

### Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, 4 March 2021  
**Time:** 6:30 – 8.30 pm  
**Location:** Via Microsoft Teams

### AGENDA

1.	<b>Welcome and Meeting Protocols</b>
2.	<b>Feedback from Meeting on 17 December 2020</b> (Pages 5 - 8) Consider Minute of meeting held on 17 December 2020. (Attached.)
3.	<b>Transport</b> Update by SBC Localities Transport Officer.
4.	<b>Fit for 2024: Review of Area Partnership and Community Fund</b> Consider proposals from Berwickshire Area Partnership Review Sub-Group on the Community Fund and Area Partnership. (Paper to follow)
5.	<b>Berwickshire Community Fund 2020/21</b> (Pages 9 - 38) Consider 5 applications for funding:  (a) Eat Sleep Ride; (b) Berwickshire Marine Reserves; (c) Sea the Change; (d) Re-Tweed; and (e) Outside the Box  (Assessments attached along with Berwickshire Funding Table)
6.	<b>Current Consultations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainstreaming Equality in Scottish Borders Council and the Scottish Borders – closes 7 March 2021  <a href="https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/customer-communities/mainstreaming-equality-in-scottish-borders-council/">https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/customer-communities/mainstreaming-equality-in-scottish-borders-council/</a></li> <li>• Updated Supplementary Planning Guidance – Planning Brief – Former Borders College, Galashiels – closes 31 March 2021  <a href="https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/regulatory-services/updated_spg_former_borders_college_gala/">https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/regulatory-services/updated_spg_former_borders_college_gala/</a></li> </ul>

7.	<b>Other Information and News for Noting</b>
	<p>(a) <b>Berwickshire Locality Plan &amp; Action Plan</b>  Note that these plans are available online and outline the priorities of the Berwickshire area.  <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>(b) <b>Reston Station Project</b>  Update on progress from Barrie Forrest, Chairman, Rail Action Group East of Scotland (RAGES).  <a href="https://www.rages.org.uk/">https://www.rages.org.uk/</a>  <a href="https://scotlandsrailway.com/projects/reston-station">https://scotlandsrailway.com/projects/reston-station</a>  <a href="https://network-rail.wistia.com/medias/0xv2ce4b40">https://network-rail.wistia.com/medias/0xv2ce4b40</a></p>
	<p>(c) <b>Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015</b>  Currently, there are no formal Participation Requests or formal Asset Transfer Requests being considered within Berwickshire. Informal discussions are progressing in relation to 1 Asset Transfer Request. Further information is available via this link:  <a href="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</a></p>
	<p>(d) <b>Community Empowerment for Area Partnerships</b> (Pages 39 - 42)  Information pack attached.</p>
	<p>(e) <b>Fit for 2024</b>  Note outline of proposals for community engagement over future service delivery. Link to Council report:  <a href="https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49976/Item%20No.%2011%20-%20Place%20Making%20Report.pdf">https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49976/Item%20No.%2011%20-%20Place%20Making%20Report.pdf</a></p>
	<p>(f) <b>Covid-19</b>  NHS Borders website link for current updates:  <a href="http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/coronavirus/">http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/coronavirus/</a>  <a href="http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/community-testing/">http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/community-testing/</a>   Covid-19 support links:  <a href="http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/coronavirus">www.scotborders.gov.uk/coronavirus</a>  <a href="http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/affordablewarmth">www.scotborders.gov.uk/affordablewarmth</a>  <a href="http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/covid19business">www.scotborders.gov.uk/covid19business</a>  <a href="http://www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot">www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot</a></p>
	<p>(g) <b>NHS Borders Wellbeing Service</b>  <a href="http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/general-services/wellbeing-service/">http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/general-services/wellbeing-service/</a></p>
	<p>(h) <b>NHS Borders Wellbeing Point</b>  <a href="http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/wellbeingpoint">www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/wellbeingpoint</a></p>
	<p>(i) <b>Caring Connected Communities Winter Newsletter</b></p>

	<p><a href="http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/media/769980/caringconnectedcommunitieswinterwellbeing.pdf">http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/media/769980/caringconnectedcommunitieswinterwellbeing.pdf</a></p>
8.	<p><b>Next Area Partnership meeting - Agenda Items</b></p> <p>Consider items for inclusion in the agenda for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 20 May 2021. . (Local Community Councillor, SBC Councillor or the Communities &amp; Partnership Team can be contacted with items after the meeting)</p>
9.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p>
10.	<p><b>Open Forum</b></p>
11.	<p><b>Dates of Next Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday 20 May 2021</li> <li>• Thursday 1 July 2021</li> <li>• Thursday 2 September 2021</li> <li>• Thursday 2 December 2021</li> <li>• Thursday 3 February 2022</li> <li>• Thursday 3 March 2022</li> <li>• Thursday 9 June 2022</li> </ul>
12.	<p><b>Meeting Evaluation</b></p> <p>The link will be open from 18:30 on Thursday 4 March until 23:45 on Sunday 7 March 2021. Link to evaluation:</p> <p><a href="https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ojLtiWub20G7bzduyPzRHfDiOoTQ7RJp4WKC8i0h5UQkNOTINMN1NYTTFMMEJORzI2N1VaSDZOMi4u">https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ojLtiWub20G7bzduyPzRHfDiOoTQ7RJp4WKC8i0h5UQkNOTINMN1NYTTFMMEJORzI2N1VaSDZOMi4u</a></p>

Please direct any enquiries to Jenny Wilkinson, Clerk to the Council  
Tel: 01835 825004 Email: [jjwilkinson@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:jjwilkinson@scotborders.gov.uk)

---

This page is intentionally left blank

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the  
BERWICKSHIRE AREA PARTNERSHIP  
held Via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 17  
December 2020 at 6.00 pm

-----

Present:- Councillors J. A. Fullarton (Chairman), J. Greenwell, C. Hamilton, H. Laing, D. Moffat and M. Rowley together with 10 representatives from Community Councils and Community Organisations.

In Attendance:- Service Director Customer and Communities, Locality Development Co-ordinator (G. Jardine), Communities and Partnership Manager, and Clerk to the Council

1. **WELCOME AND MEETING PROTOCOLS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the special meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership, which would be considering the applications to the Community Fund which had been assessed. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and the Chairman outlined how the meeting would be conducted and how those both in the meeting and watching via the Live Stream could take part.

2. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 3 DECEMBER 2020**

The Minute of the meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership held on 3 December 2020 had been circulated. The Clerk to the Council advised that there was an amendment to be made to paragraph 4.2(b) of the Minute in that Keith Dickinson (Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth Community Council) and Anne McNeil (A Heart for Duns), had also volunteered to be members of the Sub-Group being set up to examine options for the future working of the Area Partnership and the Community Fund. This amendment was accepted and the Minute noted.

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

3.1 With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of 3 December 2020, copies of the assessments for each application, along with additional details of timelines and funding, had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Service Director Customer & Communities gave an overview of the purpose of the meeting, the additional funding which had now come into the Community Fund, and the criteria which was applied to applications to the Community Fund. The Clerk to the Council then reminded the meeting of the decision making process. The following points were then made:

- While there was now sufficient funding to cover the applications which had been assessed to date, there was still a shortfall to cover all applications received so far to the Fund, and for those which could come in up until February 2021, so that would need to be taken into account when deciding on the assessed applications
- There were 3 substantial applications to the Fund still to be assessed, and there could be no guarantee of the size of the Community Fund in the next financial year as that would need to be considered as part of the Council budget in February 2021.
- Consideration could be given to fund applications either in full or in part

3.2 The Locality Development Co-ordinator then gave brief details of the assessed applications, the timeline and funding for each and the Area Partnership considered each one:

(a) **Reston & Auchencrow Community Council – Play Park improvements**

The Area Partnership considered the application and agreed that this was very clear, a significant project with successful match funding.

**AGREED to award Reston & Auchencrow Community Council £10,000 from the Community Fund for play park improvements.**

(b) **Cockburnspath Community Enterprise – Community Shop**

The Area Partnership considered the application. In response to some questions, Jenni Sutton, of Cockburnspath Community Enterprise, confirmed that an additional £5,000 more than anticipated had been received from crowdfunding efforts and it was hoped to use this to stock a broader range of goods in the shop and to pay for staff. The funding generated so far was for the building, training of volunteers and purchase of fridge/chiller cabinets, and did not cover staff costs. It was hoped that the project would be self-sustaining in a year's time. With regard to £10,000 funding from windfarms, this was ring-fenced for site reinstatement and was a condition of funding. The Area Partnership considered the application and whether the amount of funding could be reduced and whether the Community Enterprise could then apply for further funding in the future should this be required. All present agreed that this was a fantastic project, which was well supported by the community, the team had worked extremely hard in their funding efforts, and the project should be supported. However, there was no consensus as to the amount which should be granted, therefore the decision was made by SBC Elected Members. Councillor Rowley, seconded by Councillor Moffat, moved that the amount awarded to the project should be £5,000 to allow the project to get started. Councillor Laing, seconded by Councillor Greenwell, moved as an amendment that the amount awarded should be £10,000.

Vote

*Motion (£5,000 award) - 2 votes*

*Amendment (£10,000 award) 4 votes*

*The Amendment was carried.*

**DECIDED to award Cockburnspath Community Enterprise £10,000 from the Community Fund for the Community Shop.**

(c) **Duns Playfest – Community Festival**

The Area Partnership considered the application. In response to a question around what would happen if Covid restrictions continued, given the interactive nature of the Festival, Anne McNeil advised that there was superfast broadband throughout the Volunteer Hall so enough to stream performances. Juliana Amaral further advised that, on behalf of BAVs and Berwickshire Housing Association, iPads could be made available for those to watch performances. The application was approved.

**AGREED to award Duns Playfest £4,000 from the Community Fund for the Community Festival.**

(d) **Abundant Borders – Community Garden, Todlaw, Duns**

The Area Partnership considered the application. All were fully supportive of the project and in response to a question, the Locality Development Co-ordinator confirmed that the balance of funding to meet the total project costs would be met by Abundant Borders. The application was approved.

**AGREED to award Abundant Borders £8,000 from the Community Fund for a Community Garden at Todlaw, Duns.**

(e) **Coldstream Gateway Association – Floral display**

The Area Partnership considered the application. It was noted that usually the Gateway Association raised their own funding throughout the year with coffee mornings and social events, but these had been cancelled due to Covid19, so this was the first time they had had to apply for funding. All present were supportive of the project and the application was approved.

**AGREED to award Coldstream Gateway Association £1,800 from the Community Fund for a floral display.**

(f) **Ayton Heritage – Preservation of ruins of St Dionysius**

The Area Partnership considered the application. In response to a question, the Locality Development Co-ordinator confirmed that the original application submitted in February 2020 had not met the criteria for the Fund in place at the time, and had been re-submitted in October 2020 after the criteria had changed. All were supportive of the project. Bill Black, Chairman of the Heritage Group, confirmed that it was the restoration of the Old Kirk at Lennel which had inspired him to start the Ayton project. The Group was working with Historic Scotland and the funding would allow the project to get started. The application was approved.

**AGREED to award Ayton Heritage £2,538 from the Community Fund for the preservation of the ruins of St Dionysius.**

3.3 The Chairman thank everyone for their input into the discussions and commented on the successful crowdfunding by Cockburnspath Community Enterprise. It should be noted that the Community Fund did not hold a substantial amount, so other sources of funding should also be sought. He wished success to all the projects which had received grants that evening.

4. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

4.1 In response to a question around decision making at Area Partnership meetings, the Clerk to the Council explained that as the Area Partnership was a committee of Scottish Borders Council it was governed by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. This in effect restricted the number of non-SBC Elected Members who could have voting rights on the committee. This was why consensus from those present at the meeting was sought in the first instance for decisions of the Area Partnership. Should consensus not be reached, then the decisions would revert to the SBC Elected Members. The Sub-Group established for the review of Area Partnership and the consideration of options for the future would consider whether the Area Partnership should remain as a Council committee. With regard to the Community Fund, a request was made that the scene was set for applicants to the Fund before they submitted their applications as to the assessment and decision making process that would be used. Simon Wright reflected on the experience of Chirside Community Council with their successful bids to the Community Fund the previous year. It was noted that recommendations for the future Community Fund would also be considered by the Sub-Group.

4.2 The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting and wished everyone a happy and healthy Christmas.

***The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm***

This page is intentionally left blank



# Berwickshire Funding Table – 2020/2021

04 March 2021

Berwickshire Community Fund 2020/2021	
	£
Opening balance as of 01/09/2020 (£143k split per head of population)	£ 26,644.00
<b>Plus</b> split of £251k (per head of population)	£ 46,538.00
<b>Total available</b>	<b>£ 73,182.00</b>

Less:	
Insurance for festivals (already awarded)	£ 560.00
Community Fund & Community Fund Fast Track applications <b>awarded</b> since 01/09/2020	£ 38,633.35
Community Fund & Community Fund Fast Track applications <b>that are assessed and await decision</b>	£ 62,868.50
Sub-total	£ 102,061.85
<b>Funds remaining if assessed applications are successful</b>	<b>£ (28,879.85)</b>

Community Fund & Community Fund Fast Track applications <b>still to be assessed</b>	£ -
<b>Potential Overall Position</b>	<b>£ (28,879.85)</b>

Summary of Applications					
No.	Date	Organisation Name	Amount	Project	Status
1	11/02/20	Reston & Auchencrow Community Council	£ 10,000.00	Playpark	Awarded
2	30/09/20	Swinton & Ladykirk Community Council	£ 795.35	Noticeboard	Awarded
3	30/09/20	Cockburnspath Community Shop	£ 10,000.00	Community shop	Awarded
4	14/10/20	Duns Playfest	£ 4,000.00	Play festival in 2021	Awarded
5	16/10/20	Abundant Borders	£ 8,000.00	Outdoor classroom	Awarded
6	19/10/20	Coldstream Gateway Association	£ 1,800.00	Floral display	Awarded
7	23/10/20	Coldstream Community News / CGA	£ 1,500.00	Community news	Awarded
8	26/10/20	Ayton Heritage	£ 2,538.00	Preservation of St Dionysius	Awarded
9	02/11/20	Eat Sleep Ride	£ 24,267.00	"Taking The Reins" project	Assessed
10	03/11/20	Berwickshire Marine Reserve	£ 12,511.00	Protect coastal waters	Assessed
11	04/11/20	Sea The Change	£ 7,684.00	Beach access	Assessed
12	17/11/20	Re-Tweed	£ 5,503.50	Outreach training in rural areas	Assessed
13	17/12/20	Outside The Box	£ 12,903.00	Community reintegration	Assessed
<b>Total</b>			<b>£ 101,501.85</b>		

To be assessed:				
1				
<b>Total Pending</b>			<b>£ -</b>	

Withdrawn					
1	23/10/20	Duns Senior Citizens Club	£ 425.00	Christmas lunch (paid from Welfare)	Withdrawn
2	26/10/20	Westruther Village Hall	£ 1,455.00	Christmas lights	Withdrawn
3	03/11/20	Coldstream Community Trust	£ 2,383.00	Fitness activities	Withdrawn

Other sources of Grant Funding - Berwickshire			
Grant Type	Available	Awarded	Remaining
SBC Small Schemes	£ 34,700.00	£ -	£ 34,700.00
Common Good - Duns*	£ 1,800.00	£ -	£ 1,800.00
SBC Enhancement Grant	£ 1,215.70	£ -	£ 1,215.70
SBC Welfare Grant	£ 6,037.35	£ 425.00	£ 5,612.35

\*Coldstream also has a Common Good fund but no funds available currently.

This page is intentionally left blank

## 2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

*Locality: Berwickshire*

*Ref. No.: CF2021-Ber-13*

*Organisation Name: Eat Sleep Ride (ESR)*

*Funding Requested: £24,267*

ABOUT THE GROUP			
<b>Organisation Structure</b>	Community Interest Company		
<b>Annual Accounts Balance</b>	ESR currently holds a balance of £110,404.48		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much?			
<b>Restricted Funds for Ongoing Projects: £74,376.48</b>			
Equine Facilitated Learning project, SQA Disability Project and the current Take the Reins project. In addition, funds are restricted for the move to the new site as well as training, PPE, insurance and certain salaries.			
<b>Reserved/Ringfenced by ESR: £31,570</b> for running costs (rent, bedding, hay, feed, farrier, vets, core salaries)			
<b>Unrestricted funds: £4,458</b> for unexpected additional or fluctuating costs such as additional vet bills, feed supplements, field and vehicle maintenance, office costs.			
Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>			
SBC Funds received	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?
Business Rates Grant	2020/21	£10,000	Project running costs
Community Fund	2019/20	£2,000	Horse Play project
Localities Bid Fund 2	2019/20	£3,090	Riding Equipment
Community Grant Scheme	2018/19	£5,000	Outdoor Arena Surface
Have they recently applied to the Common Good Fund?			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>			

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project brief	<p>ESR is based at Heugh Head Farm, Reston. The organisation is seeking funding to start 'Take the Reins', a personal development programme designed to provide a learning opportunity to high school children aged 13-17 years who are not in full time education.</p> <p>The programme will be delivered over 26 weeks and there is space for 12 young people on the course. Young people from Berwickshire high schools and the Borders will be invited to attend. The group will be supported over four days per week and will work in groups of 6. The intention is to deliver the programme three times in the year but additional funding will be required for this to happen.</p> <p>The Community Fund would fund the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff x 617 hours - £6,790 (£8,060 total staff costs)</li> <li>• Contribution towards venue hire for workshops for 24 weeks / hire of ESR Indoor Arena - £6,050 (£7,040 in total)</li> <li>• Horse Welfare x 14 days - £2,240 (£3,240 in total)</li> <li>• Contribution towards transport costs to workshops and equine yard x 26 weeks - £850 (£936 in total)</li> <li>• Contribution towards workshops hosted by external partners, 10x 1 hour presentations and 14 x half/full day workshops - £8000 (£9,300 in total)</li> <li>• Contribution towards printing &amp; folders - £337 (£685 in total)</li> </ul>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	asap	
Total Expenditure (£)	£29,261	
Community Fund Request (£)	£24,267	
10% organisation contribution	£3,734	
Any Other Contribution?		
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
	£1,260	Adapt and Thrive – secured
	£2,000	Essenta Fund - Secured

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 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	
Berwickshire Action Plan priorities	The project meets the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on rural isolation and social inclusion and the impacts on mental health</li> <li>• Improve the availability and accessibility of services for people living in rural areas and towns across Berwickshire</li> </ul>	

<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	
What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?	<p>The project has developed from service user and partner feedback that there is a continued need to address mental health issues amongst children and young people in Berwickshire and support those not in education full time. There is also a higher rate of young people not in education, training or employment in this area compared to the national average (4.3% v 4%). Rurality can make access to jobs and training difficult with poor transport links an additional hurdle.</p> <p>Take the Reins was designed to follow on from the Horse Play pilot which was due to start last year. Horse Play is a skills development programme for 10 young people aged 5-12 years of age from local primary schools within the Eyemouth cluster. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, ESR weren't able to undertake the pilot as planned. They have rescheduled Horse Play to start Late February. At the moment, ESR are taking calls from Parent Space and sending out activities packs to families to support households during this time.</p> <p>ESR received funding from Essenta to run a shortened version of Take the Reins for one month with less young people and less workshops to trial the programme. This was delivered online with some yard work which was possible within the restrictions at that time. Securing community funding would allow Take the Reins to deliver the full programme once restrictions ease.</p> <p>ESR are keen to pursue the start of Take the Reins as soon as possible because they believe Covid-19 is causing an increased need to support children and young people and</p>

	they want to be ready to provide additional programmes of support for them when restrictions ease.
What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?	<p>At the start of the programme, learners will complete an assessment and personalised training plan to meet their needs. Programme activity will then be tailored to help the individual achieve their goals with progress continually reviewed during delivery of the programme through SHANARRI (Safe. Healthy. Achieving. Nurtured. Active. Respected. Responsible) based assessments. The intention is to improve job prospects and the opportunity to return to education settings. Young people will work towards a national Youth Achievement Awards to accredit their learning.</p> <p>Programme sessions will be delivered in different venues by different partners and will include yard and horse focused work, project management, risk management and communication sessions, CV / interviewing, analytics, business architecture, written communications and nature therapy. Participants will develop their team work skills, personal responsibility, leadership and communication skills. They will also learn about animal husbandry, land management, property maintenance using sustainable, ecological and environmentally friendly models. Partners include Sea the Change, BAVS, Re-Tweed, Connect Berwickshire project, Scottish Borders Enterprise Chamber, Equi-Scotia, Youth Borders and Works Plus.</p> <p>ESR will arrange transport for young people to attend these sessions so that travel is not a barrier to participation.</p>
What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?	<p>Eat Sleep Ride has 38 adult volunteers and 29 junior volunteers. 37 are from the Berwickshire area and 29 from Edinburgh and the Lothians</p> <p>Eat Sleep Ride works with SBC Social Work, Adult Learning Disability Service, Employment support service, 4 high schools and multiple youth groups to engage with some of the most vulnerable children and young people. Partners will help identify young people who would benefit from participating in the programme.</p>
What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?	ESR have secured business support grants to help cover ESR running costs during Covid. It will be difficult for ESR to continue to cover running costs if restrictions don't ease by summer but they are hopeful that they will be able to provide chargeable services soon.
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?	The SHANNARRI assessments will enable ESR to measure what has changed for the individual whilst they have been involved in the programme and what impact this change has had on the lives of the individuals involved. Questionnaires, surveys and individual feedback will also form evidence of impact. The intention is that Take the Reins develops in to a long term employability support programme.

	In its first year (2018), ESR generated sales of £38,000 and in 2019 had sales of £62,000. Running costs for ESR in a 15 month period between July 2017 – October 2018 was in the region of £50,000. During May – August 2020 ESR generated £12,000 in sales and estimate sales of £58,000 in total for 2020. Once ESR move site (Planning should be signed off in March) and increase the number of horses they have, start the glamping side of their business and increase other income generating activity such as corporate days, ESR estimate an income of £103,000 in 2021 which will reduce the need for external funding in the future.
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.

*If successful, we would seek the group to particularly report on:*

- Feedback from programme participants, volunteers, partners and staff
- Learning outcomes of programme participants
- Evaluation of programme and next steps for ESR

This page is intentionally left blank



## 2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: *Berwickshire*

Ref. No.: *CF2021-BER-14*

Organisation Name: *Berwickshire Marine Reserve*

Funding Requested: *£12,511*

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)		
Annual Accounts Balance	£37,089		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much? £34,272 was restricted income for remaining LEADER project and has subsequently been spent.			
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>A grant from Berwickshire Area Partnership will contribute to the costs of employing a Project Officer, and project costs, to enable Berwickshire Marine Reserve (BMR) to run the one year project.</p> <p>The Berwickshire Marine Reserve was established by the local community after witnessing increasing conflict and user pressure on the Berwickshire waters.</p> <p>The 'Conserve Your Marine Reserve' is a Berwickshire based Citizen Science project that will engage users of the BMR to help identify pressures that threaten the survival of marine ecosystems and promote people's ability to appreciate and protect it. The work will feed into wider partnership work with the Marine Conservation Society and the Fauna and Flora, Coastal Communities Network.</p> <p>Subtidal and intertidal sites will be monitored in the form of a periodic 'Beach 17' to assess the resilience of the ecosystems within the Reserve facing increasing environmental and</p>

	<p>recreational pressures. (BioBlitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area). The public will be encouraged to get involved in the long term scientific monitoring scheme to assess the health of the features of the BMR. Every year, BMR staff and volunteers engage with approximately 5,000 people.</p> <p>The project will provide training to the local community to make sure that they have the knowledge and skills they need to protect the Reserve, in turn giving them the confidence to make informed management decisions. The training sessions and workshops will encourage community buy-in to this project and give them a fantastic opportunity to contribute to a large-scale scientific monitoring project.</p>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	May 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	£48,971	
Community Fund Request (£)	£12,511	
10% organisation contribution	£1,390	
Any Other Contribution?		
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
Awards for All	£10,000	Awarded
Fallago Foundation	£5,000	Awarded
Crighton Foundation	£6,000	Awarded
MBTAG	£3,860	Awarded
Coastal Community Network	£5,210	Awarded
Garfield Western Foundation	£5,000	Awarded
Community Fund Outcomes	<input 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	<p>The project meets the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and retain traditional skills unique to Berwickshire (e.g. sea skills)</li> <li>• Support local community capacity building, in particular local volunteers (utilising their skills and expertise)</li> <li>• Support and make the most of existing Tourism opportunities</li> </ul>	

<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	
What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?	<p>Anecdotal information from local divers and fishers is that the abundance of climate indicator species is declining.</p> <p>The scientific data collected throughout this project will highlight the importance of certain sites and of the area as a whole - be that for diving, marine recreation, fishing or scientific research. This will inform and identify conservation work required to protect the Reserve for future generations.</p>
What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?	<p>Training sessions and workshops will encourage community buy-in to this project, ensure the local community has the knowledge and skills they need to protect it, in turn giving them the confidence to make informed management decisions and give them an opportunity to contribute to a large-scale scientific monitoring project.</p>
What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?	<p>Since 2016, BMR have held numerous workshops with the local community as well stakeholders and users of the Reserve, and from these a clear outcome was that monitoring needs to continue to be a key purpose within the organisation's aims and objectives.</p> <p>BMR has good working relationships with partner organisations, including the Coastal Communities Network (who have contributed funding to the project), the Marine Conservation Society, BLUE Marine Foundation, and the St. Abbs Marine Station.</p>
What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?	<p>£35,070 (72%) of the total project costs have already been secured.</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>BMR will measure the success of the project through key performance indicators including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of practical activities for children, school &amp; community groups, such as Seashore Safaris, touch tank sessions and beach cleans</li> <li>• Number of presentations and talks to local interest groups</li> <li>• Number of engagements with the local and visiting community about our Codes and Conduct and sustainable use practices</li> <li>• Number of underwater surveys to monitor health and abundance of the seabed</li> <li>• Number of Rocky shore BioBlitz to assess the presence and abundance of marine life, and how this is changing over time</li> <li>• Comparing data collected to our existing habitat map of the seabed and sea temperature recorded using our temperature loggers and dive computers</li> </ul> <p>Existing citizen science projects will also be built on including training members of the public in how to collect scientific data which will contribute to our Conserve Your Marine Reserve project.</p>

Quotes received for items of expenditure	n/a
Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?	n/a

### 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 people participating in training sessions, including a breakdown of those from the local area.
- Number of activities for children, school and community groups, including the number of participants.
- Number of underwater and BioBlitz surveys undertaken.
- Number of divers engaged with throughout the project.
- Feedback from those that have participated in training sessions and wider activities.
- Provision of the final project report.

## 2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Berwickshire

Ref. No.: CF2021-Ber-15

Organisation Name: Sea the Change (Sustainable Education Accessibility)

Funding Requested: £7,684

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	SCIO		
Annual Accounts Balance	£28,692 (March 2020)		
<p>Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why &amp; how much?</p> <p>£20,653.26 of funding is ring-fenced for a part time project officer to help co-ordinate the beach wheelchair project from April onwards and deliver the John Muir Environmental Education Programme in schools once restrictions ease. This is an 18 month post. Unrestricted funds of £4,790.58 have been allocated by the Board of Trustees as a safeguard for the future of the organisation due to the limited ability this past year to fundraise and generate income.</p>			
<p>Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>			
SBC Funds received	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?
Localities Bid Fund 2	2019/20	£13,267.98	Purchase two beach wheelchairs and equipment
<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>Sea the Change runs events, activities and campaigns to raise awareness and encourage sustainable living and protection of the natural environment. The charity successfully applied to SBC's Localities Bid Fund 2 to set up a Beach Wheelchair Scheme in East Berwickshire. They purchased two adult wheelchairs, equipment and storage space to be managed at Coldingham beach by volunteers. This is operated on a pay as you feel basis.</p>

	<p>Sea the Change and AccessAble Borders CIC completed an access audit last August following a year's operation of the scheme. The report identifies changes to the infrastructure of the beach area which could be made to enhance visitor experiences, regardless of physical ability.</p> <p>Sea the Change are seeking funding to commission a feasibility study to explore solutions to the report's recommendations. The 5 key issues identified are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access to the Disabled Parking</li> <li>2. Access to the Beach Wheelchairs Storage</li> <li>3. Access to the Disabled Toilets</li> <li>4. Access to the Beach</li> <li>5. Access to the Boardwalk</li> </ol> <p>The project costs are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insurance covering beach wheelchair activity and consultation period £550</li> <li>• 12 months Project Manager 5 hrs per week @ £16/h to oversee feasibility study and follow on work £3840</li> <li>• Feasibility Study &amp; Architects Drawings £6370</li> </ul>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	June 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	£10,760	
Community Fund Request (£)	£7,684	
10% organisation contribution	£1,076	
Any Other Contribution?		
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
	£2,000	Bruce Wake Trust - secured
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 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	<p>The project meets the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in and create community facilities/spaces (for all ages/ intergenerational)</li> <li>• Support local community capacity building, in particular local volunteers (utilising their skills and expertise)</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage leisure/cultural facilities to be as accessible as possible (convenient, affordable, time of day)</li> <li>• Work with local communities on regenerating and reimagining their local places (town centres, village halls, play areas etc.)</li> </ul>
--	--

**ASSESSMENT**

<p>What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?</p>	<p>With one in five people in the UK living with a disability or health condition, Sea the Change believe improvements need to be made to the beach infrastructure to ensure everyone has equal access to the coast. Access to Coldingham beach is via a steep descent. There are two parking bays at the bottom of the access road to the beach and a disabled toilet part way down. In July 2019, a Beach Wheelchair Hut was installed to facilitate the use of beach wheelchairs. Whilst the current facilities help people to access the beach, Sea the Change and AccessAble Borders have identified a number of issues which can impede someone’s ability to enjoy the beach. Two parking bays is limiting in busier periods and the path to the wheelchair hut is uneven. There is a steep ramp to access the disabled toilets and a slippery and uneven ramp to access the beach. Challenges in accessing the Boardwalk are also referenced (report below).</p> <p>The report suggests the creation of a third parking bay at the bottom of the hill and improving direct access from the parking bay to the beach. Moving the beach hut closer to the parking bays would help overcome problems with the uneven path. The report also suggests it would be desirable to improve the disabled toilet with an inclusive design and improve access to the beach to overcome problems people have experienced with the steep, slippery ramp.</p> <p>Currently, SBC has fulfilled its responsibilities with regards to access at Coldingham beach but is supportive of the work and ambition of Sea the Change. Sea the Change and AccessAble Borders’ report takes account of the current and future obligations of Scottish Borders Council as a service provider under the Disability Discrimination Act, the Equality Act 2010 and BS 8300, 2009.</p> <p>There is no record of visitor numbers to Coldingham beach last year but Verdant Leisure Caravan Parks reported that despite lockdown, they had their busiest year to date at Coldingham. Sea the Change report that the usage of the wheelchairs was quieter in 2020 than they would expect for a normal year but people booked the wheelchairs for longer than anticipated i.e. some people booked the wheelchairs for a full week. In 2020, the wheelchairs were used for a total of 195 hours.</p>
<p>What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and</p>	<p>The proposed feasibility study would provide an opportunity for current and prospective beach users to feedback their</p>

<p>how well does the project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?</p>	<p>experiences and ideas and consider the suggested options to improve access at the beach. The first stage of the consultation would present options to improve access to key stakeholders. Feedback from stage one would refine the list of options which would be presented during stage two of the consultation to determine the most supported options. An online and drop-in consultation would then be carried out and a Feasibility Study Report produced detailing final proposals and costs.</p> <p>It is estimated this would be completed within a two month timescale.</p> <p>Sea the Change will continue to work with Scottish Borders Council to explore the feasibility of improving all aspects of access to the beach, to provide easier access for all visitors including disabled people families with buggies and elderly people.</p> <p>The proposed improvements have been considered with minimal intervention to the historic fabric of the beach to maintain ecological integrity.</p>
<p>What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Sea the Change has gathered positive feedback from users and non-users of the Beach Wheelchair scheme and the feasibility study will confirm what support there is for further improvement.</p>
<p>What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?</p>	<p>Sea the Change has been awarded £2,000 from Bruce Wake Trust towards the costs of the feasibility study. This funding must be spent by February 2022.</p> <p>Sea the Change have discussed their ideas with South of Scotland Enterprise who are supportive of what the group are looking to achieve. Discussions will be ongoing with SOSE regarding funding for infrastructure improvements once the feasibility study is complete.</p>
<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>	<p>The success of the project is to be measured on the outcome of the feasibility study. The intention is to engage with a wide demographic, including current and prospective beach wheelchair users through mediums such as public consultation, social media engagement and questionnaires, all of which will be presented in the study. The study will define what improvements people would like to see in the area so that improvements are user led.</p>
<p>Quotes received for items of expenditure</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?</p>	<p>N/A</p>



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.

*If successful, we would seek the group to particularly report on:*

- The outcomes of the feasibility study
- The range of engagement methods used
- The number of people who responded to the consultations
- Support from other services, organisations, community groups etc
- Next steps for the project

This page is intentionally left blank

## 2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: *Berwickshire*

Ref. No.: *CF2021-BER-16*

Organisation Name: *ReTweed*

Funding Requested: *£5,503.50*

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)		
Annual Accounts Balance	£24,047		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much?			
Over 90% of current funding is restricted to project activity as per conditions of funding. The organisation currently has £3,028 in reserves. The Board are working towards securing £10k reserves to protect the project in the longer term and as per the OSCR guidelines for charities			
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>ReTweed advances learning and opportunities particularly for the benefit of women who experience isolation and exclusion in Berwickshire.</p> <p>The organisation's core training activity includes an innovative 12-week textile upcycling programme where participants come together in a safe space to learn a wide range of techniques and skills in craft design and technology; teaching women a range of heritage, craft &amp; upcycling skills underpinned by a clear environmental philosophy of promoting a reduce, reuse and recycle culture for the area. ReTweed provides routes into employment,</p>

		<p>education, enterprise and active citizenship for women from across the area.</p> <p>Students on the course are, on average, a 50:50 mix of women that have been referred and those signing up on their own behalf.</p> <p>Current training provision is based in Eyemouth and is not accessible to women who are living in more remote and rural areas with no access to public transport or with care responsibilities.</p> <p>A grant from Berwickshire Area Partnership would enable ReTweed to pilot the delivery of a minimum of two (maximum three) depending on resources 6-week intensive skills-based training (one day/week), in Berwickshire village halls in, communities where no other provision exists; it is planned that the session will take place in Cockburnspath and Westruther or Longformacus. Each outreach course would provide training small groups of a maximum of seven in order to ensure that everyone's needs are accommodated. The grant would cover the costs of employing a trainer, village hall hire, equipment (including two extra sewing machines), volunteer support, publicity materials and insurance.</p>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY		As soon a restrictions permit	
Total Expenditure (£)		£6,115	
Community Fund Request (£)		£5,503.50	
10% organisation contribution		£611.50	
Any Other Contribution?		No	
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 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	<p>The project meets the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widen the opportunity and availability of modern apprenticeships and vocational training</li> <li>• Improve the access to further and higher education and the opportunity for lifelong learning</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the availability of locally based rehabilitation services and specialist services</li> <li>• Focus on rural isolation and social inclusion and the impacts on mental health on people living across the locality</li> </ul>
--	---

**ASSESSMENT**

<p>What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Volunteers, students and referral agencies have highlighted that despite ReTweed meeting needs in Berwickshire, there are still many groups and communities that are not able to access the services provided. This is due to poor public transport and the complex needs of some prospective participants which means they could only take part in opportunities if they were based close to home. The courses will be delivered in areas where there is currently a gap with no other provision available.</p> <p>Unemployment amongst women in East Berwickshire increased by 87% in the period from December 2019 to December 2020. During the same period unemployment amongst women in Mid Berwickshire increased by 130%</p> <p>Each course is a run with mix of women who have been referred from partner agencies and those who have chosen themselves to attend in order to learn new skills.</p> <p>Since its inception in 2018 104 women have completed the 12-week programme.</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>One of the overriding objectives is that delivering the training and skills and promoting wellbeing and social connectedness for women facing multiple disadvantage will help to break cycles of poverty, isolation, abuse, ill-health and low aspiration.</p> <p>The main outcomes of the training are improved confidence, self-esteem, social connectedness, motivation and aspiration. These are in addition to the further learning, citizenship/volunteering, employment and enterprise aspects of the courses.</p> <p>Students learn a range of skills that they can employ in their own lives and/or wider community through the design and production of a wide range of furnishings and crafts through the medium of innovative upcycling.</p> <p>Former students and volunteers have gone on to set-up other community projects after their participation with Re-Tweed, they have also worked with other community organisations and groups like Brownies, Guides, Scouts, Specialist Support Services, mental health support,</p>
---	---

	Women's Rural, Youth Services, Environmental Initiatives etc. passing on their own learning to others.
What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?	<p>ReTweed works with 39 referral agencies and services including NHS Borders, Berwickshire Housing Association, disability support services, violence against women services, drug &amp; alcohol agencies, SBC services (Social Work, Justice Team and CLD), and Children 1<sup>st</sup>. These agencies/services report that see the transformation and progress of women who have taken part in ReTweed and, as a result, referrals are incrementally increasing well beyond the current capacity.</p> <p>ReTweed have 1,597 followers on Facebook</p>
What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?	No other funders have been approached at this stage.
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>ReTweed uses the Rickter Scale assessment process which helps to measure soft outcomes including increased confidence, motivation, education, skills, employment and happiness. This helps ReTweed better understand how people progress during and after the training and support. It also provides qualitative and quantitative analysis to enable ReTweed to develop and improve year-on-year in terms of structure, content, delivery and support.</p> <p>Following evaluation of the pilot courses other funder will be approached with a view to obtaining funding to support the roll out across Berwickshire and the wider Scottish Borders.</p>
Quotes received for items of expenditure	n/a
Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?	n/a

### 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 course participants
- Feedback from course participants

- Grants received from funders to support the rollout of the programme

This page is intentionally left blank



## 2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: *Berwickshire*

Ref. No.: *CF2021-BER-17*

Organisation Name: *Outside the Box*

Funding Requested: *£12,903*

ABOUT THE GROUP			
<b>Organisation Structure</b>	Company Limited by Guarantee		
<b>Annual Accounts Balance</b>	£97,684 restricted <b>£1,903 unrestricted</b>		
<p>Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why &amp; how much? Most of the income is grant funding paid in advance. The group currently have £18,000 in reserves which will cover essential winding up costs.</p> <p>Outside the box work across Scotland and the annual accounts and bank balance cover the organisation as a whole.</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>Outside the box are looking for funding for staffing costs 1 sessional, (4 hours) worker and 2 staff members (8 hours, in total) This will cover 12 hours' worth of delivery each week in Berwickshire.</p> <p>Outside the box have found that it is beneficial to have sessional workers on the ground, who know the local community, understand what would work for different groups, as well as not having to travel.</p>

	<p>The overall aim of the project is to reconnect individuals with each other and encourage and support people back to attending group sessions. Outside the box aim to do this by;</p> <p>Developing and using risk assessments for each individual group scenario. With this funding OTB will also look to deliver 1 to 2 sessions per group (physical or virtual). With the aim of raising confidence in individuals.</p> <p>Where groups are not ready or restrictions do not allow, Outside the box (OTB) will aim to provide virtual sessions to maintain connections and to reduce isolation</p> <p>Where groups are not ready or restrictions do not allow, Outside the box (OTB) will aim to provide virtual sessions to maintain connections and to reduce isolation</p>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	March 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	£14,336	
Community Fund Request (£)	£12,903	
10% organisation contribution	£1,433	
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	<p>The project meets the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on rural isolation and social inclusion and the impacts on mental health on people living across the locality</li> <li>• Support local community capacity building, in particular local volunteers (utilising their skills and expertise)</li> </ul>	

--	--

**ASSESSMENT**

<p>What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Outside the box have successfully run activities across the Scottish Borders. Current projects include; Food Buddies, Garden Buddies, LINKS Eyemouth, Rural Wisdom and the recently launched Digital Buddies project. Their current work benefits people of all ages and abilities. During Covid restrictions they have been able to evolve and adapt practices to try and reach as many people as possible.</p> <p>Through this existing work Outside the box have found that many of the groups and people that they are engaged with are now feeling the effects of current Covid restrictions. Feedback from groups and individuals has been that resilience is starting to wane and that people are finding it frustrating that it is increasingly difficult to resume their previous activities.</p> <p>The need for staff support for projects and support for individuals has been highlighted by their LINKS project work. The project aims to link up families in Eyemouth, through social events centred around good food on a budget. Through this project OTB have been working in partnership with the third sector and local small businesses to best support families. 60 families have joined the project and receive food packages each week. There is less stigma around accessing food via the LINKS project. OTB have also created a closed Facebook page which has allowed individuals to remain connected to one another and also informed on any news regarding group work. There are currently 300 members.</p> <p>OTB have recently received more funding for their Digital Buddies programme. These individuals tend to be socially isolated or older adults. OTB feel that these individuals will require additional support when it comes to being able to attend physical sessions. OTB aim to evolve this programme into Border Buddies where individuals would be supported to do whatever they want to do; attend community groups, play golf, go walking etc. Any funding received would pay for staff time to support this new project.</p> <p>OTB hope to return to live, physical, sessions. Some outdoor cooking sessions were delivered last year and this may be replicated again while also taking a hybrid approach to both physical and virtual delivery of sessions. OTB are aware that individuals require support to attend either of these</p>
---	--

	<p>offers. They hope that the funding for these post will allow these individuals to feel supported back into provision.</p> <p>OTB understand that there will be hesitation and nervousness about getting 'back to normal' for many of these individuals involved in current virtual groups and on virtual communities. OTB via this application will aim to offer support to these groups and individuals.</p> <p>Further information on the LINKS project can be found here; <a href="https://otbds.org/links-eyemouth-take-their-good-food-community-online/">https://otbds.org/links-eyemouth-take-their-good-food-community-online/</a></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>If funded Outside the box will;</p> <p>Support individuals to reintegrate into the community when restrictions allow. OTB will support individuals with coping strategies to support individuals to access provision.</p> <p>OTB aim to tailor risk assessments and support based on the individual or group need. This can be done using a 'softer' touch approach, looking at what would make people 'feel better' about getting back to meeting up.</p> <p>OTB aim to use their staff time to support the many informal groups that have started during the pandemic. They are aware that not all of these groups have robust volunteer policies or guidance and this is a part of what we would like to address. Many of them have 'informal' volunteers not covered by guidelines etc.</p> <p>The Third Sector interface is still available to support groups with risk assessments and also to support their volunteer policies. OTB feel that they would be able to support the less formal risk assessments and their focus is on support of returning to provision.</p> <p>OTB want to support groups and individuals to build their confidence to get together with others again. This may be practical risk: benefit assessments or it may be providing them with extra equipment. It may involve delivering a session or two to allow groups to build their confidence in attending groups again. OTB aren't about service delivery but they aim to enable individuals and groups to return to a level of normality and to become sustainable.</p> <p>OTB have obtained funding to purchase tarpaulins, firebowl, outdoor seating and other equipment to enable people to meet comfortably and safely in the outdoors. OTB would use this</p>

	<p>equipment to encourage individuals back to meeting safely in a group setting, when government guidance allows. OTB would also be able to support other groups and organisations to utilise this equipment.</p>
<p>What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Through the LINKS project OTB are well connected with other local community groups these include; Eyemouth Early Years, churches, Splash, Eyemouth Development Trust, Abundant Borders, ReTweed, Eyemouth Healthy Living Network and others</p> <p>The group are also connected to the Linkim Court sheltered housing in Eyemouth. The have worked together with Berwickshire Housing Association.</p> <p>OTB have established a virtual ‘Families Wellbeing’ community with over 190 families involved, they have been able to use this as a sounding board for any ideas going forward.</p>
<p>What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?</p>	<p>Outside the Box haven’t approached others funders specifically for this project.</p> <p>The group have been successful in securing additional funding to obtain more digital devices.</p>
<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>	<p>The aim of this project is to provide long-term sustainability for groups and individuals by empowering and supporting them to carry out their own risk assessments and problem-solving, to apply for funding where needed, and to access resources and activities provided by Outside the box and other organisations.</p>
<p>Quotes received for items of expenditure</p>	<p>yes</p>
<p>Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?</p>	

<p><b>SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT</b></p>	
<p>The application meets the criteria of the Community Fund.</p> <p><i>Additional Terms and Conditions:</i>          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.</p>	
<p>Page 37</p>	

*If successful, we would seek the group to particularly report on:*

- *Number of groups supported in Berwickshire*
- *Number of individuals that have been supported to attend provision*
- *Number of Virtual and in-person sessions offered.*

**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)

**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 Asset Transfer Feasibility](#)

[COSS Resources including case studies](#)

**Participation Requests:**

SBC website including guidance from the Scottish Government:

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

**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/>

North Ayrshire Council:

<http://northayrshire.community/participatory-budgeting-toolkit/35030/>

### **Community ownership:**

Community Land Scotland hosted two online events in January 2021 to share experiences of community ownership:

Midsteple Quarter, Dumfries (MQ) project showcase, presentation and Q&A with the MQ team [here](#). Additional Q&As available in [this document](#)

MQ launched [a fundraising campaign](#) to help acquire more empty and neglected properties on Dumfries High Street, so that the group can achieve its ambitious plans for community-led town centre regeneration.

#### **Community Land Scotland Panel discussion**

Presentation with Suzy Goodsir (Greener Kirkcaldy), Matt Baker (The Stove Network), Nick Plumb (Power to Change) and Dr Carey Doyle (Community Land Scotland) [here](#).

Pippa Coutts, Carnegie UK Trust - blog [Community Ownership, Recovery and Empowerment](#) to highlight some of the key insights from the session.

Carnegie UK Trust's [Flourishing Towns](#) work as well as the [cross-UK learning event focussing on community asset ownership in towns](#) held in February 2020.

Power to Change recent report [Take Back the High Street: Putting communities in charge of their own town centres](#).

### **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](#)

