms of reference of the inquiry are to inquire into the impact of the current financial situation in the Scottish Borders education budget.

Witnesses
3. The following have been invited to attend as witnesses:

   Officials: John Campbell Acting Chief Executive
               Alan Bowman Head of Financial Administration
               (To be confirmed) Senior official from Lifelong Learning portfolio

   Members: C’Ilr. Andrew Tulley Leader of Council
            C’Ilr. Anne Younger

   John Taylor, former Assistant Director of Education (Finance and Administration) (to be confirmed)

   C’Ilr. David Suckling, former Chair of Education Committee (to be confirmed)

   Unions: Sue Roberts EIS
           Brian Bishop SSTA
           (To be confirmed) UNISON

           Mrs E Prior and others Borders Equality in Education

Papers
4. The following papers are enclosed for the information of members:
   • Scottish Borders Council, Education Budget Overspends, Report by Education Working Group, 8 October 2001
   • Accounts Commission, S.R. 2001/4, Scottish Borders Council Education Department Overspend
   • Scottish Borders Council, Appendix – Action Plan in response to Controller of Audit / Education Working Group Reports
   • Letter to convener from Angus MacKay MSP, Minister for Finance and Local Government, 2 October 2001
Letter to convener from C’Ilr Andrew Tulley, Leader, Scottish Borders Council, 3 October 2001

Petition
5. Petition PE402 has been referred to this committee by the Public Petitions Committee and will be formally tabled on a future agenda. Members are invited to note that the petition calls for the Scottish Parliament (a) to investigate the reasons for the overspend in the Scottish Borders Council education budget in 2001-2002, (b) to call to account those responsible for the overspend; and (c) to assess the impact on Borders educational provision and in particular on those children with special educational needs.

Martin Verity
Clerk to the Committee