

# Public Document Pack

**Eildon  
Area Partnership**

**Our Scottish Borders**  
Your community

## Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, 28 January 2021  
**Time:** 6.00 p.m.  
**Location:** Via MS Teams

## AGENDA

1.	<b>Welcome</b>
2.	<b>Feedback from meeting on 12 November 2020</b> (Pages 3 - 8)  Copy of Minute attached.
3.	<b>Covid-19 Update</b> (Pages 9 - 20)  Presentation by Jenni Craig, Service Director Customer and Communities (slides attached).
4.	<b>Update from Partners</b> (Pages 21 - 22)  (a) Community Assistance Hub (b) Café Re-charge (c) Selkirk Resilience Team (d) Home Energy Scotland (e) Galashiels Foodbank (f) The Bridge (attached)
5.	<b>Fit for 2024: Review of Area Partnerships &amp; Community Fund</b> : (Pages 23 - 26)  Recommendations proposed from Eildon Area Partnership to be considered for public consultation (summary attached of feedback comments, following last meeting).
6.	<b>Eildon Community Fund 2020/21</b> (Pages 27 - 40)  Two applications for approval and Eildon Funding Information attached:- (a) Stow Community Development – application (b) Lauderdale Cycling Club – application (c) Funding Information
7.	<b>Current Consultations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scottish Borders Budget Challenge - closes 31 January 2021: <a href="https://scotborders.prioritysimulator.com/">https://scotborders.prioritysimulator.com/</a></li><li>• Licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues – closes 14 February 2021 <a href="https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/regulatory-services/licensing-of-sexual-entertainment-venues/">https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/regulatory-services/licensing-of-sexual-entertainment-venues/</a></li><li>• Proposed Scottish Borders Local Development Plan – closes 25</li></ul>

8.	<p><b>Other information and news for noting:</b> (Pages 41 - 56)</p> <p>(a) The Eildon Community Fund for 2020/21 is now open - guidance and application form is on SBC website: <a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20076/community_grants_and_funding/261/community_fund">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20076/community_grants_and_funding/261/community_fund</a></p> <p>(b) Eildon Locality Plan &amp; Action Plans - these plans are now published and outline the priorities of the Tweeddale area and could be the focus of a future Area Partnership meeting: <a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1310/locality_plans">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1310/locality_plans</a></p> <p>(c) Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Currently, there are no formal Participation Requests or formal Asset Transfer requests being considered within Eildon. One Asset Transfer (sale) request has been agreed as mentioned at the last Eildon Area Partnership meeting in November 2020. The asset transfer is; old Ettrick Primary School building which will be used by Ettrick &amp; Yarrow Community Development Company for an office base, hosting of James Hogg exhibition and local heritage projects and displays, and the provision of a training area.</p> <p>(d) Fit for 2024 – Outline proposals for community engagement over future service delivery (report attached).</p> <p>(e) Information Pack on Community Empowerment for Area Partnerships (attached)</p> <p>(f) Covid-19 support: i. <a href="http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/coronavirus">www.scotborders.gov.uk/coronavirus</a> ii. <a href="http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/affordablewarmth">www.scotborders.gov.uk/affordablewarmth</a> iii. <a href="http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/covid19business">www.scotborders.gov.uk/covid19business</a> iv. <a href="http://www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot">www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot</a></p> <p>(g) Health Improvement useful links (attached):</p>
9.	<p><b>Date of Next Eildon Area Partnership - 25 March 2021</b></p> <p>Are there any items you would like to propose for the agenda?</p>
10.	<p><b>Any other formal business</b></p>
11.	<p><b>Open forum</b></p>

Please direct any enquiries to Fiona Walling  
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**Eildon  
Area Partnership**



MINUTE of Meeting of the EILDON AREA PARTNERSHIP held remotely by Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 12 November 2020 at 6.00 pm

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- Present:- Councillors G. Edgar (Chairman), S. Aitchison, A. Anderson, E. Jardine, D. Parker and H. Scott.  
With 22 representatives of partner organisations, Community Councils, and members of the public.
- Apologies:- Councillor E. Thornton-Nicol
- In Attendance:- Communities and Partnerships Manager, Locality Development Co-ordinator (K. Harrow), Democratic Services Officer (F. Walling).

**1. WELCOME AND MEETING PROTOCOLS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership held remotely via Microsoft teams, which included elected Members, guests attending within the meeting and those watching via the Live Stream. He outlined how the meeting would be conducted.

**2. FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 27 FEBRUARY 2020**

The Minute of the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership held on 27 February 2020 had been circulated and was noted.

**3. EILDON COMMUNITY FUND 2020/21**

Assessments of four applications to the Eildon Community Fund had been circulated, plus a summary of grant funding within Eildon in 2020/21 and the source of that funding. The summary showed grant applications awarded, those under assessment and those to be considered by the Area Partnership. Also included were funding commitments to Community Councils, Village Halls and Local Festivals. Before consideration of the four pending applications, Mr Kenny Harrow outlined the process of assessment of applications to the Community Fund and the criteria used for that assessment. He advised that all applications to the Community Fund would be put forward to the Area Partnership for consideration, with officer assessment advising if the criteria had been met. He went on to give a summary of each of the following applications under consideration and confirmed that each met the Community Fund criteria.

**3.1 Walks around Stow**

This was an application from a sub-group of Stow Community Council seeking funding of £5,000 to purchase 11 self-closing gates on identified walking pathways around Stow. The proposal was an extension of the Walks around Stow initiative which aimed to identify and promote 10 pathways around Stow. The gates and installation cost £5,000 each. Mr Stuart Jeffrey spoke in support of the application and explained that Walks around Stow were actively working with local farmers and landowners to plan the 10 routes which would cross over 5 farms in total. Two routes had been mapped so far and leaflets published. Another three walks would be published by early 2021. The project was

enthusiastically supported by those in attendance. Representative of Stow Community Council referred to the importance of the Walks with Stow initiative within the wider tourism project linked to the railway station at Stow, to revitalise the area by encouraging visitors to get off the train and enjoy Stow and the surrounding area. The request for funding of £5,000 was unanimously approved.

### 3.2 **Café Re-Charge**

With reference to paragraph 6.2 of the Eildon Area Partnership Minute of 27 February 2020, an application for a grant of £14,404 had been received from the Community Interest Company (CIC) Café Re-Charge. The company aimed to reduce the gap between food poverty and food waste by using unsold food from supermarkets to serve in a Pay What You Can Café in Galashiels. Ms Amy Wight spoke in support of the application and explained that the café project had been due to start operating in March 2020 based at the Focus Centre in Galashiels. Due to the constraints of lockdown it was unable to open to the public, but the facilities were used to produce over 1,000 home cooked meals and food parcels for those in need over that period. During this time strong links were developed with other community groups. Due to the uncertainty around the reopening of the Focus Centre the group had negotiated a competitive lease on alternative, currently empty, premises in central Galashiels. Volunteering opportunities would be available in all aspects of the project for people across the community no matter what their age or background. The grant application was to cover the costs of a Project Manager for 12 months and seven months rent on the property. The application detailed other funding sources which included over £12,000 raised through Crowdfunding. In the discussion that followed the project was welcomed by all present and the request for funding of £14,404 was unanimously approved.

### 3.3 **Youth Borders**

An application for a grant of £9,198 had been received from the organisation Youth Borders to support the continuation of employment of a Membership Development Officer. The current post had funding in place until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. A grant from the Community Fund would continue the post throughout 2021 and to the end of January 2022. Ms Susan Hunter, in attendance to support the application, explained that Youth Borders currently had 42 members, 28 of which were in the Eildon area and included Rowlands, Beyond Earlston and TD1 Youth Hub. These members would be the primary beneficiaries of the funding. Youth Borders had found that the complexity of members' needs was increasing due to new barriers or constraints as a result of the ever changing Covid-19 picture. As these were new experiences even the most established volunteers or leaders were requiring assistance. In a discussion of the application the value and importance of the work of the organisation was recognised. There was unanimous approval of the request for funding of £9,198.

### 3.4 **Works +**

The organisation Works + had applied for a grant of £5,000 as a contribution towards 2021 staff salaries. Works+ was a local 'person-centred' employability organisation, employing three full time members of staff, based in the Scottish Borders. Works+ was involved in the Kickstart preparations, which would allow young people to obtain 6 months of paid work experience and then be supported for the following 6 months. Works + helped young people by confidence building; barrier removal; and by improving employability skills. Currently Works+ staff were unable to work from the Focus Centre but were working out of the Galashiels Job Centre where the connections between Job Centre staff and Works+ were growing. Mr Mark Timmins was in attendance to support the application and provide further information. He highlighted that over 170 young people had been helped to achieve a positive destination during the first 2 ½ years of operation. However he also referred to the unprecedented rise in youth unemployment currently being experienced, which was expected to peak around 100,000 in Scotland. It was vital for Works+ to continue to support young people, not just into employment, further education or training but to provide support for their mental health and wellbeing. Those present commented on the life-changing work of the organisation and gave their full

support for the application. In terms of reporting requirements following grant of funding, it was suggested that, due to the current economic situation there may be an appropriate alternative reporting measure to use rather than 'the number of young people achieving positive destinations'. Mr Harrow confirmed that this was being looked at by the Community Learning & Development Team. The application for funding of £5,000 was unanimously approved.

#### 4. **OTHER INFORMATION AND NEWS FOR NOTING**

The following information and news, as detailed on the agenda, was noted:

- Outstanding Community Fund Applications for 2019/20 - these had been dealt with as per the report that went to Council on 27 August 2020 which also contained the evaluation of Localities Bid Fund 1&2 and Participatory Budgeting. A summary paper had been circulated with the agenda.
- The Eildon Community Fund for 2020/21 was now open - guidance and application form was on the Council's website:  
[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20076/community\\_grants\\_and\\_funding/261/community\\_fund](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20076/community_grants_and_funding/261/community_fund)
- Community Councils - grants were being paid as normal for 2020/21
- Festival Grant Scheme – commitments re public liability and insurance were being met for 2020
- Federation of Village Halls – grants were being paid as normal for 2020/21
- VE Celebration Fund – this fund was now closed and commitments re expenses were being met
- Eildon Locality Plan & Action Plans - these plans were now published. They outlined the priorities of the Eildon area and could be the focus of a future Area Partnership meeting:  
[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1310/locality\\_plans](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1310/locality_plans)
- Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Currently, there were no formal Participation Requests or formal Asset Transfer requests being considered within Eildon. One Asset Transfer (the sale of former Ettrick Primary School building) request had been agreed since the Area Partnership last met.

#### 5. **FIT FOR 2024: REVIEW OF AREA PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY FUND AND ACTIONS FOR EILDON AREA PARTNERSHIP**

5.1 A summary of reports to Council, on 27 August 2020, on the Reviews of Area Partnerships and the Community Fund, had been circulated with the agenda. The Communities and Partnerships Manager, Shona Smith, gave a slide presentation which highlighted the main findings of the reviews and outlined the next steps. Based on the findings of the review some immediate changes had been made to the Community Fund from 1 September 2020. As part of the Council's response to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, and from the findings of the Scottish Community Development Centre report, Area Partnerships and communities could now make recommendations to Scottish Borders Council by the end of January 2021 about how they would like their Area Partnership and Community Fund to operate in the future. These recommendations would then go out for further public consultation that would take place in February 2021. At the end of the public consultation, a report would go to Council in March 2021.

5.2 The Chairman asked for views about how Eildon Area Partnership could establish a way to review the findings and make recommendations at a local level for further public

consultation in February 2021. He referred to the suggested questions which were included in the paper circulated, as an aid to developing these recommendations. A discussion followed about the most effective and fair way of engaging with groups and communities and how to collaborate in the provision of a list of recommendations. It was accepted that a variety of ways could be used to consult with people, even through the current restrictions, including by remote meetings, email and group telephone calls. It was agreed that it would be useful if a brief communication, containing a list of the suggested questions, could be sent out to Eildon Community Councils and other partner organisations to initiate a response. It was also suggested that, as all five Area Partnerships were involved in the development of recommendations for their local area, it may be appropriate for a generic communication to encourage engagement be put out from Corporate Communications and through local media. The Chairman asked for responses within the next two weeks about how to take this forward.

6. **DATE OF NEXT EILDON AREA PARTNERSHIP - 28 JANUARY 2021**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 28 January 2021. Suggestions for agenda items could be sent to the Locality Development Co-ordinator at [kenny.harrow@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:kenny.harrow@scotborders.gov.uk).

7. **ANY OTHER FORMAL BUSINESS**

No items were raised.

8. **OPEN FORUM**

Heriot Community Council representative, Mrs Sue Sharp, wished to raise two matters as follows:

- 8.1 On behalf of communities in Heriot, Fountainhall and surrounding area, Mrs Sharp emphasised the need to sustain and improve the X95 bus service. This was the one and only public transport service for the local population and was the key access to Borders Railway, other public transport, medical services etc. Before the opening of the railway the X95 was a half hourly service. Frequency then dropped to hourly and was now two-hourly with no bus service on a Sunday. Mrs Sharp added that the right to public transport was highlighted within the Locality Plan. The Chairman explained that a question about this service had been raised by Councillor Harry Scott at the recent meeting of Scottish Borders Council. In the response it was explained that since the arrival of the Borders Railway, the X95 (previously operated by First Scotland East) sustained a reduction of £12k in revenue per week. In order to keep the route sustainable, changes were made based on travel patterns which were identified from data derived from the ticket machines. Since the onset of Covid-19, bus services had been under constant review and services had been reduced to cope with a reduction of patronage which was currently in the region of 40% of where it was pre Covid. Borders Buses were currently surveying their passengers in order to try and gauge what level of service that they could put back in when restrictions started to ease with a view to building services up as passengers started to return. The Council's Transport Team were in constant discussions with all operators including Borders Buses regarding the local transport network and service changes. The Team would continue engagement with communities and local bus operators including Borders Buses to ensure that all communities were served by a sustainable transport network which met the needs of the communities they served whilst remaining within the allocated budget. In further discussion Councillors recognised the importance of the X95 communication link to local communities and also emphasised the need for a Sunday bus service. It was suggested that a letter from the Area Partnership, on behalf of communities, be sent direct to Scottish Government to request an extension of subsidy post Covid. The Chairman confirmed that he would pass the views of the Area Partnership to the Transport Team.
- 8.2 In terms of the second issue raised on behalf of Heriot Community Council, Mrs Sharp referred to the Eildon Locality Plan, noting the priority given to: increase learning opportunities and skills development across a wide range of subjects and vocations and

ages; and to invest in local, sustainable employment opportunities. Mrs Sharp asked Scottish Borders Council and South of Scotland Enterprise to given consideration about how local people could benefit more from employment in the renewables sector, particularly windfarms – be that in planning, engineering, construction, maintenance etc. There was a need to create jobs in growth sectors, of which renewables was one. In the discussion that followed there was strong support for this aspiration. The Chairman confirmed that South of Scotland Enterprise was looking at the issue.

**CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

*The meeting concluded at 7.25 pm*

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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

# Area Partnership: COVID-19 Update

12 January 2021



# COVID-19

## Current Trend

- Pre-Christmas the number of cases of COVID-19 locally were on the increase
- That increase has accelerated significantly, in part due to the circulation of the new, even more highly transmissible variant of the virus in the region
- The continued rate of increase and the impact that this has on health services is significant and deeply worrying
- It goes without saying that it is essential that everyone follows the current guidance and abides by the restrictions in place
- Fundamentally, the message is 'Stay at Home' and minimise all face-to-face contact with those outwith your household



# COVID-19

## Testing

- Due to high case numbers in the Hawick area, a Mobile Testing Unit has been deployed into the town at Teviotdale Leisure Centre as part of its rotational schedule.
- This facility is shared between the Scottish Borders, East Lothian and Midlothian. Tests can be booked via the UK Government online portal as normal.
- In addition, a walk-in testing facility has also been opened at the Langlee Complex in Galashiels.
- This is for symptomatic testing, with people able to book tests in advance through the UK Government portal or walking in without a booking.
- The Council is involved in initial discussions with the Scottish Government and other partners about the potential for asymptomatic community testing facilities in the Scottish Borders.



# Service implications of latest lockdown

## General approach

- In general, there are no direct impacts of this latest lockdown on SBC services over and above what was already in place during the short Level 4 period which came into effect on Boxing Day
- For example, waste and recycling services will continue, including Community Recycling Centres
- However, where the service implications may come from is the need to ensure that we are able to continue to deliver essential frontline services and support communities throughout the latest lockdown period
- This will likely result in the need to deploy staff to support certain services, which will result in others having to scale back on their operations



# Service implications of latest lockdown

## Community Assistance Hubs

- Community Assistance Hubs remain operational to co-ordinate support within localities
- They continue to work closely with Customer Advice & Support and Social Work colleagues and a range of partners locally.
- Whilst updated Shielding advice has been provided to those affected, there is currently no indication that we are returning to the intense levels of contact and support arrangements required during previous lockdowns
- The Hubs will remain operational and can be readily scaled up to previous levels if the need arises
- Increases in referrals are already rising, and due to the continued increase in COVID cases, staff are making more calls to those isolating to ensure they are aware of the support available
- Anyone in need should call 0300 100 1800 to access support



# Service implications of latest lockdown

## Education

- From 11 January until at least the start of February online and remote learning is being provided for all pupils, with in-school arrangements for invited young people and the children of key workers
- Key worker criteria is as per the previous lockdown and an appeal process is available. However, many more services are operating whose employees believe they are key workers
- In line with the national guidance, and to minimise the risk of COVID-19 to our young people and key worker families, we must ensure that the number of people in school is minimised at this time
- Were any teacher or key worker child to test positive, all those in contact will be required to self-isolate, meaning that those key worker children could no longer attend school and at least one key worker parent would be unable to attend work. This in turn places additional strain on critical services and businesses.



# Service implications of latest lockdown

## Education

- Whole workforces or entire groups of staff should not be designated as key workers. Doing so would undermine the collective effort we must all make to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives during this lockdown period
- Remote learning arrangements - P1-P3:
  - Pupils in P1 to P3 will be provided with home learning packs. These will be accessible online and in hard copy by arrangement with individual schools
- Remote learning arrangements – P4-S6:
  - The Inspire Learning programme will be fully utilised to support remote learning for all P4 to S6 pupils
- Any planned senior phase assessments will be postponed. This will have no detrimental impact on pupils. Whilst these assessments are not essential, we believe they are an enhancement to support accurate evaluation data and will be carried out when possible, with appropriate preparation time provided.



# Service implications of latest lockdown

## Live Borders

- In light of the lockdown restrictions all Live Borders facilities are closed to the public
- Digital services ranging from online fitness classes to online library access continue to be offered and can support home learning
- Live Borders' focus during the lockdown is on providing support to NHS Borders and SBC's COVID response efforts through use of available staff and resources
- Live Borders will continue to keep their membership updated



# Support for communities

- Our Community Assistance Hubs should be the first port of call for anyone in need of support during lockdown
- They can be accessed via 0300 100 1800. Our hub staff are also contacting directly those who have tested positive for COVID-19 where they have agreed for their details to be shared
- Financial assistance may be available to those in need. The Council's Financial Inclusion Team is able to help with a wide range of advice and support, which can also be accessed via 0300 100 1800
- More information on the help and support available can be found via [www.scotborders.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/coronavirus)
- Information relating to fuel poverty assistance can be found via [www.scotborders.gov.uk/affordablewarmth](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/affordablewarmth)



# Support for businesses

- A range of business support is available for firms experiencing difficulty
- This includes access to funding support administered by the Council on behalf of the Scottish Government
- Information on this support is available online at [www.scotborders.gov.uk/covid19business](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/covid19business)
- All eligible businesses are encouraged to apply. Where entitlement changes due to changes to the Levels of restrictions in place then this is automatically reviewed, without the need for repeated applications
- Businesses are encouraged to use the national Find Business Support website ([www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot](http://www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot)) to check all available funding support, including that being administered by other partners



# Support for businesses

- We continue to work with South of Scotland Enterprise to ensure the most appropriate business support is made available to businesses most in need
- Information on all current funds which are public and open for applications is available on the Find Business Support website
- There are a number of significant ongoing daily discussions at a senior level with the Scottish Government and partners about future business funds and we will announce details as soon as we can, as the Scottish Government did yesterday regarding funding for the hospitality sector
- We are acutely aware of the need for further future funding to support businesses and we take that very seriously and are working with partners, including SOSE, to identify the requirements
- We do not underestimate the scale of the challenge and we are working hard to ensure there is an appropriate response

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### The Bridge update

The TSI have nominated local charities for RRR Fund:

Borders Third Sector Interface (TSI) been asked by Foundation Scotland to support with the delivery of the second phase of the RRR (Response, Resilience and Recovery) Fund. Borders TSI has nominated your charity to receive £750.00.

Foundation Scotland's priority to respond to people living with poor, interrupted or impaired access to food, shelter, and necessary amenities (e.g. sanitation, heat). The types of activity the funds can be used for includes:

- 1) The provision of emergency provisions / vouchers / cash to people in immediate need.
- 2) Advice services to help people access housing, benefits, tax credits and other resources available to them
- 3) Peer support models that encourage people to share information and build solutions together
- 4) Community led action that supports people to build resilience in their community

The Borders TSI are managing enquiries regarding Business Grants, Charity governance to align virtual meetings within constitutions, updating coronavirus guidance.

The Borders TSI supporting businesses and charities with Brexit information and support

The Borders TSI are planning a series Third Sector forum based on needs from within community

The Borders TSI are advocating on behalf of members and TSO on vaccination roll out for volunteer drivers and supporting with the volunteering support with Resilient Groups.

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Eildon Common Themes;

### **Eildon Area Partnership**

1. Do you want to form a sub group to make recommendations – this may include Elected Members and Community Councillors or any other stakeholders, but needs to be agreed within each Area

Partnership. • Or, do you want to have a general discussion and make recommendations at the Eildon Area Partnership on 28th January 2021?

Sub group would be useful to gather thoughts and opinions and make it manageable.

1. Do you want the Area Partnership to be a Council committee in the future or a community meeting?

From the comments there is an enthusiasm for this to be a community meeting but that there is a worry that no actions will take place and that the meeting would hold less value. Who would provide administration support etc if it was a community meeting? The aim of the area partnership in the meantime could therefore be to build capacity so that these can become community meetings long term

A rotating chair could be a good start at this, with the support of SBC officers and elected members.

2. What should be the role, remit and purpose of future Area Partnerships meetings?

A theme at each meeting, based on one of the priorities of the Locality Plan & Action Plan. This would allow an officer from that Directorate presenting and laying out any progress, or otherwise, and then being questioned by the attendees, or receiving suggestions and advice.

A member from one of the emergency services presenting on what progress their local plans are having, and answering questions.

Make sure that the action plan has merit and any actions are reported on. This will demonstrate that the community voice is being heard and that Area Partnerships have an influence.

Link volunteers and resilient community groups better into this process

Allow a place for community council issues to be discussed or issues to be raised.

Allow the partnership to have their say and make decisions on any consultations that there may be, this would allow Area Partnerships to become the vehicle of decision making

3. If the meetings were not a Council committee, what would the governance model be, what will the membership look like, and who would Chair etc.?

Suggestion above to rotate the Chair. If that works then move further in ensuring more volunteers rather than elected SBC Councillors have a formal role.

4. When would you want to meet – evenings or otherwise?

Re meeting time - evenings are preferable – to encourage attendance from people at work and school pupils. Virtual meetings have a future where public transport is a problem – but access to technology and internet connection shouldn't rule out attendance – blended approach may be the answer longer term.

At least once a year it should be during the day when those not available at night might attend.

5. How do you want to progress the Eildon Locality Plan & Action Plan?

Make the actions on the action plan more accountable – report more on progress (or lack off) and use the action plan as a way of making sure things get done. Reflect the action plan to local issues and not just high level requests.

#### **Eildon Community Fund:**

7. The criteria, assessment and decision making arrangements for the Community Fund – do you want to change the criteria, decision making or consider convening a funding panel to assess applications?

Would be keen to explore how a funding panel works – this works well with windfarm funding

Look for more involvement in the assessment process of community council representatives.

Encourage Community Councils to consult with their committee to get a wider view and opinion of an application, this can be evidence via email chains etc.

Local communities should be able to commission SBC to carry out particular work required in a community which otherwise would not be done by the Council within the agreed budget ie to address a particular local issue such as additional lighting/potholes.

8. Festival Grants, Community Council and Village Hall grant levels – you may change or increase the funding allocation using the Community Fund in order to do this?

No change

9. Are there community projects from the Eildon Locality Plan & Action Plan that could be funded from the Community Fund?

That would have to be decided by the membership, but there is no reason why officers, or elected members with the benefit of having a wider view, suggesting items for consideration.

Examples is to funding items such as; Road speed signage/ improvements

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## 2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Eildon

Ref. No.: CF2021-EIL-13

Organisation Name: Stow Community Trust

Funding Requested: £11,000

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Community Trust		
Annual Accounts Balance	£10,689		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much?			
All monies are ring fenced			
Stow Community Trust is working with 7 funders and we have arrangements to draw down monies according to a series of monthly cash flow projections for the building/ construction work of the Stow Station House restoration project			
Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
SBC Funds received	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?
Have they recently applied to the Common Good Fund?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
Project brief	<p>Stow Community Trust are looking for funding to help part fund a Community Development Worker for a 12 month period. The post holder will be employed for 20 hours per week or 75-80 per month</p> <p>The creation of this post will look to engage with residents of Stow and Fountainhall to support their involvement in the creation of a community action plan</p>

	The post holder will look to support, write and begin to implement the delivery of the Community action plan in collaboration with community members. It is also hoped that during the 12 month period of the post the postholder will be able to make a start on some key priorities and 'quick wins' within the action plan.	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	February 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	22,000	
Community Fund Request (£)	11,000	
10% organisation contribution	2,200	
Any Other Contribution?		
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE)	£11,000	Provisional/In principle
Community Fund Outcomes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to better quality local services or activities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to a better quality environment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communities have more pride in their community <input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to better quality advice and information <input type="checkbox"/> More local groups or services are better supported to recover from financial difficulty	
Action Plan priorities	The project meets the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out more community mapping</li> <li>• Strengthen partnership working</li> </ul>	

ASSESSMENT	
What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?	<p>Stow community Trust undertook an extensive engagement exercise while in the process of the Stow Station House Renovation project. From a variety of engagement exercises over a 4 to 6 month period the group found that residents were interested in a variety of other projects that weren't directly linked to Stow Station House.</p> <p>A questionnaire in 2019 produced 100 responses and highlighted other issues that the community were interested in supporting.</p> <p>The last community engagement exercise took place over Zoom in February 2020 and attracted 120 individuals. Feedback from these recent meetings along with the 2019 questionnaire, has</p>

	<p>highlighted that the local community are keen to develop and look to improve their community. Survey returns showed that residents are keen to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better use Stow Town Hall,</li> <li>• Improve community exercise facilities,</li> <li>• Look into the lack of affordable short stay accommodation,</li> <li>• How best to support residents as a result of increased social isolation</li> <li>• Improve transport and transport links ,</li> <li>• Develop local adult education opportunities including IT ,</li> <li>• Improve facilities/ opportunities for children and young people and develop an art exhibition space.</li> </ul> <p>While these ideas are out of the scope of the Stow Station House project the group feel that these views would benefit from not being lost or dismissed but located within a community action plan.</p> <p>The Trust currently has a membership of 159 members and believe that the group need to widen their engagement scope. Including engaging with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other stakeholders – statutory agencies, local business including farmers and community organisations.</li> <li>• The maximum reach and number of residents of all ages and diversity including hard to reach groups (elderly and isolated),</li> </ul>
<p>What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?</p>	<p>The development of a community action plan will act as a road map for implementing community change and delivery of essential services by clarifying what will be done, who will do it and how it will be done. The plan will describe what the community wants to achieve, what activities are required during a specified time period, what resources (money, people and material) are needed to be successful and affords a continuous rolling opportunity to review and monitor progress and successes.</p> <p>The community action plan will set out the keys areas that need to be addressed in order to improve the local economy, contribute to environmental sustainability and improve health and wellbeing outcomes. If successful with this funding the post holder will be involved with the writing and delivery of the plan in collaboration with community members. This will also include making a start in the time available on small and other quick win projects identified.</p> <p>The plan will serve to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish agreement across community groups and organisations on the projects that should be progressed, their priority and the benefits to the community.</li> <li>• Increase the confidence of potential funders that projects will be delivered.</li> <li>• Increase the speed and efficiency of project delivery and minimise the risk of waste from poorly thought out projects lacking community support.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide statutory service delivery partners (such as SBC) with a better understanding of the needs of the local community and opportunities for collaboration.</li> <li>• Strengthen community empowerment as the local community is better able to describe its needs and aspirations.</li> </ul>
What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?	<p>This proposal is supported by Stow Community Trust and its 159 members. Stow Community Council and a group of local community businesses who have formed into a local forum also support this project.</p> <p>Community Council support letter;</p>  <p>letter[37715].docx</p>
What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?	<p>Part funded via South of Scotland enterprise</p> <p>The 50% funding commitment made for the post from elsewhere is conditional upon matched funding of equal value being granted.</p> <p>If match funding isn't secured the group would still be able to proceed with this post on reduced hours.</p>
How will the impact and success of the project be measured? What happens at the end of the project/activity or when the funding is spent?	<p>The post is for a fixed term of 12 months and succession planning will form part of the community action plan</p> <p>There will be an expectation that the Community Development Worker, with support from others, will detail the future resources required to drive and deliver the range of identified projects emerging from the action plan.</p>
Quotes received for items of expenditure	
Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?	yes

### SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT

The application meets the criteria of the Community Fund.

*Additional Terms and Conditions:*

Scottish Government coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance must be adhered to with a protocol for safe participation in the programme and use of resources developed, and all participants agreeing to adhere to this protocol.

*We would seek the group to particularly report on:*

*Number of residents that have been involved in community engagement*

*Completion of Stow Community Action Plan and the number of activities within this plan that the community worker has been able to take forward*

*Anecdotal comments as to the benefits a Community Development Worker has had on the local community.*

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## 2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Eildon

Ref. No.: CF2021-EIL-11

Organisation Name: Lauderdale Cycling Club

Funding Requested: £2,636.02

ABOUT THE GROUP			
<b>Organisation Structure</b>	Not for profit community club		
<b>Annual Accounts Balance</b>	£31114.86		
<p>Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why &amp; how much?</p> <p>There is still a balance left over of £280.00 from the 2019 Tour de Lauder community fund which was ringfenced for training to support coaches. This will be used to put newly trained coaches and leaders onto their "Safeguarding Vulnerable and Young People" training and towards additional first aid training.</p> <p>Fallago windfarm - Funding of £1510.00 is ring-fenced to be used purely for training two L1 leaders and two L1 coaches to provide free sessions to community.</p>			
<p>Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			
SBC Funds received	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?
<p>Have they recently applied to the Common Good Fund?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
Project brief	<p>Lauderdale Cycling Club (LCC) is requesting funds for a storage shed, limbo pole, pop-up shelter, fence posts and bike maintenance coaching for its Club, Community and High School Cycling Development" project. This aims to progress the club's Development Plan of enabling more people, including children and families, to enjoy cycling in the local area and to keep the club's equipment together in the one place.</p>

	The club are also looking for funding to increase the number of members who have their level 1 & Level 2 coaching qualifications across Mountain Bike Leader, Rider Leader and general coaching.	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	April 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	2928.92	
Community Fund Request (£)	2636.03	
10% organisation contribution	£292.89	
Any Other Contribution?		
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
Community Fund Outcomes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to better quality local services or activities <input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to a better quality environment <input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more pride in their community <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to better quality advice and information <input type="checkbox"/> More local groups or services are better supported to recover from financial difficulty	
Action Plan priorities	The project meets the following priorities: Create safe areas for young and provide leisure facilities that are accessible and affordable	

ASSESSMENT	
What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?	<p>Lauderdale currently use a closed Facebook group for members, Currently they are 27 adults and 47 young people amongst this group.</p> <p>The group also have a private community Facebook group, which is open to anyone to join with an interest in cycling for themselves or family in cycling. There are 130 individuals that are part of this group. This page is used to offer cycling advice and guidance as well as coordinating any club or training sessions. This Facebook page allows the group to raise awareness of any upcoming sessions</p> <p>The number of youth members, or young people accessing rides are restricted by how many qualified coaches the club has. Allowing for more trained coaches would mean that LCC could increase their youth membership numbers.</p>

	<p>A coach can take up to 30 individuals in one group, however as LCC are focused on grass roots and development Lauderdale Cycling Club allow 15 under 12s in one group along with 2 coaches. Thus allow for 2 groups, which will increase the amount of time that young people will receive coaching. With the proposed increase in people cycling, to keep the group sizes manageable and to allow individuals to get more focused training, further individuals are required to undertake their coaching qualifications.</p> <p>Number of youth members, or young people accessing rides are restricted by how many qualified coaches the club has. Allowing for more trained coaches would mean that LCC could increase their youth membership numbers.</p> <p>LCC are committed to increasing their membership. A member of the committee has now taken a lead role in setting up a formal men's section while another committee member is leading on increasing the female membership. There has been 10 ladies that have taken part over the year on social and led rides. The group wish to increase this number.</p>
<p>What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?</p>	<p>LCC would like to be able to increase the numbers for club activities along with offering free taster session, coached and/or guided bike rides. This would be open to all ages and abilities, with the primary aim to introduce people to cycling or help people restore their confidence in riding. As a club they are guided by British and Scottish cycling as to how many people can be coach/or lead for each session.</p> <p>As well as coaching session and led rides, they would deliver workshops on bike maintenance and management, and offer advice and guidance on clothing and kit.</p> <p>The benefits that the items requested on this application are;  Storage Shed – Currently equipment used for events and coaching sessions are held at four separate locations by coaches and/or committee members. Covid has highlighted the need to store items centrally so that a proper cleaning regime can be maintained and access to equipment monitored.</p> <p>Limbo pole – equipment used to teach movement of weight and positioning on a bike. Current limbo pole is damaged and in need of being replaced.</p> <p>Pop up Shelter – club cannot currently use indoor areas to register participants for events or sessions and to carry out safety checks on bikes. A shelter is required to support these activities.</p> <p>Fence Posts – to divide biking groups into numbers as per guidelines, mark off areas, create cycling routes to follow, prevent spectators for events and sessions, these are required to keep all safe and at a distance.</p>

	<p>Bike Maintenance – to allow coaches and leader to help make bikes safe prior to activities, offer free sessions, and help people in the community to keep their bikes on the road.</p> <p>The request for cost towards training courses is to allow the club to take on more participants and offer a wider variety of biking disciplines. The club can only facilitate coaching and leading within the numbers stipulated by British and Scottish Cycling.</p> <p>LCC wish to make cycling accessible to all. A large number of riders have indicated that they are reluctant to travel further distances as they lack knowledge of fixing punctures or identifying minor issues with their bikes. This funding would allow LCC to run training courses or offer maintenance sessions which will hopefully encourage more individuals to take up cycling and also feel more confident to get out on their bike.</p>
What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?	<p>LCC runs “Cully Cross” (for kids) and “Tour De Lauder” events, these are popular events in the Scottish Borders, attracting riders from all over the UK.</p> <p>LCC have engaged previously with Earlston High school and the parent council. The high school are keen to increase their offer of cycling to pupils.</p>
What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?	<p>Enquiries have been made to Live Borders and Sport Scotland for partial funding but funding wasn’t available at time of enquiry.</p> <p>LCC normally undertake fundraising. They aim to do this once it is safe to do so.</p>
How will the impact and success of the project be measured? What happens at the end of the project/activity or when the funding is spent?	<p>LCC will look to retain the numbers attending any session.</p> <p>Surveys will periodically be carried out prior to and after each bike maintenance session to establish how the training offered is impacting on participants and allow the club to make appropriate adjustments to meet their needs.</p> <p>LCC maintains a register of all its members, attendees which is used to provide yearly stats at the AGM this information will be compared to previous and future information.</p>
Quotes received for items of expenditure	yes
Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?	yes

### SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT

The application meets the criteria of the Community Fund.

*Additional Terms and Conditions:*

Scottish Government coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance must be adhered to with a protocol for safe participation in the programme and use of resources developed, and all participants agreeing to adhere to this protocol.

*We would seek the group to particularly report on:*

Number of bike maintenance sessions delivered

The number of training courses/rides delivered at Levels 1 and 2

The number of individuals that have attended Level 1 and Level coaching sessions

An increase in membership overall to Lauderdale Cycling Club

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# Eildon Funding Table

28 January 2021

Eildon Community Fund 2020/2021	
	£
Opening balance as of 01/09/2020 (£143k split per head of population)	£44,138.00
<b>Plus split of £251k (per head of population)</b>	<b>£77,098.00</b>
<b>Total available</b>	<b>£121,236.00</b>

Less:	
Insurance for festivals (already awarded)	£5,633.00
Community Fund & Community Fund Fast Track applications <b>awarded</b> since 01/09/2020	£37,237.24
Community Fund & Community Fund Fast Track applications <b>that are assessed and await decision</b>	£14,836.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>£57,706.27</b>

Balance going forward if the above assessed applications were fully funded	£63,529.73
Community Fund & Community Fund Fast Track applications <b>still to be assessed</b>	£26,280.00
<b>Overall Position</b>	<b>£37,249.73</b>

Summary of Applications					
No.	Date	Organisation Name	Amount (£)	Project	Status
1	06/09/20	Tweedbank Thistle JFC	£1,350.00	Equipment	Awarded
2	18/09/20	A Greener Melrose	£928.00	Strimmer	Awarded
3	24/09/20	Stow Community Council	£5,000.00	Walks/Gates	Awarded
4	29/09/20	Café Recharge CIC	£14,404.00	Staff	Awarded
5	09/10/20	Oxton & C Community Council	£1,200.00	Noticeboard	Assessed
6	12/10/20	Youth Borders	£9,198.00	Staff	Awarded
7	26/10/20	Newtown Community Council	£1,357.24	Dog Poo Project	Awarded
8	28/10/20	Works+	£5,000.00	Staff	Awarded
9	19/11/20	Lauderdale Cycling Club	£2,636.03	Guided Rides/Bike Maintenance	Assessed
10	04/01/21	Stow Community Trust	£11,000.00	Salary for Community Development Worker	Assessed
11					
12					
<b>Total</b>			<b>£52,073.27</b>		

To be assessed and brought to a future Area Partnership meeting:					
1	01/12/20	Selkirk Community Council	£26,280.00	Trishaw	Applied

Other sources of Grant Funding - Eildon			
Grant Type	Available	Awarded	Remaining
SBC Small Schemes	£48,200.00	£38,824.00	£9,376.00
Common Good (Selkirk, Galashiels, Lauder & WHT)	£47,560.00	£30,740.00	£16,820.00
SBC Enhancement Grant	£1,794.30	£827.47	£966.83
SBC Welfare Grant	£5,588.31	£226.97	£5,361.34

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## **FIT FOR 2024 – OUTLINE PROPOSALS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVER FUTURE SERVICE DELIVERY**

### **Report by Service Director Human Resources**

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### **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**

**17 December 2020**

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#### **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The Council recognises the need to reshape the model of public service delivery in the Borders to improve the quality of life for its citizens, stimulate economic growth and minimise our environmental impact. The Council is investing heavily in new facilities and new ways of working which will have an impact on the Council's existing extensive property footprint over the next few years. The opportunities provided by new technology, the experience of service delivery during Covid-19 and the need to ensure the Council's extensive estate is sustainable, provides a compelling justification of the need to modernise public service delivery and ensure our property estate is fit for purpose.

This report outlines:

- The continuing significant investment that the Council is making in the modernisation of its services and its estate.
- The need for engagement with communities to look at how these investments can be sustained through alternative models of service delivery.
- The pressing need to look at how limited financial resources can be prioritised to continue to support these developments.

It is proposed that a further report is brought to Council in February 2021 setting out detailed proposals for a programme of community engagement over the next year to review priorities for service provision and associated investment, ongoing funding and support. It is proposed that the review would take a locality "Place-Making" approach which will fully engage with communities drawing on the principles of Community Empowerment legislation and seeking the participation of communities in the redesign of future public services in the Borders. It would involve key partner organisations including Area Partnerships, Community Councils, Live Borders, Police Scotland, local Registered Social Landlords, NHS Borders and communities themselves to ensure the most effective and sustainable models of service delivery are developed.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended that Council:-**

- a) Note the continuing investment in services and the Council's extensive estate;**
- b) Agree the need to review the prioritisation of associated investment and resources to ensure future models of public service delivery in the Borders continue to meet the needs of local people in the most effective and sustainable way;**
- c) Reaffirm the need to examine new service delivery models as set out in the Fit for 2024 strategy, which improve the Council's carbon footprint, make better use of technology and deliver savings.**
- d) Agree the need to involve Community Planning Partners, Area Partnerships, Community Councils and communities in the future design of public services; and**
- e) Request that, a further report be brought to Council in February 2021 setting out the details of an estate-wide, community engagement-led review of services which will be undertaken in phases; and**
- f) Agree, that in anticipation of the report to Council in February, a report on the Learning Estate be brought to January Council.**

### 3 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

#### **Fit for 2024 – The Council’s Transformation Programme**

3.1 In February 2019 the Council agreed its *Fit for 2024* Transformation programme which made commitments in terms of:

- Service by service reviews
- Investment in well planned and designed digital solutions
- Making best use of our physical assets
- Enhanced community engagement and participation

The February 2019 Council report recognised that delivering both the improvements and the savings identified in the report will be a challenging and exacting exercise. *Fit for 2024* aims to ensure that the Council is capable of meeting the challenges it faces and optimise outcomes for citizens and communities. It is probably a fair assessment to suggest that, since February 2019, the outlook is now even more challenging given the increased scale of savings which the Council needs to achieve (as set out in the current Financial Plan) and the continuing impact of the pandemic.

#### **Service Reviews and Investment in Digital Services**

3.2 The February 2019 *Fit for 2024* report recognised that digital investment is an enabler for change but will require a shift from traditional ways of doing things so that benefits around customer choice and convenience, service improvements and financial benefits can be fully realised.

3.3 The 2020/21-24/25 Financial Plan identifies recurring savings of £1.2m relating to process improvements and changes to service models, particularly in the areas of Business Support and Customer Services, as a result of the investment in digital services and an associated move away from traditional models.

3.4 Over the last 4 years the Council has invested over £14.3m in the development and implementation of digital services. A further £34m of expenditure has been agreed with CGI over the next 4 years. This investment is aligned with the Council’s Customer Services Strategy 2018 – 2023 and the *Digital by Design* approach. The investment both anticipates and reflects the progressive and accelerating shift in demand toward online digital and telephone-based services and the corresponding decline in the demand for traditional face-to-face service delivery. It also recognises the opportunities that digital technologies provide in improving access to information and services – including equality of access for people who live out-with our main towns and/or who have less access to traditional buildings-based services.

3.5 Investment in digital services is across the whole spectrum of Council activity from the provision of iPads for school pupils (see 3.9 below) to improving connectivity in care homes to enable video communications between residents and their families and from online and telephone services such as making payments, ordering services and reporting faults to supporting mobile and remote working and improving integrated working with partner organisations.

- 3.6 Changes in technology provide increasing opportunities to provide front-line customer services in a more mobile and flexible way which is not dependent on existing face-to-face formats in fixed locations.
- 3.7 The experience of the pandemic and lock-down has shown that with many traditional forms of building-based services unable to open, that digital and telephone-based services have enabled the Council to continue to provide essential services and improve collaborative working with partner organisations and community-based groups. This clearly shows the continued improvement in digital connectivity and continued increase in use of digital and telephone services across all sectors of society. It is recognised, however, that not all services can be delivered in a digital way. Continuing to provide face-to-face services particularly for the more vulnerable in society and those who, for whatever reason, cannot access online services will remain necessary.
- 3.8 Recent initiatives including Inspire Learning and Connecting Scotland have seen an increasing proportion of the population able to access services digitally. It is recognised that this trend is growing over time. The Council has had no requests from the public to access Customer Services on a face-to-face basis. All such transactions have been undertaken on line, by mail or by telephone since March 2020. This move away from personal face-to-face contact will be required to be fully reflected in future models of public service delivery.

#### **Investment in the Learning Estate**

- 3.9 The Inspire Learning Programme has already seen and £3.5m investment as part of an overall £16m investment in the provision of iPads to pupils. This ground-breaking programme is transforming teaching and learning across the Borders for the benefit of all teachers and pupils. The programme is aimed at raising attainment and will ensure that pupils develop a level of general and specialist digital skills that are vital for learning, life and work in an increasingly digital world.
- 3.10 Since 2015/16, and including current year projected spend, the Council has invested just under £60m in the Learning Estate including replacing end of life buildings with new, state-of-the-art flexible and fit-for-purpose buildings. Over the next 25 years, the Council will contribute £12.7m towards a joint £31.1m investment in the Jedburgh Grammar Campus. Over the next 9 years, the Council plans to invest a further £171m in the Learning Estate including the replacement of Earlston Primary School, Gala Academy, Peebles High School and Hawick High School. A consultation with regard to the future provision of primary education in Eyemouth is currently underway.
- 3.11 Increasingly these investments are about more than simply replacing old with new. Instead, these buildings are intended to be flexible, multi-purpose community assets which provide unique opportunities to rethink how our services are provided in each town and locality.

### **Investments in the Social Care**

3.12 With an ageing population there is an increasing demand for suitable buildings-based support including extra care housing and residential care. This increased demand is coming at a time where our five residential care homes – built in the 60s, 70s and 80s – are nearing the end of their useful lives. There is a need for the Council and its partners to make a significant investment in this area of the estate. £25.2m is already included in the capital programme including the creation of 120 new residential care beds at Stirches in Hawick and in the Central Borders as well as Extra Care Housing (ECH). ECH developments in Galashiels and Duns are well advanced with a further development in Kelso on the site of the former High School also progressing. Further plans for investment are being developed for Council in the new year. Expansion in care services will require a corresponding increase in the operational budgets to support this.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

3.13 The Council has recently made challenging commitments to reduce greenhouse gases to net zero by 2045 at the latest in line with national targets. Our current estate, in terms of both its size and its condition (see 3.16 below) mitigates against the achievement of these targets. As one of the most significant sources of emissions, reducing the size and improving the quality of the estate is a key area where action can be taken to reduce our carbon footprint.

### **Financial Sustainability**

3.14 The significant investment in modernising our services and estate need to be viewed in the context of continuing financial constraints which require the Council to reduce its operating costs by £30m/year by 2024/25 as set out in the 2020/21–2024/25 Financial Plan. The Financial Plan also identifies potential estate savings of just under £700k/year by 24/25 and a further £1.2m in the same period in service savings where there is a reduced dependency on traditional buildings-based models of service. In large part, these savings were anticipated as part of an expected return on investment in both digital technologies (with the move to more efficient digital provision of services) and the investment in the estate (through better, more flexible use of buildings).

### **Impact on the Estate**

3.15 The February 2019 *Fit for 2024* report, under the theme *Making Best Use of our Physical Assets* recognised the need to work with partners and communities to rethink and reshape our collective property portfolio to ensure that it:

- meets current and future needs of service users, communities and service providers;
- maximises and make best use of investment opportunities of both existing revenue and capital resources as well as external funding opportunities; and
- is sustainable and affordable in terms of both ongoing funding and energy efficiency

- 3.16 The Council has over 260 buildings – many are legacy buildings inherited from local government reorganisation in 1996. These buildings cover 9million m2 of internal floor space (equivalent to 1,203 rugby pitches). Of these buildings, only 77% are classed as good or satisfactory with most or the remaining 23% classed as poor (Showing major defect and/or not operating adequately).
- 3.17 On average, the Council spends £14m/year on maintaining and running the estate (£16.3m in 2019/20). However, the sheer size, complexity, age and condition of the estate mean that these resources are spread too thinly and the backlog of maintenance works (currently standing at over £23m) continues to grow.
- 3.18 The continuing investment in new and modern buildings adds to our extensive estate and, in turn, increases operational costs. Without changes to the way we use the estate we will be unable to achieve the associated programmed savings as set out in the Financial Plan. As a result there is a compelling case for reviewing our estate and priorities for funding over the next 5 years and beyond to support both our investment in the estate and in new digital models of service.

#### **4. PROPOSED NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 This report proposes a programme of engagement with communities to review priorities for service provision and associated investment, ongoing funding and support. It is proposed that the review would take a locality “Place-Making” approach which will fully engage with communities drawing on the principles of Community Empowerment legislation and seeking the participation of communities in the redesign of future public services in the Borders. It would involve key partner organisations including Area Partnerships, Community Councils, Live Borders, Police Scotland, local Registered Social Landlords, NHS Borders and communities themselves to ensure the most effective and sustainable models of service delivery are developed.
- 4.2 The purpose of the review would be to consider the models of future service delivery in each town across a range of Council-funded services and taking a whole-town approach which matches needs and demand for services to current and planned provision. The outcome would be a set of options and recommendations for Council.
- 4.3 It is proposed that, to inform the review, service profiles would be developed through a series of reports each focusing on a key service area. These profiles would include national and local policies and strategies as well as available metrics around demand, satisfaction, performance (including trends) investment and operational costs. Similarly, profiles for related properties will be produced for the review based on available information on size, condition, title, listed building status, operational costs and usage.
- 4.4 It is further proposed that the following criteria are applied in the review to each property:
- Fitness For Purpose (suitability including fit with operational requirements)

- Performance/Demand (current and trend and potential for improvement)
  - Access to Reasonable Alternatives (including duplication/competition)
  - Equality of Access (both physical accessibility and also ensuring services are available across all localities)
  - Economic Impact (actual and potential value to the local economy)
  - Environmental/Carbon Impact (including energy efficiency)
  - Condition (including backlog and foreseeable maintenance)
  - Scope/suitability for alternative use (potential CAT, marketability, constraints and community views for alternative use)
  - Town Scoping - to get a complete picture of what services are available in each of our communities
- 4.5 Further details of this proposed Place-Making approach will be developed and brought to February Council recognising that related activity is already taking place in a number of communities (e.g. community consultation around Eyemouth Primary School and proposals for the replacement of Galashiels Academy). This work will continue as Place-Making engagement proposals are developed in detail.
- 4.6 It is anticipated the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal will be finalised in early 2021. The Deal includes a "Place Programme". This programme is designed to provide investment to stimulate the repurposing and reinvention of towns and town centres across the Borderlands area. The review outlined in this report is a prerequisite to developing the necessary business cases on which to make investment decisions in the use of the funds available.
- 4.7 To help inform the review it is proposed that a series of reports on the main categories are brought forward to Council early in the new year beginning with a report on the Learning Estate to January Council.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, the report proposes a forward strategy for future service redesign. The consequences of this strategy will be far-reaching and will need to be addressed as part of the revenue and capital financial planning process.

The 2020/21 Financial Plan identified anticipated estate savings of just under £700k/year by 2024/25 and a further £1.2m in the same period in service savings where there is a reduced dependency on traditional buildings-based models of service. In large part, these savings were anticipated as a result of both investment in digital technologies (with the move to more efficient digital provision of services) and the investment in the estate (through better, more flexible use of buildings). Any deviation from this strategy will require alternative savings proposals to be identified.

### **5.2 Risk and Mitigations**

- 5.2.1 The Council makes significant investments in properties across all localities in the Borders, either through the creation of new assets such as the Learning Estate or through the Property Maintenance Fund which ensure that our assets are maintained in a safe and functioning

condition. However, the sheer size of our estate means that this investment is spread too thinly and is not currently enough to sustain the estate and ensure that it remains fit for purpose. There is a risk that with the financial constraints and a growing maintenance backlog that, if we do not address this issue, we will be unable to continue to maintain our properties and that buildings will close by default.

5.2.2 Without a corporate and partnership-wide approach that engages effectively with communities we may miss opportunities to think creatively and identify alternative options for buildings.

5.2.3 There is a risk that any vacated buildings are left empty, unused and undeveloped. Plans for investment and disinvestment must recognise the value of properties in terms of the heritage and built environment in communities. Where, through engagement, a property is identified as surplus the Council will look at the following options:

- Community Asset Transfer – with appropriate timescales and support to establish/prove/disprove a viable business case.
- Strategic sales (with planning restrictions where appropriate) in partnership with SoSE as part of Economic Development/Town Centre Regeneration.
- Quick sales for non-strategic assets and where no interest exists in terms of Community Asset Transfer

### **5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment**

As per the Community Empowerment legislation, the proposed Place-Making engagement approach anticipated above aims to take a co-productive approach to developing and agreeing proposals and the participation by, and the views of, communities of place and interest will be a central component. The opportunity to rethink our estate includes associated opportunities for improving access to services. Integrated Impact Assessments will be completed as part of the process of developing new service delivery models.

### **5.4 Acting Sustainably**

The framework seeks to ensure that services and property provision, in future, is on a more sustainable footing.

### **5.5 Carbon Management**

The Council has recently made challenging commitments to reduce greenhouse gases to net zero by 2045 at the latest. This relates to national targets which apply to Live Borders as well as the Council. Our current joint estate, in terms of both its size and its condition mitigates against these targets and is one of the key areas where action can be taken to reduce our collective carbon footprint.

### **5.6 Rural Proofing**

The approach set out in this report seeks to ensure that services are maintained or improved across existing communities through investment in a reduced number of properties and that, through digital provision, services are accessible to all regardless of where people live.

## 5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

## 6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Executive Director (Finance & Regulatory), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR & Communications, the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

### Approved by

**Name**      **Clair Hepburn**      **Signature** .....

**Title**      **Service Director Human Resources**

### Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
James Lamb	Portfolio Manager

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. James Lamb can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at James Lamb, Portfolio Manager, [jlamb@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:jlamb@scotborders.gov.uk)

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## **Area Partnership - Information Pack:**

### **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015:**

Principles of Community Empowerment – Audit Scotland:

[https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2019/briefing\\_190725\\_community\\_empowerment.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2019/briefing_190725_community_empowerment.pdf)

Scottish Government:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/>

SBC website for local information:

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20062/strategies\\_plans\\_and\\_policies/357/community\\_empowerment\\_scotland\\_act\\_2015](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20062/strategies_plans_and_policies/357/community_empowerment_scotland_act_2015)

Scottish Community Development Centre:

<https://www.scdc.org.uk/>

COSLA/Scottish Government:

The [Scottish Community Empowerment Action Plan](#) was developed before the Act but many of the principles still stand.

### **Community Planning:**

Community Planning is how public bodies work together and with the community in each council area to make life better for people. The Act changes the rules about community planning to make it work better. Community planning partners will have to make plans for local areas which may need different things. These plans describe the local priorities, what improvements are planned and when these improvements will be made. It aims to meet the needs and ambitions of local people so the voices of local people are especially important.

SB Community Plan & Locality Plans:

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1310/locality\\_plans](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1310/locality_plans)

SBC Council Meetings CPP Strategic Board:

<https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=185&Year=0>

Link to SoSE:

<https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/>

SoSE Operating Plan:

[https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/media/1134/sose\\_operatingplan20\\_interactive.pdf](https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/media/1134/sose_operatingplan20_interactive.pdf)

Area Partnerships in other areas:

[East Lothian](#)

[Renfrewshire](#)

**Participatory Budgeting:**

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a process of involving communities in deciding how to spend public money. At its core PB is about community members shaping local services to more effectively meet local priorities.

60 sec guide to PB:

<https://pbscotland.scot/what-is-pb>

PB Scotland:

<https://pbscotland.scot/>

PB Podcasts:

<https://pbscotland.scot/blog/2020/9/8/new-podcasts-on-pb-in-scotland>

PB Charter:

<https://pbscotland.scot/charter>

Scottish Government PB info:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/participatory-budgeting/>

<https://www.gov.scot/news/community-choices-fund/>

What Works Scotland PB info:

<http://whatworksscotland.ac.uk/category/topic/Participatory-budgeting/>

**Asset Transfer:**

SBC website including SBC Community Asset Transfer Policy:

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

Community Ownership Support Service (COSS):

<https://dtascommunityownership.org.uk/sites/default/files/Asset%20transfer%20route%20map%20web.pdf>

[COSS asset transfer route map](#)

[COSS asset transfer process](#)

[COSS Introduction to Community Asset Transfer](#)

[COSS Resources including case studies](#)

**Participation Requests:**

SBC website including guidance from the Scottish Government:

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

**Community Engagement Principles:**

Audit Scotland:

[https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2019/briefing\\_190725\\_community\\_empowerment.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2019/briefing_190725_community_empowerment.pdf)

Scottish Community Development Centre:

[National Standards for Community Engagement](#)

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## Health Improvement useful links

NHS Borders Wellbeing Service:

<http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/general-services/wellbeing-service/>

NHS Borders Wellbeing Point:

[www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/wellbeingpoint](http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/wellbeingpoint)

Caring Connected Communities Winter Newsletter:

<http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/media/769980/caringconnectedcommunitieswinterwellbeing.pdf>

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